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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2009

Volume 9 Issue 16



WILL TIGER BE TARNISHED?
SEE PAGE 12

...nta Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

THE **BREAKING IN THE NEW GUY** ISSUE



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

FRESHEN UP: **More than half a dozen public bathrooms spanning the 800 to the 2800 block of the beach will be either replaced or renovated with new state-of-the-art structures, adding an aesthetic element to a set of restrooms that officials believe are currently too utilitarian.**

Making beach bathrooms more inviting

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Whether it's washing hands or taking care of more private matters, the experience at the beach restrooms is about to become more pleasant.

More than half a dozen public facilities spanning the 800 to the 2800 block of the beach will be either replaced or renovated with new state-of-the-art structures, adding an aesthetic element to a set of restrooms that officials believe are currently too utilitarian.

The project was initiated after the California Department of Parks and Recreation was sued in a class-action lawsuit in 2005 over violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act. As part of a settlement agreement, City Hall decided to replace eight non-ADA compliant restroom facilities on Santa Monica State Beach, five of which sit to the south of the Santa Monica Pier, three to the north. Only one of the eight restrooms — 2500 Ocean Front Walk — will be renovated.

The City Council last week reviewed the conceptual designs for the proposed restroom facilities, which will include individual restroom stalls for both the men's and women's rooms that are separated by a central building spine. The restrooms will also have outdoor sinks and showers, foot washes, bike racks, surf board lean walls, drinking fountains and seating.

"These facilities are going to be more than just toilet facilities, we intend that they will be used by the public and have amenities that will relate to their various locations on the beach," Ralph Roesling, principal of RNT Architects, said at the council meeting. "We're very interested in trying to make a much nicer environment for people that are going to be visiting Santa Monica and visiting the beach and hopefully this will make a better impression than the existing toilet rooms."

The facilities will be passively ventilated with a combination of natural breezes and a high ventilating screen that will be located along the central building spine.

Councilwoman Gleam Davis said during the meeting that from a safety perspective, she appreciated the separate stalls in the men's room.

"When you have a child who is a different sex than you are and they reach an age when they are uncomfortable going into in my case the women's room with me … you

SEE **BATHROOM** PAGE 9

Second look for controversial school policy changes

BY MELODY HANATANI
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS Public school officials are taking another look at a series of controversial changes to district advisory committees following concerns raised recently by the Board of Education and parents about including more public input in the proposed revisions.

The policy, which would affect the eight volunteer committees that currently advise district officials on matters ranging from finances to student health and safety, was scheduled for adoption by the Board of Education on Nov. 19. It was postponed for several weeks because two key school board members who worked on the policy — Barry Snell and Maria Leon-Vazquez — were absent and ongoing concerns from committee members about providing more public input in the policy changes.

A meeting of DAC chairs, vice chairs, Superintendent Tim Cuneo and several board members was scheduled for Monday night to go over some key areas of concern, including how members are selected for the committee. The policy will be brought back to the board for action on Dec. 10, Cuneo said.

One of the biggest areas of concern involves how the committee makes decisions. The policy currently states that a committee can take a vote provided that there is a quorum. The board at its recent meeting last month, however, was divided on whether there should be a quorum or majority of total membership available.

"That is not super feasible in terms of getting any work done because we rarely get a quorum," Theresa Harris, the chair of the Special Education District Advisory Committee (SEDAC), said.

Also up for discussion is the development of the committee's agenda and who will be responsible for it.

"It's always the chair person with staff who puts together the agenda for the DAC and the board has talked about having the chair, the vice chair with the staff to put together the agenda," Cuneo said.

Cuneo said that the selection process of

SEE **POLICY** PAGE 8

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Write away
Fairview Branch Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., noon — 2:30 p.m.
Calling all writers! Get inspiration, guidance and support for free.
Call (310) 450-0443 for more information.

Yoga in the park
Palisades Park
Ocean Avenue and Montana Avenue, 4:30 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.
This is a gentle beginner's yoga class that emphasizes breathing, stretching, slow movement, strengthening, balance and relaxation — a relaxing and invigorating class for beginners and anyone looking for a gentle approach to yoga. Bring a yoga mat or beach towel and a suggested donation of $10.
E-mail meghanmbowen@gmail.com for more information.

Wednesday, Dec. 2. 2009

Ballroom by the bay
Santa Monica Bay Women's Club
1210 Fourth St., 7 p.m. — 11 p.m.
Come for a lesson and dance on a 3000 square foot floor. Learn the waltz, foxtrot, swing, hustle, various Latin dances and other dances by request. No partner is required. Parking is available next door.
Call (310) 487-0911 for more information.

Heal yourself
Kathmandu Boutique
1844 Lincoln Blvd., 6 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.
Experience peace and wellness while cleansing and energizing your body through pranic healing. Master Choa Kok Sui has worked successfully with ailments ranging from asthma, arthritis, cancer, addiction, depression and phobias. It is an effective no-touch healing technique that increases the body's own ability to heal itself. As you allow your body to absorb divine love and divine energy, you will regain mental clarity, joy, happiness and peace of mind. Everyone is welcome for free, no appointment necessary.
Call (310) 883-8371 for more information.

Kicking it with Kiwanis
Santa Monica YMCA
1332 Sixth St., noon — 1:30 p.m.
Join the Santa Monica Kiwanis Club weekly luncheon with guest speakers.
Call (310) 613-1249 for more information.

Thursday, Dec. 3, 2009

Gifts giving back
Fred Segal
500 Broadway, 6 p.m. — 9 p.m.
Meet stars and designers at this sustainable shopping event hosted by Rachael Leigh Cook. Enjoy cheesecake, burgers, cocktails, beer and music while previewing exclusive luxury and eco-minded brands and collections. The suggested admission for each guest is a newly-wrapped toy to be donated to Toys for Tots, at least $10 in value.
Call (888) 338-3301 for more information.

What's new this week?
Fairview Branch Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.
Come for a review and discussion of the week's key news stories at home and abroad, moderated by Jack Nordhaus. Discussion is free.
Call (310) 450-0443 for more information.

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com and click the "Events" tab for the given day's calendar.

Forest Service eyes night flying against wildfires

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES The U.S. Forest Service is considering allowing its helicopters to attack wildfires at night, a practice the agency has long discouraged because of risks to pilots, a senior official said Monday.

The change would be a major shift for an agency with more than 10,000 firefighters that manages 200 million acres of public land.

Forest Service Fire and Aviation Management Director Tom Harbour said the current policy was being reviewed.

"We are in the process ... of one more time taking a look at night-flying operations. But we will have to make sure that those operations, before we change our policy, are worth the benefits," Harbour told The Associated Press.

"Night flying is a risky operation," he added.

Last week, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors pushed for broader use of night flying after a wildfire in Angeles National Forest last summer burned more than 250 square miles, destroyed 89 homes and led to the deaths of two firefighters.

Harbour said the Forest Service experimented with night flying against wildfires in the 1970s and early 1980s but abandoned it after a helicopter collision.

The Forest Service has been criticized by some local officials for the way it managed the blaze in Angeles National Forest, which became the largest fire in Los Angeles County history.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

14TH STREET
No injuries in house fire

After some smoke was seen coming from the rear of a single story home on 14th Street Monday, Santa Monica fire fighters quickly attacked and extinguished the blaze after containing it to the rear bedroom and closet.

No injuries were reported. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation.

The fire department response consisted of three engine companies, one truck company, one rescue ambulance and one HAZMAT response vehicle. The fire was extinguished under the direction and command of Battalion Chief Jose Torres.

DAILY PRESS



LONG TIME COMING

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

A resident on Monday is escorted by police out of his apartment building on Seventh Street after barricading himself inside, refusing to let police enter his unit. Police blocked off a portion of Seventh Street from Broadway to Santa Monica Boulevard for several hours as negotiators tried to get the man to surrender. He was taken into custody and put on a 72-hour psychiatric hold, police said. The man's apartment and the one underneath suffered some water damage after a sprinkler system was activated by the suspect. No injuries were reported.

Parolee connected with Westside burglaries

BY DERRICK OLIVER
Special to the Daily Press

Daniel Perez, a 28-year-old parolee, is wanted by both the Santa Monica and Los Angeles police departments for questioning in connection with multiple burglaries in Santa Monica and West L.A.

Perez, who is currently on parole for burglary, is described as being a 5-foot, 9-inch, 185-pound Hispanic male with brown eyes and black hair.

He has been connected with two confirmed burglaries in Santa Monica, said SMPD Sgt. Jay Trisler.

In the LAPD's West Los Angeles area, there was a significant increase in daytime residential burglaries during the month of October.

In an Oct. 16 burglary that occurred in the 800 block of Gretna Green Way at around 10 a.m., LAPD detectives recovered a cell phone that had been taken an hour earlier during a burglary in the 400 block of San Vicente Boulevard in Santa Monica, said LAPD.

Santa Monica detectives discovered a fingerprint that matched Perez, police said. LAPD detectives recovered evidence that tied Perez to a West Los Angeles burglary that occurred later that evening in the 11900 block of Rochester Avenue.

Losses in all areas totaled more than $200,000, according to reports. Stolen items included cameras, watches, and laptop computers.

Anyone with information is advised to call West Los Angeles burglary Detective Robert Guervara at (310) 444-1523 or the 24-hour, toll-free number at 1-877-LAPD-247 (527-3247). Callers may also text "Crimes" with a cell phone or log on to www.lapdonline.org and click on web tips. When using a cell phone, all messages should begin with "LAPD." Tipsters may remain anonymous.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Fuzzy memory

Editor:

One of your letter writers has an interesting recall of local history (and a surprising long board membership).

As a past member of the Virginia Avenue Park Advisory Board and member of the park's design committee, I was the advocate for a branch library or satellite reference room in the design and planning. I found no support on the committee, city staff or City Council. In fact, your recent letter writer voted against the proposal to house a library of any form in the park design.

Since she apparently is still on the board well past her "term limit" expiration, perhaps she can access the minutes and refresh her memory.

As to the issue of a new branch library, a public discussion should be conducted based on the issues that a trial-balloon session enumerated and this paper reported on: location, open space, cost, expediency, parking, and the Farmers' Market. I would also suggest the library administration and the library board be brought into the discussion.

Peter Tigler
Santa Monica

Not a fan of Kennedy clan

Editor:

Councilman Bobby Shriver gloats "mission accomplished," over exercising his power to keep just plain folks out of his privileged neighborhood ("Some relief for residents living near 4th St. stairs, Nov. 28). His sister, Maria Shriver, repeatedly ignores parking prohibitions – or is she just leaving her car in the (RED) zone to promote her less successful brother's business? And his brother-in-law, Arnold, doesn't bother to pay his taxes, like the rest of us have to. What a spoiled, self-indulgent, smug, entitled family!

Marcelo Pucheto
Santa Monica

No protection provided

Editor:

It's business as usual for Southern California Disposal regarding City Hall's just announced "new" garbage transfer plan. SCD must have made City Hall an offer they couldn't refuse because while everything else is being enclosed only SCD dumping goes virtually unchanged.

SCD collects and dumps approximately 1,000 tons of garbage a day onto a large, open-air, raised platform facing east towards Mountain View Mobile Home Park where the garbage is then transferred out of the city. We Mountain View residents live just 100 to 150 feet directly east. We get their stink, or as City Hall characterizes it, "dust, odor and noise." Every day we live with this open air dump. Two years ago then Assistant to the City Manager Don Patterson said in an e-mail to me as resident association president that City Hall's reorganization plan encloses both SCD and City Hall's garbage processing. So it came as a huge shock on Oct. 15 when newly-appointed Santa Monica Assistant City Manager Jennifer Phillips announced they were only enclosing City Hall's 400 tons a day but will continue to allow SCD to dump their 1,000 tons of garbage outside facing Mountain View as usual.

Why can't SCD do the right thing and enclose their garbage transfers for the sake of our health? What does City Hall gain by allowing SCD to continue this open air dumping? One thousand tons of garbage by 313 days of dumping equals 313,000 tons of fumes and particulate waste matter blown directly over our community of 150 adults and children.

Who does City Hall feel is worth protecting?

Randy Walburger
Santa Monica

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Ad Council
A child is calling for help.



Back to Nature

Reese Halter — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Humans cannot help but be nosy

THE HUMAN NOSE IS MIRACULOUS. IT IS a complex organ of smell. In fact, one percent of human genes are devoted to olfaction; smell was central to our evolution over the past seven million years.

The main role of smell is to protect humans from decaying foods and poisons. Foods that are indigestible tend to smell woody or musky and are made up of large molecules. Edible foods, on the other hand, have low molecular weights, which can be processed by our digestive enzymes.

The primary role of scent is not about sex.

Interestingly, the exact way the nose works, that is, the way we smell is not fully understood. Scientists know that there are receptor neurons continually shooting axons or neutral connecting wires up to the olfactory bulb — the brain's control center for smell.

There are at least 1,000 different receptors in the human nose that are able to distinguish between some 10,000 different molecules.

There are 112 known types of atoms. The human nose can detect most scent molecules because they are made up of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur.

Humans sneeze in order to shed viruses and things trying to get inside us.

When we breathe through our nose, we tend to breathe through only one side of it for a while, then for a while through the other side. The erectile tissue lining our nasal cavity only works one passage at a time. This is called the nasal cycle.

Smell information from the right side of the nasal passage is sent to the left side of the brain and vice versa. Incidentally, when you breathe from the left nasal passage your verbal skills increase significantly.

Women have a better sense of smell than men and it lasts longer. As humans age we experience a loss of smell. Epileptics show considerable smell loss. And loss of smell is one of the first symptoms of the onset of Parkinson's disease.

The loss of the sense of smell is known as anosmic.

An atom is made up of a cloud of electrons frenetically orbiting a hard core of protons and neutrons. All molecules pulse with vibrations. Those vibrations are the result of the electron string holding them together. In essence, molecules act like a musical instrument. Each one emits its own unique set of vibration notes.

Until about 10 years ago, scientists believed that the human nose was able to discern the scent of a molecule based solely from its shape.

In the late 1990s a bio-physicist named Dr. Luca Turin put forward a theory on the way the human nose functions — it caused quite a buzz in the science community.

Turin used his obsession with perfume to redefine how the human nose functioned. He devised a scale of molecular vibration ranging between 0 and 4,000, or the number of times an electron bounced back and forth as it bonded one atom to another. Within just a few vibrations a molecule can either smell of shoe leather or rose tea or shrimp shells.

Turin proposed that as the molecules entered the nose, electrons are met by microscopic electrical protein receptors, embedded in nasal flesh, and that the receptor holds the molecule and reads its vibration, not its shape.

WOMEN HAVE A BETTER SENSE OF SMELL THAN MEN AND IT LASTS LONGER. AS HUMANS AGE WE EXPERIENCE A LOSS OF SMELL. EPILEPTICS SHOW CONSIDERABLE SMELL LOSS. AND LOSS OF SMELL IS ONE OF THE FIRST SYMPTOMS OF THE ONSET OF PARKINSON'S DISEASE.

Years of experimentation, tens of thousands of smells later and about a decade since the theory was first presented, it's finally starting to be accepted.

The scent of Tide laundry detergent, Clorox bleach, Calvin Klein, Channel, L'Oréal and Miyake all come from five huge corporations: International Flavors and Fragrances, Givaudan Roure, Firmenich, Takasago, and Symrise. It is a $25 billion per year industry.

Armies of organic chemists create between 500 and 2,000 different new molecules at each company per year. About 20 interesting and strong molecules per company are used each year for a host of new products.

To me there is nothing as remarkable as natural scents of wild forests. My favorite pungent scent comes from the peppermint leaves of colossal montane Eucalyptus delegatensis or woollybutts of the Australian Victorian Alps.

DR. REESE HALTER is a conservation biologist, public speaker and founder of the international conservation institute Global Forest Science. His most recent book is "The Incomparable Honeybee and the Economics of Pollination," Rocky Mountain Books. He can be reached through www.DrReese.com.

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A newspaper with issues

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CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

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, 2006. 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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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Be prepared for a breakup

THE CHRISTMAS TREE IS UP AT THE Loews Hotel. The ribbons are out, the holiday songs are being piped onto the Third Street Promenade. And Chanukah, Christmas and Kwanzaa are right around the corner. This holiday season is upon us, and with it comes the inevitable increase in fights among family members.

It's the first day of December and already we're seeing an uptick in the family squabbles that are resulting in emergency protective orders, which are issued by the police and must be followed up with a request for a temporary restraining order.

The first thing to know is that the police have a legal obligation to prevent violence. In a domestic dispute if there are sufficient grounds to believe that violence is about to occur, the police can and will issue an emergency protective order. And frequently when the police are called for domestic violence, they are forced to arrest one party, whether it be the husband or wife, boyfriend or girlfriend. If you are faced with a domestic violence situation depending on whether you are the man or the woman, you should be prepared to leave the home immediately taking with you any children.

There are 23 shelters in Los Angeles that are available from Artesia to Whittier. Though most of them will not take a man. Sexism is rife throughout the domestic violence protection community as men are vilified as the perpetrators.

The local hotline in Santa Monica is Sojourn Services for Battered Women and Their Children at (310) 264-6644. They are a clearinghouse for information and services on domestic violence prevention, and they respond to calls from women and men.

When you have a dangerous spouse, the best thing to do is take care of yourself, and that means that you need to be prepared. If the time comes in a relationship for the parties to separate, one partner frequently does not know where all the assets are located. On the flip side, the other partner frequently suffers a huge drop in standard of living because they (usually a he) will be forced out of the house at the business end of a police officer and made to get an apartment.

Most families in crisis already suffer economic hardship that now becomes devastation because they lack the financial resources but must support two households. Understand that your lifestyle is going to go down, it has to, it costs more to run two households than one.

If you are faced with a pending divorce or family crisis, these are the questions you should ask yourself:

• Where are all the bank accounts? And that includes any company accounts if you run your own business.

• Where are all the stock accounts?

• Where are all the statements for the bank, credit cards, charge accounts, company accounts, pension and 401(k).

• Where are all the check registers?

• What property do we own?

Make sure you have a separate set of copies of the bank statements, credit card bills, stock portfolios, taxes for the last five years, and household bills to give your attorney. It is much easier to make copies before you have moved out.

The emotional damage a divorce causes can be extreme. You should have a good support network in place to deal with the inevitable feelings of loss, grief, anger, hurt, and sadness.

You will change friends and acquaintances, you might live somewhere different, eat in new restaurants and shop in new stores. This could be a good thing if you take this opportunity to grow and change for the better. Talk to your friends, and find a good counselor who can help with your pain.

Divorce is costly. A basic divorce is going to cost between $5,000 and $25,000 if both parties have a lawyer. If there are child or spousal support issues, or if there is property being fought over, the cost of divorce can increase dramatically.

Everyone should have a savings account before starting a divorce. Even though the money in it is community property, everyone needs quick and easy access to cash, to rent an apartment, and meet other expenses.

Be prepared for your attorney to ask for a sizable amount of money for a retainer. Some attorneys require a $10,000 retainer, others as low as $2,500, it simply depends on your case, the amount of property to fight over, and your spouse's ability to fight.

Remember that anyone can be abused, it doesn't matter if you are a man or a woman, rich or poor, white, black, Latino, Asian or Martian. It can happen to everyone, but it is not to be tolerated.

DAVID PISARRA is a family law attorney focusing on father's rights and men's Issues in the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or (310) 664-9969.

The Q Line

Growing interest

City Hall recently created a Garden Sharing Registry that seeks to pair homeowners with extra land with gardeners who need a place to do their thing.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:

Would you be interested in either sharing your land or lending your expertise to till the Santa Monica soil?

Call (310) 285-8106 before Friday at 5 p.m. and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press.

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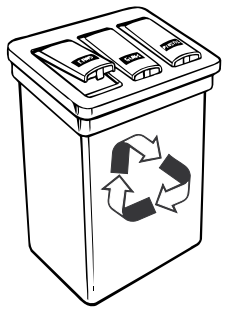


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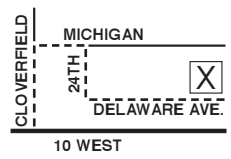


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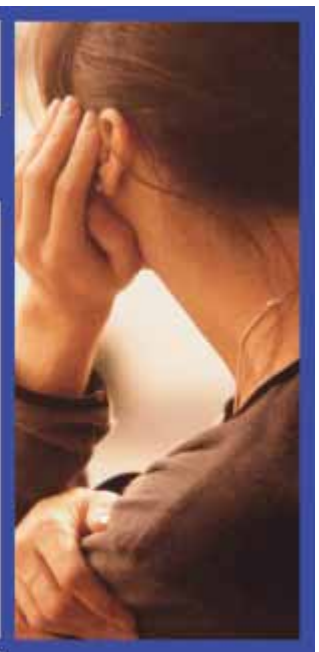
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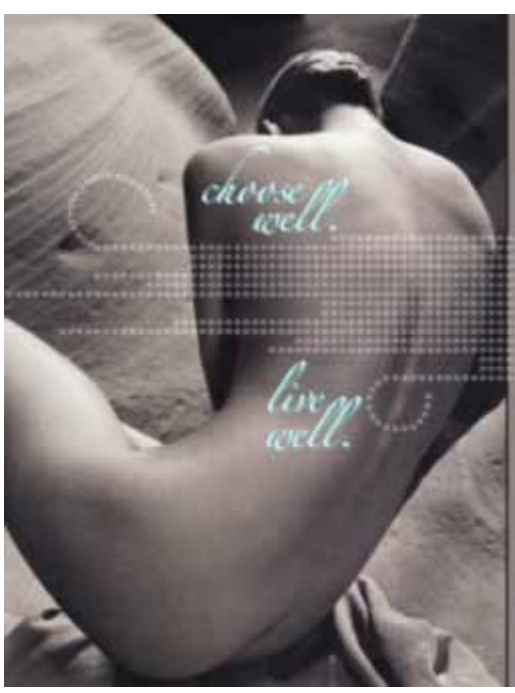
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Santa Monica From A to Z

Alisandra Rand and Melissa Rader
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Nothing says love like homemade gifts

'TIS THE SEASON FOR GIFT GIVING. NO matter what religion or spiritual practice you subscribe to, the winter solstice is upon us and it demands that we exchange gifts with the people we love.

There really is no way to avoid it; our children will be showered with brand new outfits and bright, shiny toys from relatives far and near and those same people will expect something in return. And even if they don't, we are not willing to risk angering the consumer gods. Are you?

We are tired of passing on second-hand gifts, or worse, buying throw-aways that would then be regifted to others next year. Instead of contributing to the gift giving mania and waste, we decided to have the kids make something for the special people in their lives.

When we try to do a craft project with our kids, we find that the set-up and clean-up takes twice as long as the art itself! (How much longer until Zora and Addison are in preschool?) Luckily, there are a few places in town where you can make meaningful, homemade gifts without the mess. A hand-painted pencil cup or illustrated organizer make a much better present than just another tie. Our first stop on the gift express was Scribble Press on Montana Avenue, where kids can design calendars, bookmarks, notebooks, etc.

We immediately reached for the bookmarks. Books are big in our families. Plus, you get three of them so we figured we could spread the wealth a little. However, we were quickly guided towards a place mat by a store clerk since "no matter what" it would "look good covered in color." The bookmarks, on the other hand, had breaks in the design, which presumably an 18-month-old aspiring artiste might miss. (Although if you saw toddler Addison's work you might question what difference it'd make.)

Addison loves color. And she absolutely adores a set of Crayola markers we bought for her older sister, Liesey. She has covered herself, nearly all the furniture in the apartment and even her favorite chair at Panera in ink. But on that day she could have cared less about drawing.

In fact, she took more delight in taking the pens off the shelves, taking the caps on and off the pens, and racing around and, once or twice, nearly out of the store. Still another store clerk was impressed by her efforts, assuring me Addison would be an artist one day. I certainly couldn't hope for more but in the meantime we have a still mostly white keepsake place mat which will no doubt end up on Grandmarie's wall since she rarely if ever dines at home anymore. After $20, we're one gift closer to done.

Dash and Zora worked together to make a notebook, which only involved drawing one picture. Two of the same picture notebooks were $30. Not only did Dash experiment with stencils, markers and crayons, but he also branched out into glitter glue and the magic of erasers as well. I have a notebook Dash made last year, and plan on documenting his path to Matisse-hood, one spiral at a time. Toddler Zora had difficulty focusing on studio time with so many attractive nuisances in the store. Mainly she delighted in helping Addison pull all the markers out of the giant wall display. (Dash also joined in the action, which for a 4-year-old, was really not so cute.)

For more advanced artists, Scribble Press also offers organizers, calendars, bookmarks, and cards. Scribble Press also has an interesting selection of art-themed gifts, most placed at that tempting child-height eye level. They had art instructional books (we used to love to make the fingerprint characters as a kid), decorate your own lamps, puzzles, those tiny, true-to-life Japanese erasers, and pens, crayons, and chalk galore.

It's also a great idea to take some of your child's top artwork from the year and bring it in to be scanned and made into a book. You could distribute it to all those relatives who complain that they don't ever get enough pictures, with the benefit of reducing household clutter. Scribble Press can actually incorporate pictures of the kids into the artwork.

Santa will be visiting Scribble Press during the Montana Avenue Holiday Walk on Dec. 4 from 4p.m. to 8 p.m. Also, on Dec. 5, artist Emily Green will help children make collage place mats for $40. The proceeds will be donated to L.A. Family Housing.

Scribble Press also has classes and winter camps for scribblers 2 and up, as well as adult workshops. Some of the recent class work was on window display the day we went in and it was pretty impressive. Maybe I'll sign Dash up.

For those who are channeling Martha Stewart this holiday season, you ambitious souls can laminate artwork at Lakeshore Learning in Culver City. Lakeshore also has free art projects on Saturdays, where kids can make things like candles, snowmen, or holiday card holders. (See our calendar on the blog for details.) If you're feeling really crafty, you can pick up all the raw materials for a craft frenzy at Michaels and Jo-Ann Fabrics.

Find a local calendar of children's events and helpful links at smatoz.blogspot.com, or leave a suggestion for places to visit.

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The Quackers

Phyllis Chavez
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Emerald dragonfly is a true gem

Editor's Note: The Quackers are three awesome ducks – Rusty, Richard and Sydney – from the canals of Venice who are on a mission to educate the community about the dangers of global warming and the importance of practicing sustainability, all while surfing the most gnarly waves possible.

DAWN PATROL. IT WAS STILL DARK. Our surf boards rocked beneath us with the motion of the swell. We always savored those precious peaceful moments before the day began. We listened to the sound of the water lapping around our boards, the breaking waves and the soft stirring of the shore birds.

The sun began its day slowly. With a blink and a yawn it gave a good stretch sending out soft tendrils of light across the dark sky. More stirring and another big stretch colored the sky with red, yellow and orange. Finally popping his head off the pillow, the sun lit the sky.

The water had taken on an invigorating chill with the changing season. We shivered a little but smiled when we saw perfect 3- to 5 footers. Giving thanks to the far-away storm that sent them our way we paddled fast and caught our first ride.

The waves were perfectly awesome. It was an effort to tear ourselves away after just a few hours but we had big plans. It was the second Tuesday of the month and that meant we could get into the Los Angeles County Museum of Art for free!

Scrubbed, combed and brushed, we wanted to look our best. We pulled on our dressiest board shorts, buttoned up our most colorful Hawaiian shirts, slipped on our best flip-flops and excitedly rushed out the door to catch the bus.

For this trip we chose to see art of the Pacific, Egyptian art and the South and Southeast Asian art collection. As we entered each collection we felt we had been transported to the places where the beautiful pieces had been created. We also felt we came away knowing more about the people creating them.

We never visit the art museum without also visiting the Page Museum and the La Brea Tar Pits. Rusty would never allow that to happen. If we left it up to him, our entire visit would be spent looking at dinosaur bones and peering into the tar pits.

Rusty could easily be a docent at the Page. Every time we step through the doors he starts narrating as if Richard and I are his out of town guests who are seeing it for the first time. "Over here is where the recovered fossils are cleaned, examined and identified," he said. "Please step this way to see the bones of a Harlan's ground sloth that had arthritis and the only known saber tooth cat to be discovered with his mouth closed." His enthusiasm is infectious.

We were scouting around the edges of a tar pit looking for fossils and trying to imagine a world where giant mastodons, saber tooth cats and ancient bison roamed when Rusty spotted several dragonflies zipping through the air. He is crazy about them. With a whoop of delight he ran after them.

Richard and I rushed to join him. We saw their jewel-like bodies skimming across the water. We settled in to watch for a while as Rusty told us what he learned about them.

Rusty said the ancient ancestors of these dragonflies flew in the skies long before the dinosaurs ever walked on the land. The early dragonflies are called Protodonata and have existed since the Carboniferous Period in the Earth's history. They were among the first insects on Earth and the largest ever to fly. Some had wingspans of up to 29 inches! They shared the land with early amphibians, first reptiles and wouldn't you know it, the cockroach.

Dragonflies are fast. Rusty said some can reach speeds of 35 mph. We were amazed as we watched the beauties fly backwards, changed direction in mid-air, stop and hover. Rusty says their flying abilities are so extraordinary that aerospace researchers study their flight control mechanisms to find ways to improve airplanes and spaceships.

Rusty thought that dragonflies were one species we didn't have to worry about. He said they had adapted, survived and thrived through untold perils for 300 million years. He thought of them as indestructible tough guys on their way to surviving another 300 million years. That was until he learned that one, Hine's emerald dragonfly, was on the endangered species list.

Rusty thinks Hine's emerald is one of the most beautiful dragonflies. He loves its brilliant green eyes, and dark metallic green body with its two distinct, creamy-yellow lateral lines.

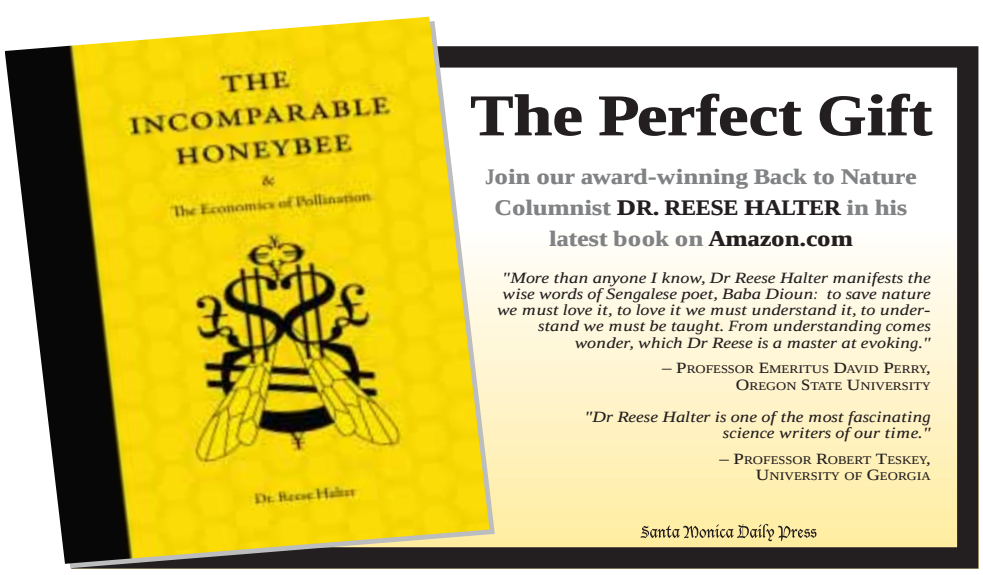
Hine's emerald seems to need a somewhat specialized habitat of thin soils over dolomite bedrock with marshes, seeps and sedge meadows. It found such habitat in areas of Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Missouri and Indiana, however, destruction and fragmentation of habitat has placed it in peril and continues to be a primary threat to its recovery.

Rusty says if it could happen to one dragonfly it could happen to all of them. He is working on us to help him create a dragonfly pond in the yard. He says it will save them and help get rid of those pesky mosquitoes.

PHYLLIS and the Quackers can be reached at phyllis@phyllischavez.com. The Quackers have a new, amazing Web site! Stories, pictures and a blog at www.thequackers.com.









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Board postpones vote DACs

FROM POLICY PAGE 1

committee members might change. The board has expressed a desire to appoint members rather than the committee review the applications first.

Kelly Pye, who was among the board members expected to meet on Monday with the DAC chairs, said she wanted to send the policy back to include more collaboration between the different committees in the policy, creating a document that will reflect different viewpoints.

"Several of our DACs operate differently and have different types of membership and we want to make sure that the policy works for each different (committee)," she said. "We don't want to prescribe something that won't be workable for them."

Some committee chairs said that the district should try enforcing its existing policy.

Pat Nolan, the chair of the Health and Safety District Advisory Committee, said that if the district enforced its existing policy, revisions might not be necessary.

The DAC policy is one of the last remaining pieces in a more than year-long effort by the district to review over 400 policies, administrative regulations and exhibits that guide the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District every day, some of which haven't been updated since the 1970s.

The proposed changes first drew concerns in September when district staff originally proposed revising the policy to restrict members to two, four-year terms with the possibility of a third term with a two-thirds vote by the school board. Some have questioned whether the district is looking to impose more control over the committees.

> **SEVERAL OF OUR DACS OPERATE DIFFERENTLY AND HAVE DIFFERENT TYPES OF MEMBERSHIP AND WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT THE POLICY WORKS FOR EACH DIFFERENT (COMMITTEE)."**
>
> **Kelly Pye**
> school board member

That term limits has since been removed.

"We all want the DACs to function effectively so we need to understand what the board and superintendent are trying to accomplish, as well as define the specific area that is targeted with each change, in order to help evaluate the proposal and understand what the ultimate effect will be," Zina Josephs, member of the Visual and Performing Arts District Advisory Committee, said.

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New beach restrooms scheduled to open in 2011

FROM **BATHROOM** PAGE 1

get a little nervous sending them into the men's room area," Davis said. "There have been some bad experiences in beach restrooms in California.

"I think the idea of individual stalls with screens where you can hear the child going in … as a parent I would find very reassuring."

Approximately $3 million has been budgeted for the design and construction of the facilities. Construction is expected to begin after Labor Day 2010, completing no later than Memorial Day 2011.

The project has for the most part been well received by the public. During a community open house in September, more than 50 residents stopped by to review plans, commenting that they would like to see natural materials used to keep in harmony with the beach environment and shade trees planted near the seating areas.

Susan Cloke, the chair of the Recreation and Parks Commission, said she is not looking for a "concrete block" that is cold and uninviting, but rather a structure that would give visitors a sense of Santa Monica. She said that bathrooms on the beach are not just meant to be neat, clean and practical.

"You also want them to reflect character and fun and history because they are part of our way of communicating with the public and communicating with the tourists that come here," she said during the council meeting. "(It's) who we are as a city and what we stand for and where we've been and where we're going."

> **"WE'RE VERY INTERESTED IN TRYING TO MAKE A MUCH NICER ENVIRONMENT FOR PEOPLE THAT ARE GOING TO BE VISITING SANTA MONICA AND VISITING THE BEACH AND HOPEFULLY THIS WILL MAKE A BETTER IMPRESSION THAN THE EXISTING TOILET ROOMS."**
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Movement under way in California to ban divorce

BY JUDY LIN
Associated Press Writer

SACRAMENTO, Calif. Til death do us part? The vow would really hold true in California if a Sacramento Web designer gets his way.

In a movement that seems ripped from the pages of Comedy Channel writers, John Marcotte wants to put a measure on the ballot next year to ban divorce in California.

The effort is meant to be a satirical statement after California voters outlawed gay marriage in 2008, largely on the argument that a ban is needed to protect the sanctity of traditional marriage. If that's the case, then Marcotte reasons voters should have no problem banning divorce.

"Since California has decided to protect traditional marriage, I think it would be hypocritical of us not to sacrifice some of our own rights to protect traditional marriage even more," the 38-year-old married father of two said.

Marcotte said he has collected dozens of signatures, including one from his wife of seven years. The initiative's Facebook fans have swelled to more than 11,000. Volunteers that include gay activists and members of a local comedy troupe have signed on to help.

Marcotte is looking into whether he can gather signatures online, as proponents are doing for another proposed 2010 initiative to repeal the gay marriage ban. But the odds are stacked against a campaign funded primarily by the sale of $12 T-shirts featuring bride and groom stick figures chained at the wrists.

Marcotte needs 694,354 valid signatures by March 22, a high hurdle in a state where the typical petition drive costs millions of dollars. Even if his proposed constitutional amendment made next year's ballot, it's not clear how voters would react.

Nationwide, about half of all marriages end in divorce.

Not surprisingly, Marcotte's campaign to make divorce in California illegal has divided those involved in last year's campaign for and against Proposition 8.

As much as everyone would like to see fewer divorces, making it illegal would be "impractical," said Ron Prentice, the executive director of the California Family Council who led a coalition of religious and conservative groups to qualify Proposition 8.

No other state bans divorce, and only a few countries, including the Philippines and Malta, do. The Roman Catholic Church also prohibits divorce but allows annulments. The California proposal would amend the state constitution to eliminate the ability of married couples to get divorced while allowing married couples to seek an annulment.

Prentice said proponents of traditional marriage only seek to strengthen the one man-one woman union.

"That's where our intention begins and ends," he said.

Jeffrey Taylor, a spokesman for Restore Equality 2010, a coalition of same-sex marriage activists seeking to repeal Proposition 8, said the coalition supports Marcotte's message but has no plans to join forces with him.

"We find it quite hilarious," Taylor said of the initiative.

Marcotte, who runs the comedy site BadMouth.net in his spare time, said he has received support from across the political spectrum. In addition to encouragement from gay marriage advocates, he has been interviewed by American Family Association, a Mississippi-based organization that contributed to last year's Yes on 8 campaign.

He was mentioned by Keith Olbermann on MSNBC's "Countdown" during his "World's Best Persons" segment for giving supporters of Proposition 8 their "comeuppance in California."

Marcotte, who is Catholic and voted against Proposition 8, views himself as an accidental activist. A registered Democrat, he led a "ban divorce" rally recently at the state Capitol in Sacramento to launch his effort and was pleasantly surprised at the turnout. About 50 people showed up, some holding signs that read, "You too can vote to take away civil rights from someone."

Marcotte stopped dozens of people during another signature drive in downtown Sacramento. Among them was Ryan Platt, 32, who said he signed the petition in support of his lesbian sister, even though he thinks it would be overturned if voters approved it.

"Even if by some miracle this did pass, it would never stand up to the federal government," Platt said. "And if it did, there's something really wrong with America."

Other petition signers said they were motivated by a sincere interest to preserve marriages. One was Ervin Hulton, a 47-year-old dishwasher who said he believes in making it harder for couples to separate.

"The way I feel, why go out and spend all these tons of money for marriage, the photography and all that? And along down the line, it's going to shatter," said Hulton, who is single.

The U.S. divorce rate is 47.9 percent, according to data provided by the National Center for Health Statistics reports. That figure, however, does not include California, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Louisiana and Minnesota because those six states no longer report their divorce rates to the center.

California stopped because of budget problems, said Ralph Montano, a spokesman for the California Department of Public Health.

While most people would not support banning divorce, it does make sense for couples to be educated about the financial and emotional commitments of marriage, said Dan Couvrette, chief executive and publisher of Toronto-based Divorce Magazine. The publication has a circulation of 140,000, including a regional edition in Southern California.

"It's a worthwhile conversation to have," said Couvrette, who started the magazine in 1996 after going through his own divorce. "I don't think it's just a frivolous thought."

On the Web:
2010 California Marriage Protection Act: http://www.rescuemarriage.org

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'12 Days of Christmas' items' cost would top $87K

BY DAN NEPHIN
Associated Press Writer

PITTSBURGH Making one's true love happy will cost a whopping $87,403 this year, a minuscule increase from last year, according to the latest cost analysis of the items in the carol "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

That's the grand total for the single partridge in a pear tree to the 12 drummers drumming, purchased repeatedly as the song suggests, according to the annual "Christmas Price Index" compiled by PNC Wealth Management. The price is up a mere $794, or less than 1 percent, from $86,609 last year.

The cost of buying each item just once is increasing this year to $21,466, up 1.8 percent from last year's $21,081.

Jim Dunigan, managing executive of investment for PNC Wealth Management, which has been calculating the cost of Christmas since 1984, attributed the modest increase to lower energy costs and fewer wage increases.

It's the smallest increase since 2002, when the cost actually decreased, according to PNC.

The main driver behind the higher cost is that the price of gold has increased 43 percent, bringing the five gold rings up $150 to $500.

Although wage increases were modest, nine ladies dancing, at $5,473 per performance, is the costliest item, surpassing the that of any of the material goods.

The most expensive goods are the seven swans a-swimming at $5,250, but their cost decreased 6.3 percent from last year's $5,600. Dunigan said their cost tends to be the most volatile because of supply and demand; they were up 33 percent last year over 2007.

Costs for the 10 lords a-leaping ($4,414 per performance), 11 pipers piping ($2,285 per performance) and 12 drummers drumming ($2,475 per performance) remained the same as last year. Dunigan says that reflects the labor market in which the unemployment rate rose to near 10 percent after sitting below 5 percent for much of the decade.

And for those who would shop online, a word of caution.

PNC says you'll pay $31,435, which is down from last year's online price, but still about $10,000 more than in the traditional index.

"In general, Internet prices are higher than their non-Internet counterparts because of shipping costs for birds and the convenience factor of shopping online," Dunigan said.

PNC Financial Services Group Inc. checks jewelry stores, dance companies, pet stores and other sources to compile the list. While it is done humorously, PNC said its index mirrors real economic trends.

Besides putting out the list for fun, PNC makes it available to teachers across the country to teach economic trends.

While it's unlikely anyone would buy the items, Dunigan said one item is likely to please.

"We don't necessarily suggest picking just one, but it's hard to believe that gold rings wouldn't lead the list on a year-to-year basis," Dunigan said.

Defense official communicated with WH crashers

BY EILEEN SULLIVAN
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON The couple who crashed the Obama administration's first state dinner communicated with a senior Pentagon official about going to the event, but the official denies that she helped the couple get in.

Michele Jones, a special assistant to Defense Secretary Robert Gates, said in a written statement issued through the White House on Monday evening that she never said or implied she would get Michaele and Tareq Salahi into the Nov. 24 White House dinner.

"I specifically stated that they did not have tickets and in fact that I did not have the authority to authorize attendance, admittance or access to any part of the evening's activities," Jones said. "Even though I informed them of this, they still decided to come."

This is the latest twist in the unfolding mystery of how the two reality show wannabes managed to get into the highly secured event and shake hands with President Barack Obama. Also on Monday, a House committee chairman asked the couple and Secret Service Director Mark Sullivan to testify at a hearing Thursday on the incident.

The White House issued Jones' statement after questions were raised about communications between the administration and the couple prior to the dinner.

A friend of the couple, McLean, Va., real estate agent Casey Margenau, said in an interview with The Associated Press that the couple interpreted an e-mail exchange as permission to attend the exclusive party. Margenau said he did not personally see the e-mails and did not know with whom the couple was corresponding.

Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, said he wants answers about the Secret Service's security deficiencies that allowed the Salahis to attend the dinner. A White House photo showed the Salahis in the receiving line in the Blue Room with Obama and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, in whose honor the dinner was held. Obama and Michaele Salahi are smiling as she grasps his right hand with both of hers and her husband looks on. Singh is to Obama's left.

"This is a time for answers," Thompson said in a statement Monday. "This is not the time for political games or scapegoating to distract our attention from the careful oversight we must apply to the Secret Service and its mission."

Some lawmakers have called for criminal charges to be brought against the couple, but the Secret Service has not yet decided whether to refer the case for criminal prosecution.

The Secret Service declined to comment on whether Sullivan would testify on Thursday.

On Friday, Sullivan issued a statement saying that his agency is "deeply concerned and embarrassed" by the circumstances.

Secret Service spokesman Ed Donovan said the couple was not on the approved list for the party, but they were allowed in. "This should not have occurred," Donovan said.

"The preliminary findings of our internal investigation have determined established protocols were not followed at an initial checkpoint, verifying that two individuals were on the guest list," Sullivan said Friday. "Although these individuals went through magnetometers and other levels of screening, they should have been prohibited from entering the event entirely. That failing is ours."

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said Monday the president shares the Secret Service director's concern about the incident.

"That's why there's an investigation," Gibbs said.

Gibbs said the president was not concerned about his safety and continues to have faith in the Secret Service.

The ranking Republican on the House Homeland Security committee, Rep. Peter King of New York, also said there needs to be an investigation into what happened. King said he wants to be sure the hearing does not give away Secret Service operations or methods that could tip someone off how to get into the White House. King said he's been to at least 40 invitation-only events at the White House — including two state dinners — and security has always been tight and thorough.


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For more information call 310.451.5444 or visit BigBlueBus.com
City of Santa Monica



SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 60°

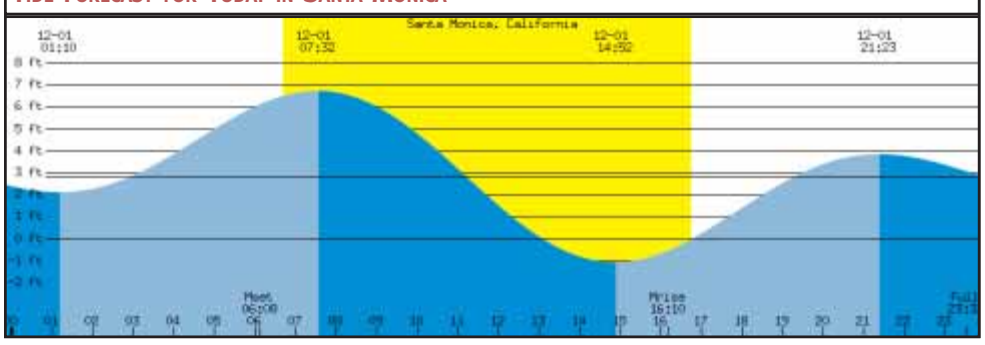
Swell Forecast

The Aleutian/Gulf NW should peak with chest high waves for west facing breaks, and waist+ wrap for south facing spots. Winds should be lightly offshore in the AM and moderately onshore in the afternoon.

Long Range Synopsis

Looks a bit smaller, perhaps just waist high most everywhere.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **November 23, 2009**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 40 / 14
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 5 / 2

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation; simplehuman; SIMA

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

LEGEND

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

Heal the Bay'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.

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

Heal the Bay

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Image gurus to Woods: Go public like Letterman

BY NANCY ARMOUR
AP National Writer

When it comes to dealing with a personal crisis, Tiger Woods could learn a lot from David Letterman, media experts say.

Instead of a vague statement that left many questions unanswered, the late-night comic went very public with his admission of bad behavior, and even cracked a few jokes at his own expense. After a few days, everyone moved on.

"Men and women have been forgiven by their public for misbehavior or misstepping, and even philandering," said Gene Grabowski, who guides high-profile figures through public relations crises as a senior vice president with Washington-based Levick Strategic Communications.

"But what they have never been forgiven for is the cover-up," he said.

Of course, Woods doesn't have his own talk show, and a public mea culpa isn't his style, anyway. The world's most famous athlete and No. 1 golfer goes to great lengths to guard his image, on and off the course. He steers clear of anything with even a hint of controversy, anything that would raise an eyebrow.

But his statement Sunday about the "embarrassing" situation surrounding his car crash, coupled with his refusal to meet with police, is only heightening suspicion that something is not quite what it seems.

"It's his privilege not to address the other innuendoes and reports that have surfaced over the last three or four days," said Steve Rosner, co-founder of 16W Marketing. "But by not addressing them, I believe he has set up a situation where the story will continue to be the story."

Grabowski, whose clients have included Roger Clemens, agreed.

"Tiger risks making this a bigger issue than it has to be," he said. "And bringing greater embarrassment to his family."

Woods withdrew from his own golf tournament this week, the Chevron World Challenge in Thousand Oaks, Calif., citing injuries from the car crash. While that may spare him from facing reporters for now, he is almost certain to be questioned about it at the end of January, when he is likely to make his 2010 debut at Torrey Pines in La Jolla, Calif.

Letterman's indiscretions had all the makings of a long-running tabloid cover story. While not telling all, the married father admitted he'd had sex with women who worked on his show, with one of the trysts leading to an alleged blackmail plot.

By revealing that himself, Letterman followed the No. 1 rule in crisis communication: Take control of the story.

"My recommendation is always to get out in front and curtail speculation by distributing fact," said George Merlis, founder of Experience Media Consulting Group. "Because the speculation gets dangerous and, once it's out there, speculation has a nasty habit of becoming accepted as fact.

"By not talking or addressing issues, you're inviting everyone on all sides to express vague opinions, and they end up dominating the conversation."

New York Yankees Alex Rodriguez and Andy Pettitte figured that out. Rather than stonewalling or sidestepping allegations they used performance-enhancing drugs, like Barry Bonds and Mark McGwire did, both admitted it and apologized. While Bonds and McGwire remain pariahs, Rodriguez was treated like a hero as the Yankees won their 27th World Series title. Pettitte hung out with Letterman.

When Kobe Bryant was accused of sexual assault, he tearfully admitted he was guilty of adultery — and nothing else. Charges were later dropped and while his reputation took a brief hit, fans have obviously gotten over it. His jersey is the top seller in the United States, Europe and China.

Woods' troubles began with a middle-of-the-night accident outside his Isleworth estate.

He crashed his Cadillac SUV at 2:25 a.m. Friday, and his wife told police she used a golf club to smash the back window to help him out. But Woods has yet to say where he was going at that hour, or explain how he lost control of the SUV when the speed didn't even cause the air bags to deploy.

"It doesn't add up," Grabowski said. "He needs to do a better job of describing the cause of the accident. That's the crux of the question."

In a statement posted Sunday on his Web site, Woods said only that the accident was his fault.

"It's obviously embarrassing to my family and me," he said. "I'm human and I'm not perfect. I will certainly make sure this doesn't happen again."

He acknowledged the "many false, unfounded and malicious rumors that are currently circulating about my family and me," but didn't address them except to say they are "irresponsible." He then asked for privacy.

The accident came two days after the National Enquirer published a story alleging that Woods had been seeing a New York night club hostess. The woman, Rachel Uchitel, denied having an affair with Woods when contacted by The Associated Press.

"I'm not sure it's his moral responsibility to the general public to say every bit of what's going on," Rosner said. "But I personally don't think it's going to go away now because he did not address the rumors and innuendoes of the reports about his personal life."

And the truth always comes out, said Mike Paul, founder and president of MGP & Associates PR. Evading an issue, Paul said, will only encourage people to dig further, to find evidence of what they assume or suspect to be true.

Besides, it's a little too late to plead for privacy, Paul said.

In becoming a professional athlete — particularly one who earns tens of millions each year from endorsements — Woods assumed a responsibility to fans, Paul said. He owes them answers, even when they're embarrassing, deeply personal or concern matters ordinary people would never be asked to discuss.

"Your fans are asking the question, you have to answer it," Paul said. "They will not stop asking it until they get an answer."

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MOVIE TIMES

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Call theater for information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans (R) 2hr 1min
1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00

2012 (PG-13) 2hr 38min
2:25, 6:15, 9:35

Pirate Radio (R) 1hr 55min
1:45, 4:25, 7:05, 9:45

Michael Jackson's This Is It (PG) 1hr 51min
1:40, 4:15, 7:00, 9:35

AMC 7 Santa Monica
1310 Third St.
(310) 289-4262

2012 (PG-13) 2hr 38min
12:05, 3:30, 7:00, 10:25

Disney's A Christmas Carol in Disney Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 36min
1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00

Men Who Stare at Goats (R) 1hr 30min
12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:30, 10:10

Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) 1hr 27min
2:30, 7:20

Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) 1hr 27min (Digital Presentation)
1:45, 4:10, 6:45, 9:15

Ninja Assassin (R) 1hr 39min
12:00, 12:40, 3:05, 4:45, 5:30, 8:00, 9:55, 10:30

Old Dogs (PG) 1hr 28min
12:30, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:00

Laemmle's Monica Fourplex
1332 Second St.
(310) 394-9741

Coco Before Chanel (PG-13) 2hr 5min
1:10, 4:00, 7:00, 9:40

The Messenger (R) 2hr 7min
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55

Precious (R) 1hr 49min
1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00

End of Poverty? (NR) 1hr 46min
1:30, 4:10, 7:00, 10:15

Mann's Criterion Theatre
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

The Blind Side (PG-13) 2hr 6min
11:40 am, 1:00, 2:40, 4:05, 5:40, 7:00, 8:40, 10:00,

Planet 51 (PG) 1hr 31min
12:00, 2:20, 4:50, 7:10, 9:20

The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG-13) 2hr 10min
11:30 am, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30, 4:30, 5:30, 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30, 10:30

Where the Wild Things Are (PG) 1hr 34min
11:20 am

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

Catch up with a friend, Pisces

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Your communication style draws a firm response. There is a tendency to go overboard and create much more in your life. Defer to someone who might not take him- or herself too seriously. You are certainly not ready to make a decision. Don't fight a stunning insight. Tonight: Visit with friends over a meal or on the phone.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Know what works financially, and stick to your guns. Others could try to sway you to their way of thinking. Be open to what might be an uncomfortable realization about a friend. Work through it if you care about this person. Tonight: Time to do something just for you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Energy and charisma mix. Information comes forward from a partner or associate. Caring grows between you and another person. Investigate possibilities that surround a creative interest. A boss is erratic; just don't react. Tonight: As you want.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Surprises, perhaps not 100 percent welcome, come your way. Refuse to give in to knee-jerk reactions, and think about what is coming down your path. Consider options more carefully that surround someone at a distance and your well-being. Tonight: Vanish; do your own thing.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ How you deal with others comes through loud and clear. The problem might be someone's jealousy. You head in a new direction. Your way of handling news could be very different. Tonight: Don't lose focus.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ A must appearance doesn't permit your emotions to scatter all over the place. Your way of viewing someone could change substantially if you detach. Put yourself in this person's shoes. Tonight: Working late.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Remain even and steady. You know where you are going, but you might question some of the details. And your world is changing quickly at that. Investigate new technology that you have resisted. Tonight: Take an overview.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Relate on a one-on-one level. You might not be sure how a partner will fall on a creative matter or issue. A brainstorming situation has ramifications you hadn't considered. Tonight: Surprises abound.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Others call the shots. Surprises occur with your personal or domestic life. Understand what is happening and that you cannot change the current pace. Stay open. Tonight: Be an observer rather than a player.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ A sudden realization could impact your performance. What was taken as a given might no longer be. The unexpected continues to point to a different course. Emphasize work and givens. Tonight: Work as late as need be.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Your playfulness emerges, pointing to a new direction. Nevertheless, you cannot afford to take a risk. How you deal with someone could change dramatically. Deal with someone more directly than in the past. Tonight: Stay away from financial matters.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Keep communication open. Realize that you just might be the problem in a situation. Can you change your approach? Could you be sending shock waves? Only you can answer this. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news.

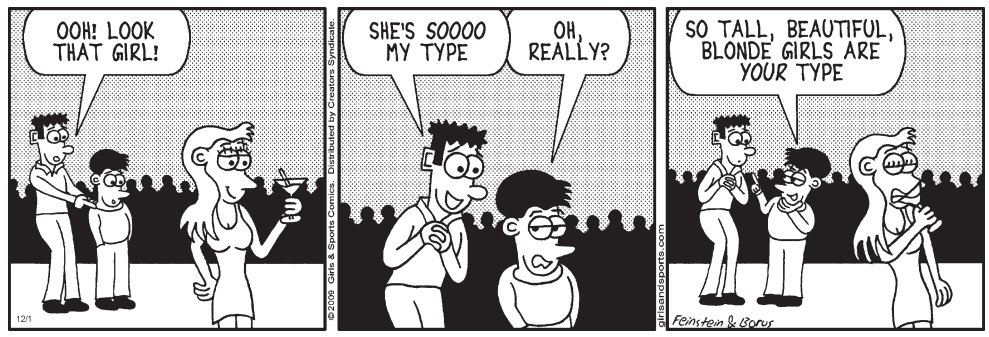
Happy birthday

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

This year, you could experience more disruption on the home front than you have in a while. You might wonder what is best to do and which way you want to go. Much in your immediate environment falls apart, allowing greater give-and-take and growth potential. If you stay open to your potential and are willing to revise your goals, you will greet an unusual sense of success and satisfaction. If you are single, though unusually attractive, it will take awhile to find that right person or develop the type of relationship you desire. You also might discover that what you thought you wanted is no longer valid. If you are attached, the two of you add more excitement to your relationship, but be sure it isn't too much. Allow your significant other to call the shots more often. GEMINI can be quite challenging.

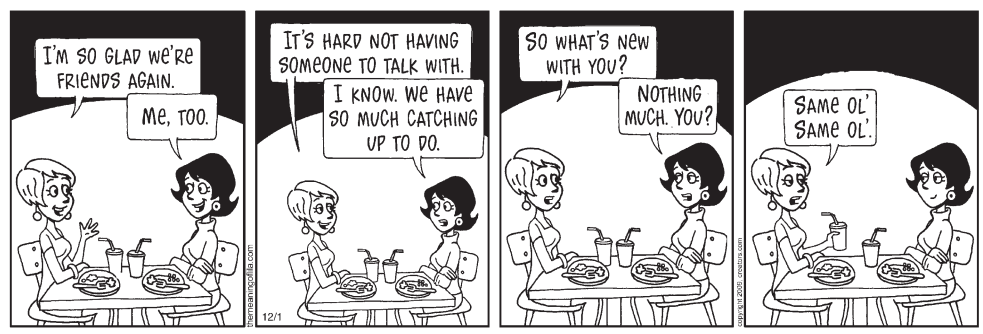
Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Garfield

By Jim Davis



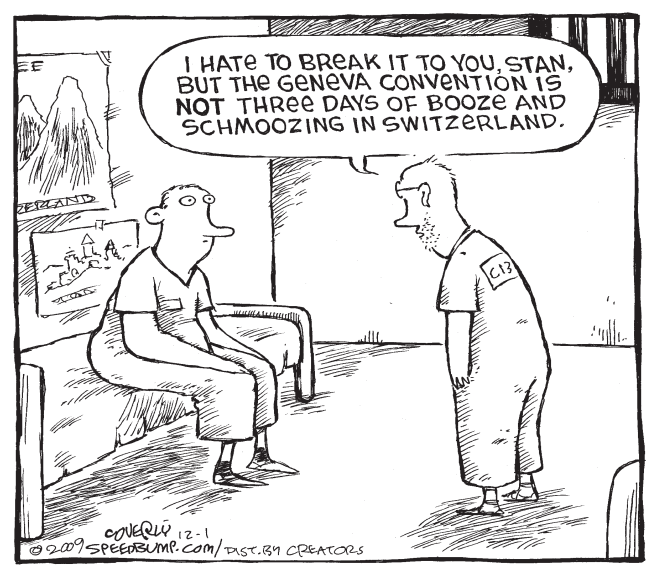
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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- Fun entertainment
- Support resources

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

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

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Leslie Thomas *news@smdp.com*

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Hint: Try north of Wilshire. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Top-of-page title
7 Tennis star Sampras
11 Show up
12 Track shape
13 Jot down
15 Like bar drafts
16 Added to
18 Minor spat
21 No longer fizzy
22 Fume
24 Author Fleming
25 And not
26 One of the Gershwins
27 River of Mesopotamia
29 Fix socks
30 Adolescent
31 Indiana city
32 Icelandic singer
34 Cause to look silly
40 Wicked
41 Time to come
42 Bankrolls
43 Put on, as a play

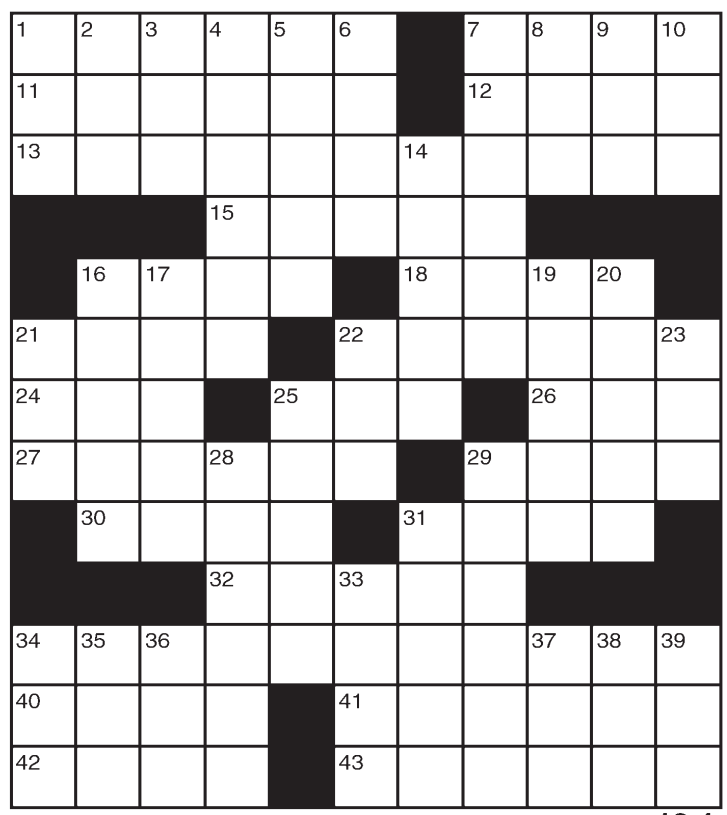
DOWN

1 Deli choice
2 Pitcher's stat
3 Bible boat
4 Become extinct
5 Swimmer Janet
6 Tenant's fee
7 Dish with a crust
8 Genesis woman
9 Eastern "way"
10 North Pole worker
14 Horse opera
16 Make pigtails
17 Jessica of "Tootsie"
19 Monk
20 Harbor sight
21 In shape
22 Mayday call
23 Quarterback Marino
25 Asian assassin
28 Soldiers in gray
29 Sioux people
31 Tile holder
33 Murders, slangily
34 Kitten cry
35 Gardner of "Mogambo"
36 Young goat
37 Galoot
38 Mine rock
39 Nourished

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

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



12-1

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 12 25 37 39 45
Meganumber: 11
Jackpot: $57M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 12 17 26 33 42
Meganumber: 20
Jackpot: $31M

Fantasy 5: 7 21 32 37 39

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 9 6 5
EVENING: 2 3 0

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 04 Big Ben
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 10 Solid Gold
RACE TIME: 1.42.57

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

■ Robert and Roberta Masters of Prior Lake, Minn., were arrested in October and charged in connection with a series of mailbox explosions over the summer, which police say were carried out by seven teenagers who had been supplied by the couple. Police said Robert Masters bought black powder for the kids and had said it "would be a good educational tool for the kids to build pipe bombs." Roberta Masters allegedly encouraged the teens to learn on the Internet how to make pipe bombs because it would be "constructive" (but she said she had told them to be careful).

■ In April, Richard Huether, the manager of the HoneyBaked Ham outlet in Cary, N.C., was shot in the stomach during a robbery of the store and hospitalized, with medical bills paid through worker compensation and his employee health benefits. In September, when his worker compensation expired (and though still at least three months away from returning to work), HoneyBaked fired him (forcing him to begin paying 100 percent of his insurance premiums and making subsequent insurance prohibitively expensive because of his new "pre-existing condition"). However, HoneyBaked human resources executive Maggie DeCan told WRAL-TV that the firing was for Huether's own good, in that it would clear the way for him to receive Social Security disability payments. Said DeCan, "We couldn't feel any worse for Rich, and we would do anything we could for him (except keep him on the payroll)."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1420 Henry V of England enters Paris.

1640 End of the Iberian Union: Portugal acclaims as King João IV of Portugal, thus ending a 60 year period of personal union of the crowns of Portugal and Spain and the end of the rule of the House of Habsburg (also called the Philippine Dynasty).

1768 The slave ship Fredensborg sinks off Tromøy in Norway.

1821 The first constitution of Costa Rica is issued.

WORD UP!

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Miscellaneous

ON SUNDAY Nov. 15 Mohammad Mesdaghi and His Wife Solmaz Saadat Seperated to divorce.

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For Rent

MAR VISTA, 11621 Braddock Dr. unit 2 2bdrm. 1.5 bath, $1295, townhouse style, stove, carpt, w/d hookup, patio, gated parking, carpet, intercom entry, no pets.$700 off move-in (310)967-4471 www.jkwproperties.com

1-CAR GARAGE AVAILABLE for rent corner of 21st and Idaho. SM. (310)963-6124

1244 Euclid 2+1 upper unit #10 stove, fridge, marble bathroom floors, carpets blinds, free standing balcony, parking, pets OK with deposit .$1695/mo (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

1248 11TH st.unit A 2bdrm/1 1/2bath, lower carpet stove, blinds, laundry, vinyl flooring, balcony parking, no pets.on site manager $1650.(310)393-6322 www.jkwproperties.com

833 5TH St. SM unit 101 2+2 $2275 stove, carpet, blinds, swimming pool, laundry, granite countertops, wood/tile floors, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets. (310)393-2547 www.jkwproperties.com

CHARMING FULLY furnished guest house short term $3100/mo HWF,
private patio yard, secure, all utilities included, one parking, South of Wilshire walk to all (310)482-2046

Culver City 4058 LaSalle Unit B lower duplex unit 1bdrm/1bath, hardwood floors, ceiling fan, breakfast nook, washer/dryer stove, fridge, parking, no pets. $1600/mo (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA 12450 Culver Blvd. Unit 224 1bdrm/1bath, carpet, granite counter tops, gated parking, intercom entry, stove, fridge, utilities included, laundry, no pets. $1000/mo $500 off move-in on site manager (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

L.A. GROVE area 428 N Orange Grove unit 101 1+1 stove, fridge, blinds, tile bathroom separate tub/shower hardwood/ vinyl floors, on-site laundry no pets $1175/mo $700 off move-in (310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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L.A. 1523 Holt Ave unit 1+1 large lower unit stove, fridge, hardwood, parking, cat OK with deposit, $1175, $500 off move-in (310) 578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA 12450 Culver Blvd. Unit 213, Single stove, fridge, blinds, carpet, tiling, flooring, granite counter tops, with utilities, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets. $900/mo (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA 12766 Matteson Ave #8 2+2 $1375/mo stove, fridge, tile and vinlyn floors, blinds, parking, laundry, no pets call between 5:30-7:30pm units shown by appt.only $500 off move-in (310) 439-1928 jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA 12766 Matteson Ave #8 2+2 $1375/mo stove, fridge, tile and vinlyn floors, blinds, parking, laundry, no pets call between 5:30-7:30pm units shown by appt.only $500 off move-in (310) 439-1928 jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA 3976 Inglewood Blvd. , 2+2 lower $1375/Mo stove, fridge, blinds, carpet, laundry, parking, no pets. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA: 11932 Courtleigh Dr. unit 9, $1050/mo. 1+1 stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, carpet, utilities include, intercom entry, laundry, gated, parking, no pets. $500 off move-in (310) 737-7933 jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA: 12434 CULVER Blvd. unit 1 2+2 stove, fridge, AC, carpets blinds, laundry room, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets.$1375/mo $500 off move-in (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

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PALMS 3540 Overland 1+1 unit 2 $850 Stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, laundry, street parking, no pets. $700 off move-in special. (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

PALMS NEWER building ask about move-in specials $925 + singles. $1195 + 1bdr, $1545 + 2bdrm.Gated entry + park.Tile floors + granite, 2 elevators, A/C 3848 Overland Ave
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SANTA MONICA Prime location 2+2 hardwood floors, newely remodeled parking included $1795 & $1895. 1423 15th Street. Sarah (310)597-7211

SM 1228 Berkeley St.Single $1195/mo, 1 month FREE OAC furnished $1295 1 month FREE OAC & flat screen HDTV Newly remodeled units, new appliances, new wood floors, private enclosed garage pets OK (310)278-8999

VENICE 714 1/2 Indiana Ave. 2 bedroom 1 bath lower unit stove fridge ceiling fans tile hardwood floors laundry gated entry no pets $1695 (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

WESTWOOD: 617 1/2 Midvale unit 3 Bachelor, no kitchen, sink, fridge,hot plate, microwave, ceiling fan, carpet, street parking, no pets $795/mo $500 off move-in (310)578-7512 wwwjkwproperties.com

WLA 1457 Westgate #E 1+1 stove, fridge, blinds, tile , garage parking no pets $1200/mo $250 off move-in (310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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Notices

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR
GRAPHIC DESIGN SERVICES

The Los Angeles County Department of Beaches and Harbors is seeking proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide as-needed graphic design services to work with Department staff on various projects relating to promoting activities in Marina del Rey and on Los Angeles County beaches. Proposals must be in the form described in the RFP. Selection of a contractor(s) will be based on the qualifications of the firms submitting proposals as well as their prices for performing the work.

A Proposers' Conference will be held at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, December 15, 2009 at Burton Chace Park, Boathouse Meeting Room, 13640 Mindanao Way, Marina del Rey. The deadline for submitting proposals will be 2:00 p.m., January 4, 2010.

Firms submitting proposals must have a minimum of five years' experience providing graphic design services. The County may require additional minimum qualifications.
.
To receive a copy of the RFP, either telephone (310) 306-0495, send an e-mail with GRAPHIC DESIGN SERVICES in the subject line to ttate@bh.lacounty.gov, visit http://lacounty.info/doing_business/main_db.htm, or write:

Department of Beaches and Harbors
Graphic Design Services RFP/Attn: Contracts Unit
13837 Fiji Way
Marina del Rey, CA 90292
Fax: (310) 821-8155

The County reserves the right to cancel the RFP and to modify any and all terms and conditions of the RFP, including minimum requirements. For further information, call Nicolette Taylor at (310) 577-5736.

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20091679589 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as THEOMEGA-BOY, 17147 MARTHA ST, ENCINO, CA 91316. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : DAVID AMICHAI, 17147 MARTHA ST, ENCINO, CA 91316 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)11/5/2009. /s/: DAVID AMICHAI
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/6/2009. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 11/17/2009, 11/24/2009, 12/1/2009, 12/8/2009

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAMES STATEMENT FILE NO. 20091580308 FIRST FILING. The following person(s) is (are) doing business as LETO REALTY; HOUSEGROUSE.COM, 11318 BIONA DR, LOS ANGELES, CA 90066. The full name of registrant(s) is/are : BRIAN LETOURNEAU, 11318 BIONA DR, LOS ANGELES, CA 90066 This Business is being conducted by, an individual. Signed: Registrant has not yet begun to transact business under the fictitious name or names listed herein.. /s/: BRIAN LETOURNEAU
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 10/19/2009. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 11/17/2009, 11/24/2009, 12/1/2009, 12/8/2009

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North of Montana	$2,800,000	$1,449,500
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,600,000	$809,250
South of Wilshire	$865,000	$607,000
Sunset Park	$1,274,000	$654,500
Ocean Park	$1,365,000	$1,049,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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