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Santa Monica Daily Press

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BOYS BASKETBALL:

Mathews steps into spotlight to lead Samohi

USC-bound guard 'a tough cover' in final season with Vikings

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff Writer

Crouching on the sideline during a timeout, the opposing coach raised his voice and implored his team to make it harder for the player to get open looks at the basket.

"He's shooting from the moon," the coach told his players, and he didn't have to use a name for them to know who he was talking about.

But the player found gaps and kept firing anyway, launching shots from well beyond the 3-point arc and sending them through the net with impressive regularity.

The player was Santa Monica High senior Jonah Mathews. The opposing coach, Crossroads' Daryl Roper, could only shake his head.

"Here you have a kid shooting the ball from I don't even know where," Roper said after facing Mathews and the Vikings boys basketball team in the St. Monica tournament Tuesday afternoon. "It's like, 'Are you kidding me?' That's just a tough cover. He's one of the best players in the city."

The attention Mathews received from Crossroads defenders is the kind of attention he'll probably get throughout the 2015-16 season as he tries to carry Samohi into the playoffs. The senior guard, who

is headed to USC next year, is the undisputed star of a team that is looking to improve upon last season's sub-.500 overall record.

Mathews' scoring talents and basketball instincts will certainly help coach James

SEE BASKETBALL PAGE 8



Morgan Genser editor@smdp.com

CLOSE WIN: Jonah Mathews has been an asset to Samohi throughout the season.



Courtesy photo

TREES: Purchases from the scouts on Montana Ave. support their troop.

Boy Scouts branch out at Christmas tree lot

Troop 2 members raise money, develop skills with seasonal sales

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff Writer

The members of Boy Scout Troop 2 take regular camping trips and head to the mountains to ski every February. They go backpacking and canoeing everywhere from Catalina Island and Colorado to Minnesota and upstate New York, always learning survival techniques and life lessons along the way.

Their excursions are made possible largely by what happens every December on Montana Avenue, where the local troop runs a

Christmas tree lot that has become a lasting holiday tradition in Santa Monica. It's open for business until the weekend before Christmas.

All proceeds from the tree sales benefit the troop, but organizers say the lot has an even stronger impact on the scores of scouts who work volunteer shifts there throughout the month. Indeed, as they rake in money for the troop, they also develop their skills in business, customer service, organization and time management.

SEE TREE PAGE 11

Senate rejects more gun background checks after San Bernardino attack

ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

A polarized Senate voted Thursday against expanding background checks for more gun purchases, rejecting the proposal a day after the latest U.S. mass shooting left 14 people dead in California.

Thursday's mostly party-line 50-48 vote, which followed the Senate's defeat of other firearms curbs, underscored that political

gridlock over the issue remains formidable in Washington, even amid a rash of highly publicized U.S. shootings and last month's terror attack in Paris.

The background check measure, co-authored by Sens. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., and Patrick Toomey, R-Pa., was the same proposal the Senate rejected in early 2013, just months after 20 children

SEE GUN PAGE 8

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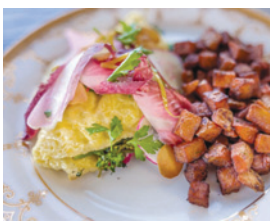
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Calendar

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What's Up Westside OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Friday, Dec. 4

Yoga

All levels. Drop in for \$15. Annenberg
Community Beach House, 415 PCH,
9 - 10 a.m.

December Drive-In Series for Kids @ Main

Bring your cardboard box car to our
drive-in and watch some holiday
favorites and discover new favorites!
Ages 3 and Up. Main Library, 601
Santa Monica Blvd., 3:45 - 5 p.m.

Montana Avenue Holiday Walk

Find wonderful gifts, have your pho-
tos taken with Santa, listen to live
music, indulge in great food and
drinks! This is a fun night for all!
Montana Avenue, 6th - 17th St., 4 - 9
p.m.

'The Santaland Diaries'

One-man play about the author's
experiences as an unemployed
writer taking a job as an elf at
Macy's department store in New
York City. General admission \$29.50;
discounts available for students,
teachers, seniors, members of the
military and groups of 8 or more.
Toast the holidays with pre-show
champagne or non-alcoholic eggnog,
included in your ticket price. 1211 4th
St., 8 - 9:15 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 5

Santa Monica-Venice Christmas Run

Starts at Ocean View Park and runs
south on Neilson Way into L.A. Race
does not return to Santa Monica.
Post-Expo held in Venice. For more
information visit
www.christmas.com. Ocean Avenue
Park, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

ACT Mock Test

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mock exam to help prepare! Call the
branch to register. Bring your scien-
tific calculator. Pico Branch Library,
2201 Pico Blvd., 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Book Signing - The Seasonal Jewish Kitchen, A Fresh Take on Tradition

Book signing by Amelia Saltzman.
Santa Monica Farmers Market,
Arizona Avenue @ 3rd St., 10 a.m. - 1
p.m.

Baby Sensory Play @ Main

Introduce your baby to the world
with some fun sensory activities.
Ages 6-24 months. Main Library, 601
Santa Monica Blvd., 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Finding Your Balance: Strategies to Improve your Wellbeing

Strategies to Improve your
Wellbeing, led by three UCLA health-
care practitioners, is a three-part,
interactive workshop that explores
the keys for ensuring a balanced
body, mind and spirit. Main Library,
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 11 a.m. - 1
p.m.

Christmas Sale - St. Monica's Boutique

Christmas gifts, ornaments,
wreaths, baby knits, quilt raffle, vin-
tage linens, homemade jakes and
more for sale. 725 California Ave., 4
- 7 p.m.

Main Street Holiday Event

Tree lighting, Santa, parties, carol-
ers, a candlelight walk and more.
Main Street. Begins on lawn of
California Heritage Museum, 2612
Main St., 5 - 9 p.m.

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2015 MERCEDES-BENZ

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\$329 Per Mo Plus Tax

36 Month Lease
\$3623 total due at signing

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2015 MERCEDES-BENZ

C300 Sedan

\$399 Per Mo Plus Tax

36 Month Lease
\$4553 total due at signing

Available only to qualified customers through Mercedes-Benz Financial Services at participating dealers through January 04, 2016. Not everyone will qualify. Advertised 36 months lease payment based on MSRP of \$41,125 less the suggested dealer contribution resulting in a total gross capitalized cost of \$40,192. Dealer contribution may vary and could affect your actual lease payment. Includes Destination Charge, Premium 1 Package and Blind Spot Assist. Excludes title, taxes, registration, license fees, insurance, dealer prep and additional options. Total monthly payments equal \$14,364. Cash due at signing includes \$3,359 capitalized cost reduction, \$795 acquisition fee and first month's lease payment of \$399. No security deposit required. Total payments equal \$18,518. At lease end, lessee pays for any amounts due under the lease, any official fees and taxes related to the scheduled termination, excess wear and use plus \$0.25/mile over 30,000 miles, and \$595 vehicle turn-in fee. Purchase option at lease end for \$25,949 plus taxes (and any other fees and charges due under the applicable lease agreement) in example shown. Subject to credit approval. Specific vehicles are subject to availability and may have to be ordered. See participating dealer for details. Please always wear your seat belt, drive safely and obey speed limits.



2016 MERCEDES-BENZ

E350 Sport Sedan

\$519 Per Mo Plus Tax

36 Month Lease
\$5063 total due at signing

Available only to qualified customers through Mercedes-Benz Financial Services at participating dealers through January 04, 2016. Not everyone will qualify. Advertised 36 months lease payment based on MSRP of \$58,205 less the suggested dealer contribution resulting in a total gross capitalized cost of \$54,680. Dealer contribution may vary and could affect your actual lease payment. Includes Destination Charge and Premium 1 Package. Excludes title, taxes, registration, license fees, insurance, dealer prep and additional options. Total monthly payments equal \$18,684. Cash due at signing includes \$3,749 capitalized cost reduction, \$795 acquisition fee and first month's lease payment of \$519. No security deposit required. Total payments equal \$23,228. At lease end, lessee pays for any amounts due under the lease, any official fees and taxes related to the scheduled termination, excess wear and use plus \$0.25/mile over 30,000 miles, and \$595 vehicle turn-in fee. Purchase option at lease end for \$34,341 plus taxes (and any other fees and charges due under the applicable lease agreement) in example shown. Subject to credit approval. Specific vehicles are subject to availability and may have to be ordered. See participating dealer for details. Please always wear your seat belt, drive safely and obey speed limits.



Black Friday Certified Pre-Owned prices continue through this weekend.

<p>2001 Jeep</p> <p>Grd Cherokee LTD... \$4,972</p> <p>Low Miles, Tilt, Keyless, Power Seats, Leather P2F286296</p>	<p>2007 Chrysler</p> <p>Town and Country... \$6,991</p> <p>7 Passenger Capacity, Leather, Roof Rack, Auto T7R161017</p>	<p>2003 Mercedes-Benz</p> <p>E500... \$9,991</p> <p>Low Miles, Power Seats, V8, Leather T3A054974</p>
<p>2005 Mercedes-Benz</p> <p>ML350... \$10,981</p> <p>Low Miles, Special Ed Pkg, Sunroof Pkg 5A564652</p>	<p>2007 Mercedes-Benz</p> <p>R350... \$10,991</p> <p>Prm Audio, Pwr Trunk, Pwr Seats, 3rd Row Seat T7A037239</p>	<p>2008 Lincoln</p> <p>MKX... \$11,483</p> <p>Power Seats, Leather, Dual Front AC, CD/MP3 T8BJ02832</p>
<p>2008 Mercedes-Benz</p> <p>C300... \$12,981</p> <p>Premium Audio, Dual Front AC, Power Seats, Htd Mirrors P8F059147</p>	<p>2013 Hyundai</p> <p>Sonata GLS... \$12,991</p> <p>Keyless, CD/MP3, PS/PW, AC, Bluetooth TDH747359</p>	<p>2005 Mercedes-Benz</p> <p>SLK350... \$13,991</p> <p>Low Miles, Roadster, Htd Fr Seats, Leather T5F026736</p>



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Opinion Commentary

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2015

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

I Need a New Banner or New World

WHEN I BEGAN WRITING THESE columns in 2006, Laughing Matters seemed an appropriate banner. With what's occurring in the world these days, including ISIS be-headings, the Paris attacks, and mass murder shooting sprees in the U.S., perhaps No Laughing Matter would be more fitting. I once suggested to Daily Press management that maybe I should have two banners, which I would alternate depending on how serious the subject was for that week. As I recall the collective response was a yawn.

As I write this early Thursday morning, it's still unclear as to the motivation of the horrific mass murders in San Bernardino Wednesday morning where 14 people were killed and 21 injured, 10 critically. Granted, shooting rampages are not generally the subjects for humor, and not to fear, I won't try to do so. But, to ignore Wednesday's shocking events would suggest that I live in some sort of bubble. (Which, at this moment, actually doesn't sound like such a bad idea.)

By the time you read this, there will likely be many more facts. But, as of now, and according to the L.A. Times, here is what is known. Shooting suspect Syed Farook, 28, a health inspector with San Bernardino County, joined colleagues at a holiday celebration party Wednesday morning at the Inland Regional Center.

Following what some witnesses say was a dispute while others are not certain, Farook disappeared shortly before the mass shooting erupted. Did he then go get his wife? ("Honey, grab the pipe bombs!") And, armed with automatic weapons, long guns, pistols and bullet proof vests, the pair returned to open fire at the Regional Center causing the city the worst single day of violence in its history. And the two, who are reportedly parents to a 6-month-old daughter they left on some excuse with the baby's grandmother, were later killed in a highly violent gun battle with police.

Was the shooting spree the result of workplace revenge or Jihadi terrorism, or both? Whatever the truth, it's quite likely to be exploited in the current presidential campaigns. But, until then, consider this. 93 percent of the country is in favor of nationwide background checks for gun purchases and yet the NRA blocks any such law. (Even though 93 percent of the country probably doesn't agree that the sun rises in the East!)

Also, an individual can be on the Terrorism Watch List, meaning he or she can't get on a plane, but they can still legally buy a gun. And reportedly, in the U.S. this year we've had 355 mass murder shootings (four or more injured or dead) in 341 days! That's more than 1 mass murder a day. Good grief. What a world.

Thankfully, there has been some uplifting

news recently. Mark Zuckerberg, 31, co-founder and CEO of Facebook, announced on Tuesday that he and his wife, Dr. Priscilla Chan, 30, would give 99 percent of their Facebook shares "during our lives" - holdings currently worth more than \$45 billion - to charitable purposes.

The pledge was made in an open letter to their daughter, Max, who's a week old. (It's Max and not Maxine.) Excuse the cynic in me but I can't help wonder how Max will feel about the letter 50 years from now when it dawned on her that her folks donated \$45 billion that otherwise might have gone to her.

Speaking of charity and politicians exploitation, Donald Trump is talking about giving \$5 million to the Wounded Warriors Project. The operative word is "talking."

Trump, who to me bears a striking resemblance to Mussolini, mused out loud at a rally that he might tell CNN he will NOT appear at the next GOP Debate unless they donate \$5 mil to Wounded Warriors. He immediately added, however, that such a move might hurt his poll numbers so he wasn't so sure. (If you want to see the comparison photo of Trump and Mussolini, E-mail me and I'll send it to you pronto. It's hilarious and scary.)

If Trump were even remotely sincere about Wounded Warriors, he'd write a check today for \$5 mil. Of the \$10 billion net worth he constantly brags about, it would be a drop in the bucket.

At less than half of Trump's age, Zuckerberg has more than 4 times Trump's wealth, but he never once has bragged about it. Whereas the Zuckerbergs are donating 99 percent of their fortune to charity, for Trump \$5 mil is less than 1 percent. (Actually it's 1/20th of 1 percent. What a sport!)

For sheerchutzpah, it's hard to top Trump's faux devotion to veterans, especially given his calling John McCain less than a hero. ("I like my heroes not captured," Trump said on national TV.)

Now Trump claims he said McCain was in fact a hero. But when he did he was so sarcastic with that ugly "give me a break" expression, it was obvious he was demeaning McCain.

As for Trump's own military service during the Viet Nam era, he received 4 student deferments and failed a physical because of a painful bone spur. (And yet to a reporter he couldn't remember which foot.) These days Trump often has those feet wedged deep in his mouth following his numerous racist, misogynistic and anti-Muslim rhetoric, and recently he mocked a disabled reporter, setting a new low even for The Donald. And yet, nobody seems to care. What a world, indeed.

JACK is at facebook.com/jackneworth, twitter.com/jackneworth and jnsmdp@aol.com.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Ban All Assault Weapons Now

Editor:

Assault weapons have no place on our streets. There can be no reason to allow their sale or possession. We are all too aware of the carnage that they can cause.

Sadly, there are many people in today's world who fail to respect or value human life, and there are too many mentally ill or and/or alienated individuals who seek to express themselves with a weapon. The assault weapon provides them with a personal weapon of mass destruction that leaves intended victims with little chance of survival.

It is time to challenge those who hide behind our constitution's right to bear arms as an excuse to allow assault weapons on our streets. These weapons must be banned now.

Barbara Broide
Los Angeles

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

City Attorney obtains \$2 million judgment in false advertising case

The Santa Monica City Attorney's Office has obtained a \$2 million court judgment against precious metals dealer Seacoast Coin, Inc., formerly doing business as Merit Financial and Merit Gold and Silver. Merit was based in Santa Monica but did business throughout the U.S.

The case is the third brought by Santa Monica's Consumer Protection Division against national gold coin dealers in recent years. All three cases have revolved around the same claim: that consumers were tricked into buying overpriced gold and silver coins, through misleading sales tactics.

The City's lawsuit charged Merit with two kinds of false advertising:

Bait and switch: Advertising gold bullion on TV at 1 percent over cost, then when consumers called a toll-free number, aggressively switching them into buying non-bullion coins at around 20 to 40 percent over cost.

False sales tactics: Telling consumers that non-bullion coins were better than bullion due to their tax advantages, greater "privacy," or greater investment value, when all of these claims were false.

Another tactic Merit allegedly used to switch consumers away from bullion was claiming that non-bullion coins could not be "confiscated" by the government, while bullion could be. This is a common claim in the gold coin industry. The truth is that the government can't confiscate any kind of gold under current law.

"The gold coin industry is unregulated – it's like the Wild West," said Adam Radinsky, Santa Monica's Chief Deputy City Attorney for Consumer Protection. "These businesses don't need licenses and they aren't bonded. Consumers often feel embarrassed and hopeless with no place to turn for help, even after being scammed out of huge amounts of money."

Gold has become a popular investment in recent years, with individuals often spending \$50,000, \$100,000, or even much more. Many dealers use high-pressure boiler-room tactics to push non-bullion coins, while claiming to give out expert investment advice to unsuspecting consumers.

Many of Merit's customers rolled over their 401(k) and other retirement accounts into gold. The lawsuit alleged that after being talked into buying Merit's overpriced "proof" gold coins for their IRAs, these consumers saw their investment accounts drop in value 25 percent or more overnight.

On August 5, 2014, while the case was pending in court, Merit abruptly went out of business. The company's unwinding was assigned to a third-party trustee.

Before it went out of business, Merit was one of the nation's largest precious metals dealers. It spent millions on national TV ads promoting the sale of gold and silver coins.

"With Merit no longer operating, our goal in this case was to get as much money as possible back to consumers," said Radinsky.

The judgment was part of a final settlement of the City Attorney's false advertising lawsuit against Merit. The lawsuit also named as defendants the company's co-owners, Peter Epstein and Michael Getlin.

The lawsuit was filed in February 2014 in Santa Monica Superior Court. The City Attorney brought suit under California's Unfair Competition Law, which protects consumers from false advertising, fraud, and other unlawful business practices. As part of the settlement, defendants Peter Epstein and Michael Getlin will be dismissed.

Under the terms of the settlement:

The court entered a final judgment against Seacoast for \$2,000,000. Of that amount, \$1,650,000 has been paid to reimburse former customers; \$100,000 was paid to cover the City Attorney's costs; and \$250,000 will remain as a judgment against the company.

The company paid an additional \$75,000 to fund the cost of administering restitution to customers.

This case marks the third time in recent years that the Santa Monica City Attorney has taken a national gold coin dealer to court for deceiving consumers. In 2012, Santa Monica obtained judgments against Goldline International and Superior Gold Group, both of whom were using false sales tactics similar to Merit's to push non-bullion coins.

Goldline agreed to give more than \$5 million in refunds and to a sweeping injunction; its practices are still being scrutinized by a court-appointed Monitor. Superior Gold was shut down, placed under receivership, and ordered to pay \$2 million in restitution to customers. Its former owner still faces federal criminal charges stemming from the company's operation.

"Santa Monica, for whatever reason, has been the hub of the U.S. gold coin industry," said Radinsky. "We've had many of the nation's largest dealers based here. Until federal laws are passed to protect consumers of gold coins, we'll use all laws at our disposal to crack down on deceptive practices - and hope that other jurisdictions follow suit."

The settlement was reached on the eve of trial, as Radinsky, along with Deputy City Attorney Gary Rhoades and Consumer Specialist Paula Rockenstein, were putting the final touches on the City Attorney's trial preparation.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Main Library

The Lyric Chorus in Concert: Holiday and Broadway Tunes

Ring in the winter with the return of SMC Emeritus College's Lyric Chorus in Concert on Thursday, December 17, at 11 a.m. in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium at the Santa Monica Public Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd. The twenty plus member chorus put their audience in the mood for the season with a performance of holiday songs and Broadway tunes.

Founded in the 1940s as the Santa Monica Lyric Chorus, the group became the Lyric Chorus of SMC Emeritus College when the Emeritus College was founded in the 1970s. Chorus members sing in three-part harmony under the direction of Bill Elliott, who has been the chorus' director since 1986. Assistant director and pianist Tom Gerhold has accompanied the Lyric Chorus for over twenty years. This winter performance is sure to be a big hit for all ages.

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 the Santa Monica Public Library at (310) 458-8600 or visit smpl.org. The Santa Monica Public Library is wheelchair-accessible. For special disabled services, call Library Administration (310) 458-8606 one week prior to the event.

- SUBMITTED BY JUDITH S. GRAHAM, PUBLIC SERVICES LIBRARIAN

Main St.

Santa Monica Public Library presents "The Correspondence of Hannah Arendt & Mary McCarthy"

Santa Monica Public Library's Ocean Park Branch (2601 Main St) will host Barbara Kraft, author of the biography Anais Nin: The Last Days, on Saturday, December 5 at 2 p.m.

Kraft will be discussing the friendship between two iconoclastic writers, Hannah Arendt and Mary McCarthy, one known for her books on Watergate & Vietnam, the other for Eichmann in Jerusalem: A Report on the Banality of Evil. The talk focuses on the book Between Friends - The Correspondence of Hannah Arendt and Mary McCarthy 1949-1975 by Carol Brightman.

Copies of the Anais Nin: The Last Days will be available for sale and signing following the program.

For more information about this event, contact the Ocean Park Branch Library: (310) 458-8683 or go to the Santa Monica Public Library website: <http://www.smpl.org>

- SUBMITTED BY KAREN REITZ, BRANCH MANAGER

Citywide

YMCA youth basketball registration

Registration for the Winter youth basketball season at the Santa Monica YMCA will finish on Wednesday night December 9. Forms are available in the lobby of the Y (corner of 6th and Santa Monica - free underground parking) or on line at ymcasm.com

The league includes trained coaches and referees, indoor practices and games at the YMCA, uniforms to be kept, awards for all and a huge awards pizza party at season's end. There are four skill based division beginning at 5 years old and running through the end of middle school.

The league is looking for game officials who are paid 10\$ per contest. Volunteer coaches are also wanted. To become involved, contact league director Peter Arbogast at ysports@ymcasm.org or at 310-393-2721 x 137.

This co-rec league is one of the most innovative of its kind, and has sent many players on to their high school teams.

- PETER ARBOGAST, YOUTH BASKETBALL COORDINATOR

Citywide

Dunkin' Donuts tests delivery service

Dunkin' Donuts has partnered with on-demand delivery service, DoorDash to expand its Dunkin' Delivery service locally.

Los Angeles-area residents can use DoorDash to order their favorite Dunkin' Donuts products with the click of a button, without leaving home or work. From 7 a.m. - 10 p.m., people can select and purchase a variety of Dunkin' Donuts menu items for themselves or for a group, including a Box O' Joe® or just one cup of coffee, a dozen donuts, sandwiches and more, and have the products delivered in less than forty-five minutes.

DoorDash is a Silicon Valley-based technology startup, whose innovative logistics software combines big-data technology with machine learning to make on-demand deliveries, faster, more efficient and more affordable. Today the company offers delivery in 21 metropolitan markets across more than 250 cities across the US and Canada.

According to Scott Hudler, Dunkin' Donuts' Vice President of Global Consumer Engagement, "Our guests appreciate that we make our full menu available all day, and we are committed to seeking new ways to make our products even more accessible to our guests throughout the day. Dunkin' Delivery offers people a more convenient way to enjoy our wide array of food and beverages. The ability to have Dunkin' items delivered directly to you is something that our guests have been requesting for some time. We are excited to launch this new test, and we will continue to evaluate a possible national roll-out in the future."

Tony Xu, CEO of DoorDash said, "Whether it be a coffee and a breakfast sandwich to start your day, or a latte and donut for an afternoon pick-me-up, Dunkin' Donuts is the perfect delivery partner for DoorDash. Families around the country already know that DoorDash is the best way to get your favorite food delivered directly to your door. As DoorDash continues to expand to more markets, we're excited to be adding Dunkin' Donuts to our growing roster of top tier national partners."

To get started with Dunkin' Delivery visit www.doordash.com/dunkin or download the DoorDash app for Android or iOS. To learn more about Dunkin' Donuts, visit www.DunkinDonuts.com

- SUBMITTED BY DANIELE NATOLA

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Local

8

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2015

Santa Monica Daily Press

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BASKETBALL

FROM PAGE 1

Hecht's program, which is trying to move forward without three key pieces of last year's roster.

The Vikings lost graduated senior New Williams, who is now playing in Division I at Auburn under coach Bruce Pearl. They lost Spencer Freedman, who transferred to Santa Ana-Mater Dei after starting as a freshman. And they lost journeyman center Jayce Johnson, who opted to forgo his senior season to enroll early at Utah.

Their absences figure to make even larger what would have already been a pronounced role for Mathews.

The 6-foot-3 captain extends a family legacy at Samohi as he follows in the footsteps of his older brother, Jordan, who is currently playing at Cal.

Both brothers were on the roster in 2012-13, when the Vikings won a section title and advanced to the CIF state championship game before falling to Elk Grove-Pleasant Grove.

But Samohi has regressed in the postseason over the last two years, reaching the sec-

ond round of the Southern Section Division 1AA playoffs in 2013-14 and falling to Eastvale-Roosevelt in the first round a season ago.

In the first two games of the Vikings' campaign, Mathews demonstrated his ability to shoulder the offensive load. He poured in a game-high 41 points, including a 3-pointer in the final minute, to help Samohi defeat Pasadena-La Salle in the opener. And he had 29 to lead all scorers against Crossroads.

Mathews had a slow start in the latter game, going without a field goal until sinking a floater midway through the second quarter. But he regrouped in the second half, adding 11 points in the fourth quarter to keep the Vikings close in an eventual 62-60 setback.

Mathews is joined this year by a front-court that features senior Mikhail Brown and 6-foot-7 junior Daniel Schreier. Junior guard Marcus Gee and senior guard Chailen August rounded out the starting lineup against Crossroads, while senior forward Tim Southam and junior guards Antonio Holley and Rod Henley contributed off the bench.

jeff@smdp.com

GUN

FROM PAGE 1

and six educators were shot to death at an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut.

In that roll call two years ago in a Democratic-controlled Senate, the effort fell five votes short of the 60 needed to overcome opponents' tactics aimed at derailing it. The plan was strongly opposed by the National Rifle Association, which on Thursday emailed its members urging them to contact senators and "tell them to vote against any gun control amendments."

Manchin said his amendment "makes all the sense in the world."

Thursday's first replay of the issue since that 2013 vote showed an erosion of support by seven votes since then and came in what is now a Republican-run Senate. The issue has never received a vote in the GOP-run House.

With next year's presidential and congressional elections moving into sight, Democrats have hoped that support for the curbs would grow, fed by a spate of high-profile mass slayings since 2013.

Also feeding public anxiety has been last month's attacks in Paris, which left 130 people dead and has raised concerns about a growing threat posed by terrorist organizations like the Islamic State group.

The Manchin-Toomey proposal would require background checks for all gun purchases online and at gun shows. Currently, the checks are only required for transactions from licensed gun dealers.

Thursday's vote was symbolic because the proposal was offered as an amendment to a bill obliterating President Barack Obama's health care law, which he will veto. Nonetheless, its political significance was unmistakable.

Sens. Susan Collins of Maine, Mark Kirk of Illinois, John McCain of Arizona and Toomey were the only Republicans to support the proposal. Sen. Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota was the only Democrat who opposed it. Sens. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., and Mark Warner, D-Va., did not vote.

The vote came a day after a shooting in San Bernardino, California, killed 14 people and wounded 21 others.

Earlier Thursday, the Senate in mostly party-line votes rejected rival proposals that could make it harder for people the government suspects of being terrorists from purchasing firearms.

By 54-45, senators voted down a proposal by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., that would let the government bar sales to people it suspects of being terrorists. Though she initially introduced the proposal early this year, it received attention after last month's attacks in Paris.

Minutes earlier, the Senate killed a rival plan by Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, that would let the government delay firearms sales to suspected terrorists for up to 72 hours. Under that proposal, the transaction could be halted permanently during that waiting period if federal officials could persuade a judge to do so.

Senators voted 55-44 for Cornyn's proposal, but it needed 60 votes to pass.



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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SANTA MONICA ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD REGULAR MEETING

DATE/TIME: December 7, 2015, 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street

PROPERTIES:

- 15ARB-0252: 723 Pier Avenue: Multi-Family Residential
- 15ARB-0257: 2009 Pearl Street: Multi-Family Residential
- 15ARB-0351: 1754 14th Street: Commercial Office
- 15ARB-0269: 104 Santa Monica Boulevard: Restaurant
- 15ARB-0310: 515 15th Street: Single Family Residence
- 15ARB-0315: 520 23rd Street: Single Family Residence
- 15ARB-0325: 1106 22nd Street: Multi-Family Residential
- 15ARB-0405: 2951 28th Street: Commercial Office

CONCEPT REVIEWS: None

More information is available on-line at <http://santa-monica.org/planning/planningcomm/arb agendas.htm> or at 310/458-8341 (en espanol tambien). Plans may be reviewed at City Hall during business hours. Comments are invited at the hearing or in writing (FAX 310-458-3380, e-mail grace.page@smgov.net, or mail Santa Monica Planning Division, 1685 Main St., Rm. 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401). The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact 310-458-8701 or TTY 310-450-8696 a minimum of 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Big Blue Bus lines, 2, 3, Rapid #3, 7, & 9 serve the Santa Monica Civic Center and City Hall.



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Text Amendment 15ENT-0315

LOCATION: Mixed-Use and Commercial Districts
APPLICANT: Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce

A public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission to consider the following request:

The applicant requests an amendment to Santa Monica Municipal Code (SMMC) Table 9.11.020, Specific Limitations #17 and #19 which currently require a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for any individual tenant space in the Neighborhood Commercial (NC) District that is more than 7,500 square feet of floor area and/or exceeds 50 linear feet of ground floor street frontage and for any individual tenant space in the Mixed-Use Boulevard Low (MUBL), Mixed-Use Boulevard (MUB), and General Commercial (GC) Districts that is more than 12,500 square feet of floor area and/or exceeds 75 linear feet of ground floor street frontage. The proposed text amendment would modify these limitations so that the requirement of a CUP applies to retail tenant spaces only.

DATE/TIME: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2015, AT 7:00 PM

LOCATION: City Council Chambers, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the Planning Commission public hearing, or by writing a letter. Written information will be given to the Planning Commission at the meeting.

Address your letters to: Tony Kim, Acting Special Projects Manager
Re: Text Amendment 15ENT-0315
City Planning Division
1685 Main Street, Room 212
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION

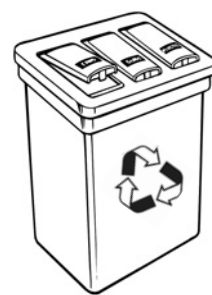
If you want more information about this project or to provide comments, please contact Tony Kim at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at tony.kim@smgov.net. The Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours and on the City's web site at www.smgov.net.

The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will be made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica "Big Blue" Bus Lines #2, #3, Rapid 3, #7 and #9 service the City Hall and Civic Center. "Big Blue" Bus Lines #2 and #8 now runs on Ocean Avenue instead of Main Street due to the Colorado Esplanade construction.

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

ESPAÑOL

Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar aplicaciones proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.



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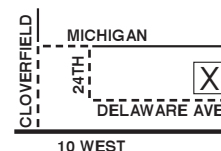
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA LANDMARKS COMMISSION

SUBJECT: Public hearings will be held by the Landmarks Commission on the following:

1248 Fifth Street, 15ENT-0291, Zoning: DSP – Downtown Specific Plan. The City Landmarks Commission will be conducting a public hearing to consider Certificate of Appropriateness Application 15ENT-0291, at 1248 Fifth Street, for consideration of the removal of certain non-character defining hardscape improvements and the installation of a new perimeter fence on the site of the former United States Post Office, a designated City Landmark. Applicant: Antony Biddle. Owner: 1248 5th Street LLC. (Continued from September 17, 2015)

Palisades Park (200 – 1500 blks Ocean Avenue), 15ENT-0318, Zoning: Open Space (Parks and Open Space District). The City Landmarks Commission will be conducting a public hearing to consider Certificate of Appropriateness application 15ENT-0318, in the vicinity of the 200-1500 blocks of Ocean Avenue, to allow the installation of twenty replacement trees (introducing three new palm species) at various locations throughout Palisades Park, a designated City Landmark. Applicant: City of Santa Monica, Matthew Wells, Urban Forester. Owner: City of Santa Monica. **(Continued from October 12, 2015)**

247 Twentieth Street, 15ENT-0322, Zoning: R1 – Single Unit Residential. The City Landmarks Commission will be conducting a public hearing to consider Landmark Designation Application 15ENT-0322, at 247 Twentieth Street to determine whether the existing single family residence, in whole or in part, should be designated as a City Landmark. The Landmarks Commission will make a decision regarding designation based on whether the application, research and public testimony presented show that the structure meets one or more of the required criteria for Landmark designation. Applicant: Landmarks Commission. Owner: El Monte Gateway LLC.

When: Monday, December 14, 2015 at 6:30 pm

Where: City Council Chambers, City Hall, Room 213
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica

Questions/Comments

The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment on this and other projects. You or your representative, or any other persons may comment on the application at the Public Hearing, or by writing a letter addressed to Scott Albright, AICP, Senior Planner, City Planning Division, 1685 Main Street, Room 212, Santa Monica, California, 90401-3295. Or, you may contact Mr. Albright by phone at (310) 458-8341 or by email at scott.albright@smgov.net.

More Information

The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. If you have any disability-related accommodation requests, please contact (310) 458-8341 or TTY (310) 458-8696 at least three days prior to the event. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Bus Lines 1, 2, 3 and 7 serve City Hall. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the Challenge may be limited only to those issues raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the Public Hearing.

Espanol

Este es un aviso de una audiencia publica para considerar la designación de una propiedad en la ciudad como un monumento histórico. Para mas información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

TREE

FROM PAGE 1

"It's pretty incredible to see a sixth-grader selling a Christmas tree," co-coordinator Peter Cohen said. "It's a great experience for the kids because they learn how to do deal with people and they learn lots of good skills, which is basically what Boy Scouts is about."

The lot is a major source of income for Troop 2, which has operated a Christmas tree lot for more than four decades. It's been in its current location at 1517 Montana Ave., between 15th and 16th streets, for more than 30 years, and it's open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Cohen said the troop each year typically sells more than 800 trees, which range in price from less than \$30 to more than \$200 depending on size. He added that many customers get their trees from the Troop 2 lot specifically because they want to support local scouts.

"The people who buy from us go there because they love the experience," he said. "They get their kids around the tree. They take pictures. It's the opposite of buying a tree online. They want to experience the Boy

Scouts selling them the tree."

The tree lot exemplifies the durability of a troop whose history spans more than 65 years. It has had just two scoutmasters: Keith Monroe, who passed away in 2003 after 42 years at the helm, and current leader Steve Marcy.

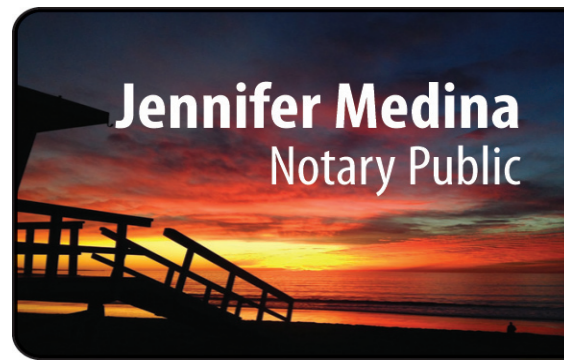
The troop has produced more than 320 Eagle Scouts, including 10 this year, and it has represented Santa Monica at national and international events. It meets Monday nights at Lincoln Middle School and usually has between 80 and 100 scouts in grades 6-12.

At the Christmas tree lot, parent volunteers operate the chainsaw and supervise the cash register. But the scouts do everything in between, from assisting with sales and keeping the area clean to helping customers load trees onto their cars and making deliveries.

It takes dozens of volunteers and hundreds of total hours to operate the lot, which is monitored around the clock. The trees come from Noble Mountain Tree Farm in Oregon.

"It's a lot of work," Cohen said. "We do a lot of big events, but this is the fundraiser that supports the troop for the entire year."

jeff@smdp.com



Jennifer Medina
Notary Public

Email: jenny@smdp.com
(310) 458-7737 ext. 305
 Commission Number: 2055073
 Santa Monica Daily Press

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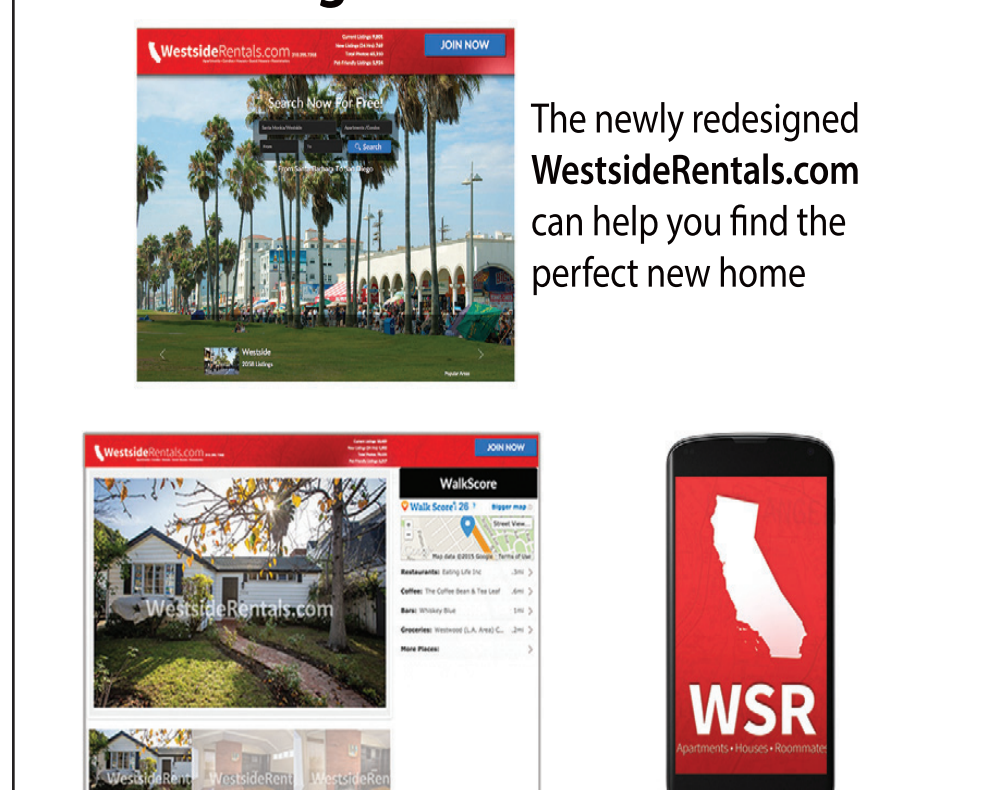




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NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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January 12, 2015

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QUICK STATS
(for the last 30 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 0
Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
Number of wet days -- 14
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 33/20
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 5/19

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

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

LEGEND

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

Heal the Bay

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

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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.

CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF



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

ON NOVEMBER 25
Officers responded to a radio call at a business in the 1400 block of Wilshire. At about 11:40 in the morning, a female transient (later identified as Elizabeth Migwi) entered the store and threatened the employee. When the first officer arrived on-scene, he was flagged down by the employee outside the back entrance. The employee told the officer the suspect had locked him out. Additional officers arrived and were able to enter the building from the front door, taking the hostile and combative Migwi into custody. She kicked one of the officers in the leg twice while she was being escorted to the police car. Once she was safely seated in the back of the patrol car, the victim told the officers he had been sitting inside by himself when Migwi approached him at the front desk and started ranting about celebrities. When the employee asked her to leave, Migwi responded, “I’m not leaving until everyone dies! I have a knife.” She then pulled a small towel from the inside of her pants and started wiping the counter with it. As he watched in disgust, Migwi picked up a glass mason jar and a small glass vase and threw them at the employee, narrowly missing him. As the employee fled in fear, she proceeded to damage several items in the store including a computer monitor and a phone. Migwi was arrested and booked for threatening the employee (she was in possession of a knife), assault with a deadly weapon, assault and battery on a police officer, and felony vandalism. Bail was set at \$50,000.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department responded to 321 calls for service on Dec. 2.
HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

Disturbance, 1700 block 11th, 1:08 a.m.
Battery, 1200 block 3rd, 3:30 a.m.
Trespassing, 2400 block Wilshire, 4:39 a.m.
Disturbance, 300 block Wilshire, 5:18 a.m.
Disturbance, 700 block Broadway, 8 a.m.
Illegal weapon, 4th/Broadway, 8:04 a.m.
Trespassing, 1400 block 9th, 8:55 a.m.
Grand theft auto, 1300 block 6th, 9:05 a.m.
Petty theft, 1300 block 9th, 9:32 a.m.
Identity theft, 1200 block Ocean, 10:15 a.m.
Rape, 1700 block Santa Monica, 10:34 a.m.
Disturbance, 700 block Broadway, 11:01 a.m.
Burglary, 1500 block 5th, 11:53 a.m.
Disturbance, 1600 block Cloverfield, 11:57 a.m.
Car crash, Main/Strand, 12:03 p.m.
Disturbance, 1200 block 3rd, 12:18 p.m.
Trespassing, 500 block Colorado, 12:18 p.m.

Grand theft auto, 1000 block 14th, 12:20 p.m.
Drunk driving, 14th/Pico, 12:24 p.m.
Disturbance, 200 block Wilshire, 12:34 p.m.
Indecent exposure, Main/Hill, 12:43 p.m.
Battery, 1300 block 3rd, 12:49 p.m.
Identity theft, 2100 block Pearl, 1:18 p.m.
Person with a gun, 2300 block Main, 1:33 p.m.
Car crash, 11th/California, 2:29 p.m.
Disturbance, 500 block Wilshire, 2:32 p.m.
Petty theft, 300 block Santa Monica, 2:04 p.m.
Grand theft, 500 block Palisades, 4:47 p.m.
Identity theft, 2400 block Ocean Park, 5:18 p.m.
Disturbance, 800 block 5th, 5:35 p.m.
Drinking in public, 500 block Colorado, 5:48 p.m.
Rape, 1400 block 3rd, 7:54 p.m.
Defrauding innkeeper, 4th/Wilshire, 8 p.m.
Disturbance, 300 block Wilshire, 8:06 p.m.
Petty theft, 1000 block Euclid, 8:11 p.m.
Domestic violence, 1800 block 7th, 8:26 p.m.
Grand theft auto, 1400 block 19th, 10:05 p.m.
Disturbance, 1200 block Ocean, 11:03 p.m.
Disturbance, 1400 block 17th, 11:27 p.m.
Battery, 1200 block Ocean Front Walk, 11:39 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department responded to 35 calls for service on Dec. 2.
HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

Emergency Medical Service (EMS), 2900 block 31st, 8:15 a.m.
Carbon monoxide alarm, 1000 block 19th, 8:26 a.m.
Structure fire, 1200 block 10th, 8:33 a.m.
EMS, 800 block 2nd, 8:56 a.m.
EMS, 500 block Pico, 9:24 a.m.
EMS, 23rd/Dewey, 9:33 a.m.
EMS, 2100 block Ocean, 9:49 a.m.
EMS, 700 block Ocean Park, 9:56 a.m.
EMS, 2200 block 20th, 9:58 a.m.
EMS, 1700 block Cloverfield, 10:19 a.m.
EMS, 2400 block Lincoln, 10:36 a.m.
Automatic alarm, 1100 block 7th, 11:04 a.m.
EMS, 2500 block Broadway, 11:07 a.m.

EMS, 1400 block 9th, 11:09 a.m.
Automatic alarm, 1500 block 9th, 11:34 a.m.
EMS, 1200 block 16th, 12:32 p.m.
Injuries from assault, 1300 block 3rd, 12:50 p.m.
Automatic alarm, 800 block 4th, 1:58 p.m.
EMS, 11th/California, 2:30 p.m.
EMS, 1100 block Wilshire, 3:03 p.m.
EMS, 2200 block 29th, 3:33 p.m.
EMS, 18th/Arizona, 3:36 p.m.
EMS, 2000 block Santa Monica, 4:34 p.m.
EMS, 600 block Kensington, 5:31 p.m.
EMS, 18th/Oak, 6:02 p.m.
EMS, 900 block 10th, 6:08 p.m.
EMS, 1800 block 17th, 7:22 p.m.
Odor investigation, 2500 block La Mesa, 7:30 p.m.
EMS, 200 block Broadway, 7:51 p.m.
EMS, 1100 block 7th, 8:09 p.m.
EMS, 100 block Esparta, 8:34 p.m.
EMS, 2100 block Ocean, 8:44 p.m.
EMS, 1300 block 20th, 9:30 p.m.
EMS, 500 block Colorado, 10:45 p.m.

SEE NEWS HAPPENING OR HAVE SOMETHING TO REPORT?

smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press

CALL US TODAY (310) 458-7737

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1** Young fellows
5 Church group
9 Different
11 Rid of rind
13 Packing box
14 “Three Sisters” sister
15 Vacuum lack
16 Photographer
18 Moves clumsily
20 Pen fill
21 — Loa (Hawaiian volcano)
22 Poker payment
23 Museum focus
24 Oklahoma city
25 Crooned
27 Massage target
29 Put a stop to
30 Tourist’s aid
32 Painter of Toledo
34 Equal: Prefix
35 Sau-salito’s county
36 Takes a flat
38 Fragrance
39 “Rain” role
- 40** Omelet start
41 Purposes

- DOWN**
- 1** In the area
2 Skylit court
3 Thomas Gibson TV series
4 Ready to go
5 Whirls
6 Head-phones site
7 Thomas Gibson TV series
8 Lease signer
10 Show mercy
- 12** Word of German gratitude
17 Important time
19 Town
22 “— at the Races”
24 Cast members
25 Appears
26 Loosen, as an oxford
- 27** Attack command
28 Meat pie
30 Dollar divisions
31 Does some modeling
33 Boxing site
37 Water, in France

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Yesterday’s answer

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

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	
9				10		11			12
13						14			
15					16	17			
18				19				20	
	21						22		
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32			33					34	
35						36	37		
38						39			
	40						41		

12-4

MYSTERY PHOTO

Matthew Hall matt@smdp.com



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



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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 ★★★★★

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

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

King Features Syndicate

DAILY LOTTERY



Draw Date: 12/2
14 18 19 32 64
Power#: 9
Jackpot: 127M



Draw Date: 12/1
5 7 25 50 59
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: 47M



Draw Date: 12/2
1 24 32 36 42
Mega#: 14
Jackpot: 21M

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

WORD UP!

foudroyant

1. striking as with lightning; sudden and overwhelming in effect; stunning; dazzling.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1980 - English rock group Led Zeppelin officially disbands, following the death of drummer John Bonham on September 25.

1981 - South Africa grants independence to the Ciskei “homeland” (not recognized by any government outside South Africa).

1982 - The People’s Republic of China adopts its current constitution.

1984 - Sri Lankan Civil War: Sri Lankan Army soldiers kill 107-150 civilians in Mannar.

1984 - Hezbollah militants hijack a Kuwait Airlines plane, killing four passengers.

1991 - Journalist Terry A. Anderson is released after seven years in captivity as a hostage in Beirut. He is the last and longest-held American hostage in Lebanon.

1991 - Captain Mark Pyle pilots Clipper Goodwill, a Pan American World Airways Boeing 727-221ADV, to Miami International Airport, ending 64 years of Pan Am operations.

1992 - Somali Civil War: President George H. W. Bush orders 28,000 U.S. troops to Somalia in Northeast Africa.

1993 - A truce is concluded between the government of Angola and UNITA rebels.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Kaleb Alexander, 25, was shot and killed in October as he emerged from a United Dairy Farmers convenience store in Columbus, Ohio, still with his gun defiantly drawn after he had just then robbed the clerk. A Columbus police SWAT team was waiting outside the store because Alexander had robbed the store the previous two nights, as well, and somehow must have thought that the police would not catch on to his cunning robbery strategy.

■ Are We Safe? As News of the Weird chronicled in 2010 and 2011, Iraqi police (either corrupt or sincerely unsophisticated) continued to purchase worthless bomb “detectors” to use at checkpoints in Baghdad, instilling residents with a

false sense of security, with the result that hundreds of people died in supposedly safe neighborhoods. Briton James McCormick, the most successful con man/seller, is serving a 10-year sentence for the “ADE 651” (which, somehow, Baghdad police continued to buy long after the U.S. had warned of the scam). Since then, more bogus detectors have been peddled to Thailand and other governments. In November 2015, London’s The Independent, in a dispatch from the Egyptian resort Sharm el-Sheikh, reports that luxury hotels’ security officers are now using similar bogus detectors to reassure tourists frightened by the recent terrorism-suspected Russian plane crash in Egypt.

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Westchester duplex Duplex for Rent, 2 Bd, 2 Ba with Family Room in Westchester area. \$2900/ mo. Please contact Gloria at (424) 228-4380.

West Side Rentals

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Santa Monica 2 BEDROOMS, 2 BATHS Parking included, Rent \$7,499.00, Deposit 0.00, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1236122

Marina Del Rey EXQUISITELY DONE 3 BEDROOM 3 BATHROOM MULTILEVEL PROPERTY ON GRAND CANAL 2-car Parking included, Rent \$7,300.00, Deposit 7300, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1227879

Santa Monica 2 BEDROOMS, 2 BATHS Parking included, Paid gas, Rent \$10,950.00, Deposit 0.00, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1233171

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Marina Del Rey 2 BEDROOM APARTMENT WITH SPECTACULAR VIEWS OF THE MARINA- SPECIAL PRICING! 2-car Parking included, Paid gardener & pool service, Rent \$4,095.00, Deposit 500, Available 12815. westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1231964

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Santa Monica BRIGHT, SPACIOUS 2 BDRM 2 BATH CONDO, WD IN UNIT, PREMIERE SANTA MONICA LOCATION 2-car Garage parking, Paid water & trash & gardener & association fees, Rent \$3,750.00, Deposit 5000, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1234929

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