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smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2010
Volume 10 Issue 23

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

SAMOHI PULLS UPSET
SEE PAGE 3

THE MAKING IT OFFICIAL ISSUE

Gold company with SM branch sued, seized over alleged fraud

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM COURTHOUSE Superior Gold Group LLC, a gold coin retailer with a location in Santa Monica that has been accused of defrauding customers, has been seized by a court-appointed receiver, and all of its assets have been frozen.

The order, signed by Judge Gerald Rosenberg, the presiding judge at the Santa Monica Courthouse, came in response to a

SEE GOLD PAGE 12

Local lacrosse team wants in at Samohi

BY MELISSA LEU
Special to the Daily Press

SAMOHI Amidst objections from school officials, students here who are members of a local lacrosse club team are trying to make the sport official at Santa Monica High School.

The Santa Monica Vikings club team is made up of more than 100 middle and high school students in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, with 75 students who attend Samohi. However, despite having all of its high school students from Samohi, the movement has failed to gain support from school officials despite five years of lobbying, said Chris Carrico, general manager of the lacrosse program.

"We really think because we're all Samohi students, why wouldn't the existing field space be equally shared with us?" Carrico said. "It's discouraging that the school feels

SEE TEAM PAGE 11



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

ALL TOGETHER NOW: **The City Council poses for a picture after newly re-elected members were sworn in at City Hall on Tuesday.**

Richard Bloom named mayor for two-year term

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Richard Bloom will serve as Santa Monica's mayor for the next two years after being selected for the role by his colleagues on the City Council Tuesday night.

Bloom, who has been mayor for a total of three years during two prior stints, was picked for the post after a single round of voting in which council members could make nominations.

Councilmembers Pam O'Connor, Bob Holbrook and Terry O'Day supplied the other three votes to give Bloom a narrow majority.

The mayor chairs council meetings and works with the city manager to set the agenda but doesn't have any special powers.

Bloom, who is also a member of the California Coastal Commission and chairs the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, has announced he intends to run for state Assembly in 2012, when Assemblywoman Julia Brownley (D-Santa

SEE MAYOR PAGE 10

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Thursday, Dec. 9, 2010

Singing aloud

Main Branch Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 11 a.m. — 12 p.m.
Instead of waiting around for the carolers to come knocking on your door, head over to the library to hear the Lyric Chorus of Santa Monica College Emeritus College. The 20-member chorus is led by Bill Elliot. The program is free, but seating is limited to a first arrival basis.

Shop for a cause

Jeanie Madsen Gallery
1431 Ocean Ave., 6 p.m. — 9 p.m.
One of the few unpretentious art galleries around, the Jeanie Madsen Gallery will be holding a holiday fashion happy hour. Jewelry, gifts, knits, dresses, art and vintage pieces from some of the hottest artists in Los Angeles will be sold. All proceeds go to Upward Bound House. With beats from DJ Annomoly, Makai hors d'oeuvres, wine and tequila, the event promises a good time, even if you don't buy anything.

Wine and dine

Shutters on the Beach
1 Pico Blvd., 6 p.m.
Fisher Winery is coming to One Pico, a restaurant on the beach. Whisk a date away with a wine dinner. Admission is $125. Space is limited, so reserve your spot at (310) 587-1717.

Friday, Dec. 10, 2010

Malaysian market

Third Street Promenade
5:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Ever been to a night market? Malaysia Kitchen for the World is holding a Malaysia Kitchen Night Market that will feature free samples of traditional Malaysian street food. Tents, umbrellas and lantern will transform the promenade into an open-air market in Kuala Lumpur. Try the chicken satay with spicy peanut sauce or the beef rendang (spiced beef curry) to get your fill of savory Malayasian cuisine. For more information, contact Esther Aubry (212) 994-7594.

Downward dog

Annenberg Community Beach House
415 Pacific Coast Highway, 9:00 a.m.
We all know how hard it is to wake up a morning workout. But with yoga, working out should be stress free. The Annenberg Community Beach House is hosting classes in its Garden Terrace Room for adults at any level. Get your flex on, just don't forget a mat and a bottle of water. To sign up, visit www.recenroll.smgov.net.

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.

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HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL

Samohi topples defending state champ Serra, 56-54

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI For nearly five minutes, Santa Monica High School's boys' basketball team looked like it had no chance against defending Division 3 state champ Gardena Serra on Tuesday night.

Then, sophomore Jordan Mathews happened.

Mathews, a transfer from Riverside North, scored the first and final points of the night for Samohi as the Vikings ultimately outlasted Serra, 56-54, during the first round of the first annual "The Tournament."

"I just wanted to win it for the team," Mathews said. "[Serra] is a good team, I knew we had to do something."

And something he did.

After falling behind 11-0 midway through the first quarter, Mathews hit a 3-pointer that gave the Vikings their first points of the night and began a comeback that lasted until the waning moments of regulation when Mathews, driving to the basket with 16 seconds left, was fouled by Serra's Dakari Tucker giving the new Viking a chance to put Samohi up for good.

Mathews, who led all scorers with 21 points, sunk both free throws and the Samohi defense forced Serra to take a bad shot as the buzzer sounded, sending the Vikings to the second round of the tournament they are hosting.

Aside from Mathews, the Samohi comeback was aided by senior guard Holden Foshag, who scored 11 clutch points before fouling out with two minutes left to play. Foshag was pivotal during the fourth quarter as the lanky playmaker scored 5 points in the final period.

Despite the sluggish start, Head Coach James Hecht credited early game adjustments for the reason his Vikings quieted jitters and came back against an elite team.

"Once we hit that first bucket, we relaxed," Hecht said. "It gave us a feeling that we could climb back into it."

The win sends the Vikings into the second round of "The Tournament" on Thursday at 8 p.m. on campus. The Vikings will play the winner of the Birmingham/Sheldon game. Results from that game were not available at presstime.

daniela@smdp.com



Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

BALLER: **Samohi's Jordan Mathews attempts a shot amid a sea of Serra defenders on Tuesday on campus. Samohi won the game, 56-54. The game was part of the first annual 'The Tournament.'**

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SANTA MONICA BAY

Reusable bags keep on giving

Santa is coming early this year in the form of 25,000 reusable bags. Heal the Bay, in coordination with the city and county of Los Angeles, is hosting its fourth annual "Day Without a Bag," a day encouraging people to use reusable totes instead of plastic and paper grocery bags, on Dec. 16.

More than 200 locations throughout L.A. County will be giving away free reusable totes.

The organization will also hold a "Day Without a Bag Summit" on Dec. 15, a convention hoping to raise awareness and educate consumers about the economic and environmental benefits of reusable bags. Dozens of city officials are expected to attend workshops about enacting legislation and public programs to support the cause.

With only about 5 percent of plastic grocery bags being recycled, California municipalities spend almost $25 million each year on eliminating plastic bag waste.

Below is a list of nearby locations that will be giving away reusable bags:

- Santa Monica Pier Aquarium (1600 Ocean Front Walk, 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.)
- Marcia Bloom Designs (1527 Montana Ave.)
- Santa Monica Union Bank (429 Santa Monica Blvd.)

For more information, visit healthebay.org/nobagday.

DAILY PRESS

LA. County inters unclaimed dead

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Authorities in Los Angeles County have buried the cremated remains of more than 1,600 people in a mass ceremony.

County officials said Wednesday that the ashes were from 1,689 bodies that were cremated in 2007 and were unidentified or unclaimed.

Chaplains from Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center recited interfaith prayers and placed calla lilies, roses and camellias on the mass grave in a public cemetery as a a few dozen coroner's officials, county employees and bystanders watched.

The county has held a similar ceremony each year dating back at least 60 years.

Those who are buried include the homeless, the indigent and the elderly who have no known relatives.

In some cases, family members cannot afford to recover the remains, something that can cost up to $466.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The true meaning of the season

Editor:

I couldn't agree more with John Whitehead's Dec. 8 (That Rutherford Guy) column "Celebrating Christmas in schools." I don't understand why people have become so fearful of God, Jesus and/or anything mentioning either. I did not grow up in a religious family, nor did we go to church, yet I was always accepting of Christmas being about Santa, baby Jesus, Hanukkah and a day when Christians celebrate this day, just like Easter and the Easter bunny, chocolates and the resurrection of Jesus. Who are these people who are so afraid to mention God or Jesus to kids that they think kids will go crazy? I have never met anyone in my life who heard the mentioning of God or Jesus, especially at Christmas time, would ruin their lives. If you are one of those scared parents or kids or teachers, please write in if you had such tragedy because of celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Mr. Whitehead is right. This is supposed to be a holiday or holy day. Whatever that holiday means to you, whether you are Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, or atheists and you just like the day off, celebrate it! Why aren't schools adding to children's education, instead of taking away? We should all learn about all the different religions and then choose for ourselves which we believe. Our schools should be telling us about the Jewish faith, Muslim faith, what an atheist believes or doesn't believe and all the others ... you get the point. People, stop stripping America of God or Jesus, his name, and his believers. Embrace people for what you have in common, not what you don't. Be grateful that people are praying (whoever it might be to). God/Jesus was mentioned long before any of you were ever here on the planet.

Merry Christmas and happy Hanukkah!

Linda Shockley
Malibu

Give the right to repair

Editor:

The Automotive Oil Change Association (AOCA) strongly supports the Motor Vehicle Owners Right to Repair Act (S 3181/HR 2057) and urges Congress to pass the pro-consumer, pro-small business legislation.

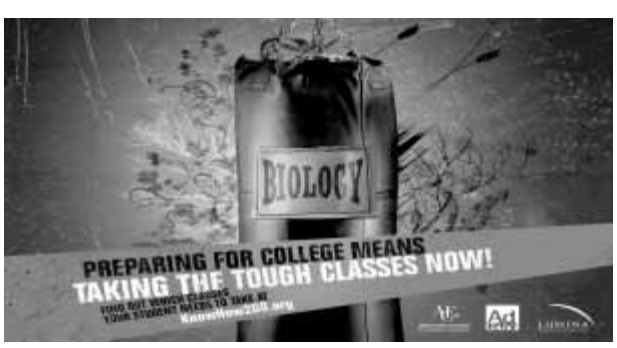
Americans throughout the country rely on oil change facilities for convenient local service. In order for these small businesses to be able to serve their customers, they must have access to the safety alerts and repair information necessary to provide service and safety checks on today's modern vehicles. We have a growing concern that important repair information from vehicle manufacturers is being denied or not released in a timely manner to our members, including simple filter applications and fluid capacities that are fundamental to basic vehicle maintenance.

I think most motorists would agree that they should not be forced back to the dealer for any service, particularly something as simple as an oil change. Passage of the Right to Repair Act would ensure that all automotive repair facilities, including quick lubes, remain competitive so that car owners can conveniently and affordably have their vehicles serviced at the shop of their choice.

The Right to Repair Act has bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress. Please send a letter urging your members of Congress to support the Right to Repair Act by visiting www.righttorepair.org.

Leanne Stump

Executive Director
Automotive Oil Change Association (AOCA)





Life Matters

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

Holiday season a great time to reconnect with networking

DEAR NEW SHRINK,

I have been told that the holidays present an excellent time to strengthen your network. What can I do to reconnect with those that I no longer see and meet new individuals without seeming desperate or tacky?

Signed,
Holiday Connection

DEAR CONNECTION,

Sometimes it can be awkward to reach out to those you have lost touch with, so the holidays provide a natural time to send a note or organize a party. However, no matter how great your timing is, it is most important that you are authentic in your approach. Sending a genuine note or really spending time to talk with someone beyond just surface questions will show that your true intent was to reestablish a connection.

'Tis the season for giving: consider volunteering with a local community organization. You might be able to organize a group of people you haven't seen in a while. Helping others will ignite your holiday spirit and you never know who you might meet in the process.

The holidays also present a great time to attend events or parties to reconnect. Professional associations, neighborhood councils and other business groups often hold events this time of year. This provides a great opportunity to reconnect with those that you already know in addition to meeting new people. It's also a great time to host your own party as a way to reconnect. Consider hosting a small, intimate gathering so that you can truly have time to connect with all of your guests. Perhaps you set up a cocktail hour at a local spot and invite a small group to gather after work to connect.

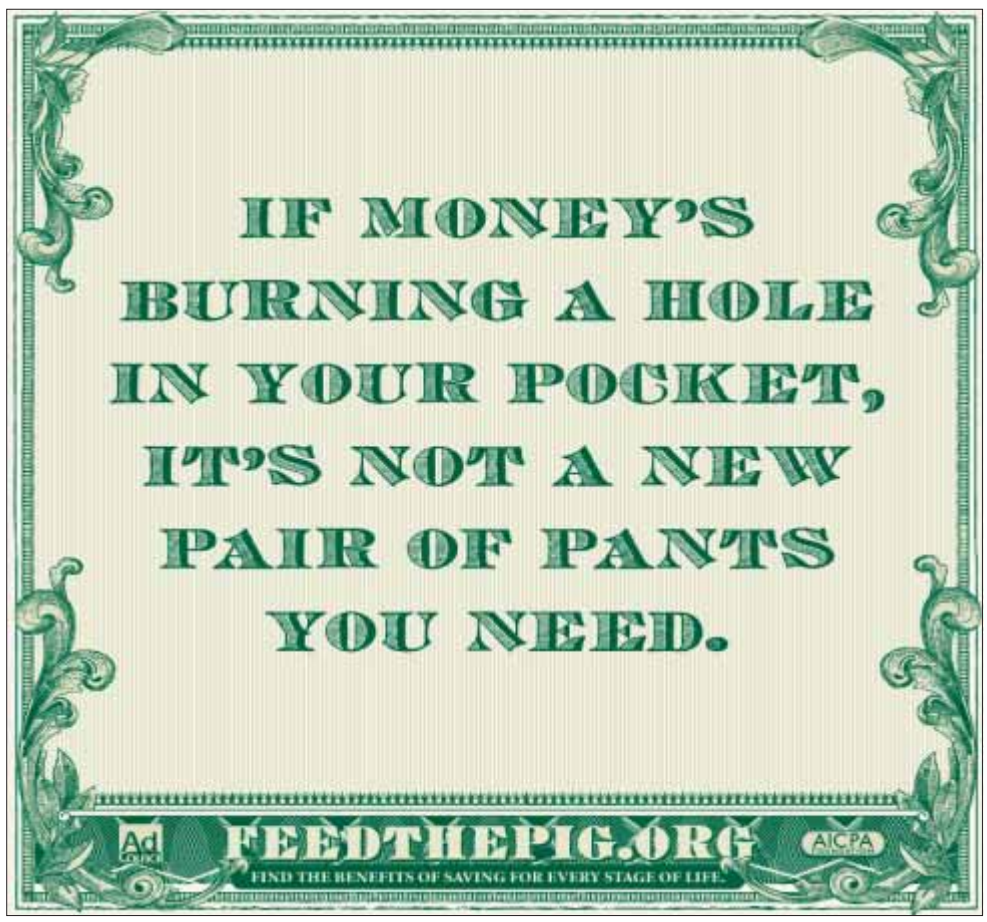
This time of year can also be a great time to learn more about individuals as you talk about holiday traditions and family upbringing. Getting to know someone beyond just their career and current status will help you to establish a stronger bond.

Too late to plan something? Use this time to reconnect with a message or card. A handwritten note or individualized card has more value than a standard card or holiday letter. If you are already preparing to send out a generic holiday card or letter, take the time to write an individual message at the bottom. Even something as simple as a sentence or two asking how they are or following up on a specific situation will go a long way. Search LinkedIn or Facebook to find old friends that you have lost touch with and send an eCard or holiday note to see what they've been up to.

This can also be an excellent way to think of those that you'd like to reach out to but have simply been too busy to do so earlier this year. For many businesses, the last two weeks of the year are a slower time. Use this time to connect with those that you do not know to ask for informational interviews or to ask a friend for an introduction to someone new. Spending energy to expand your network is an important part of the process too.

Although the holidays are a perfect time to reconnect, this should not be the only time of the year that you do so. Creating and maintaining your network is an ongoing process. It's not just about when you need something from someone else. You should be focusing on strengthening and supporting your network throughout the year.

KATRINA DAVY, M.A., Ed.M, is a Santa Monica-based professional college and career counselor. She holds degrees from Columbia University and Cornell University. Send your questions to newshrink@gmail.com. All questions are kept anonymous; let us help you with your life matters!



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OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.



Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Meredith gets a fan club

YOU KNOW YOU'VE MADE IT WHEN someone has it out for you and actually does something about it.

In case Britney Spears wasn't sure she's a big deal, her superstar status was immortalized last week when fake audio of her talking about smoking pot and getting beat up by her boyfriend went viral. The person who allegedly leaked the obviously phony recording — one of her ex-husbands — even went to the added trouble of submitting to a polygraph to testify about the veracity of the counterfeit material. That's dedication (and shows a motivation that, had he only displayed during their 55-hour marriage, maybe they would have celebrated at least a week of wedded bliss) and a real testament to her celebrity.

The glossy weeklies routinely announce the premature demise of Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt's relationship. Soccer heartthrob David Beckham has a standing lawsuit against tabloids and hookers over accusations he cheats on his wife with the latter. And a contemptible tale recently spread about how the Kardashian sisters apply mayonnaise to their private parts, ostensibly to make them shine like the top of the Chrysler Building. (Oh wait, they told the story themselves on television to Conan O'Brien. Never mind.)

Here I was thinking the only things I had in common with Brit Brit, Angie, Papa Pitt and Becks were our outrageous fortunes and movie star good looks, but as it turns out, I, too, have nemeses trying to ruin me by disbursing ridiculously false personal information.

My very own Ted Kaczynski disciples have spent the past four months e-mailing around a staged photo of me, taken nearly five years ago, chuckling while sitting next to a bottle of wine and a glass in front of someone else's computer that has an image on the screen of a nude man on a beach. In my house, such behavior (wine, computers, laughter, minus the nudity) is generally known as a typical weeknight, but my little Teddy bears have literally alerted the media (and at least one of my employers) to my salacious activity and posted comments about my make-believe illicit actions on news websites.

I imagine the culprits sitting in the sheds (attics? basements? garages?) of their parents' back yards late at night at toddler-size chair-and-table sets working tirelessly by flashlight with nothing but a weak wireless signal and lots of rage as they take the time to carefully establish seemingly untraceable anonymous e-mail addresses and send around a rant about me accompanied by the photo, hoping desperately that someone will care that I once drank a glass of red wine while simultaneously giggling ("She's such a hussy!" they must say, cackling to themselves as they hit the send button. "We'll show her!").

MY ADMIRERS ARE PUTTING WAY MORE THOUGHT INTO MY PERCEIVED MISDEEDS THAN I EVER HAVE. AND, TO BE HONEST, THAT'S PART OF THE CHARM OF THE WHOLE THING.

My admirers are putting way more thought into my perceived misdeeds than I ever have. And, to be honest, that's part of the charm of the whole thing. That they have the time to go after me with such a vengeance is impressive. I mean, I barely found time to blow my nose yesterday, never mind exact revenge on an imaginary enemy.

To say the very least though, I'm flattered. That there are people so moved by admiration (hatred? jealousy? unrequited love? bad gas?) of me that they care enough to send the very best out-of-context photo (actually, taken in context, the meaning of the photo remains unchanged, which is, the photo is meaningless) accompanied by a manifesto, the length of which would put Tolstoy (and, considering the grammar and spelling, their high school English teachers) to shame is, indeed, an honor.

Quite frankly, though, I'm surprised no one has tried to ruin me before this. I mean, there's a lot out there on me. Like, a lot. I've just assumed that I've proven time and again that I'm perfectly adept at embarrassing myself, and therefore others generally recognize there isn't an industry in trying to top me. I always win. Until now. Well played, T-dogs. You got me!

Still, I'm grateful to my little band of huntsmen for elevating me to a whole new level of celebrity. I only wish I knew who they were so I could furtively pass them a copy of my sex tape. If there's a legitimate chance I'm going to suffer some real humiliation, I might as well make a little money off of it.

More at meredithcarroll.com.

The Q Line

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Headline news

The year 2010 saw its fair share of interesting happenings in Santa Monica. There was a City Council election that took a month to sort out, a couple local high school teams won CIF titles and bikes continue to be on the minds of many.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
What were the main stories of 2010, and why?

Contact **qline@smdp.com** before **Friday at 5 p.m.** and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. You can also call **(310) 458-7737 ext. 102.**


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Play Time

Cynthia Citron

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Not normal, just spectacular

TAKE THE INTENSE DRAMA OF "ONE Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," add the unique unmelody of a Stephen Sondheim-ish score, and set it in a jazzed-up version of the three-story house in "August-Osage County," and you have a semblance of the excruciatingly moving madness of "Next to Normal," the Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize-winning musical now at the Ahmanson Theatre in Downtown L.A.

The talented Alice Ripley brings her manic-depressive essence as Diana and her glorious voice to L.A. from Broadway, and she anchors the show as the center of the action. She is depressed and still grieving for the son she lost 16 years earlier; she is manic with the help of a gazillion drugs prescribed by her bemused doctors. "I'm screaming inside, but never make a sound," she protests.

Orbiting around her are her husband Dan (Asa Somers), her daughter Natalie (Emma Hunton), and her dead, demonic son, Gabe (Curt Hansen). All of them, and her various doctors (played by Jeremy Kushner) are pulling her in opposite directions. Her patient husband is trying to help her get well. Her angry daughter is clamoring for her attention. And the doctors keep changing her prescriptions.

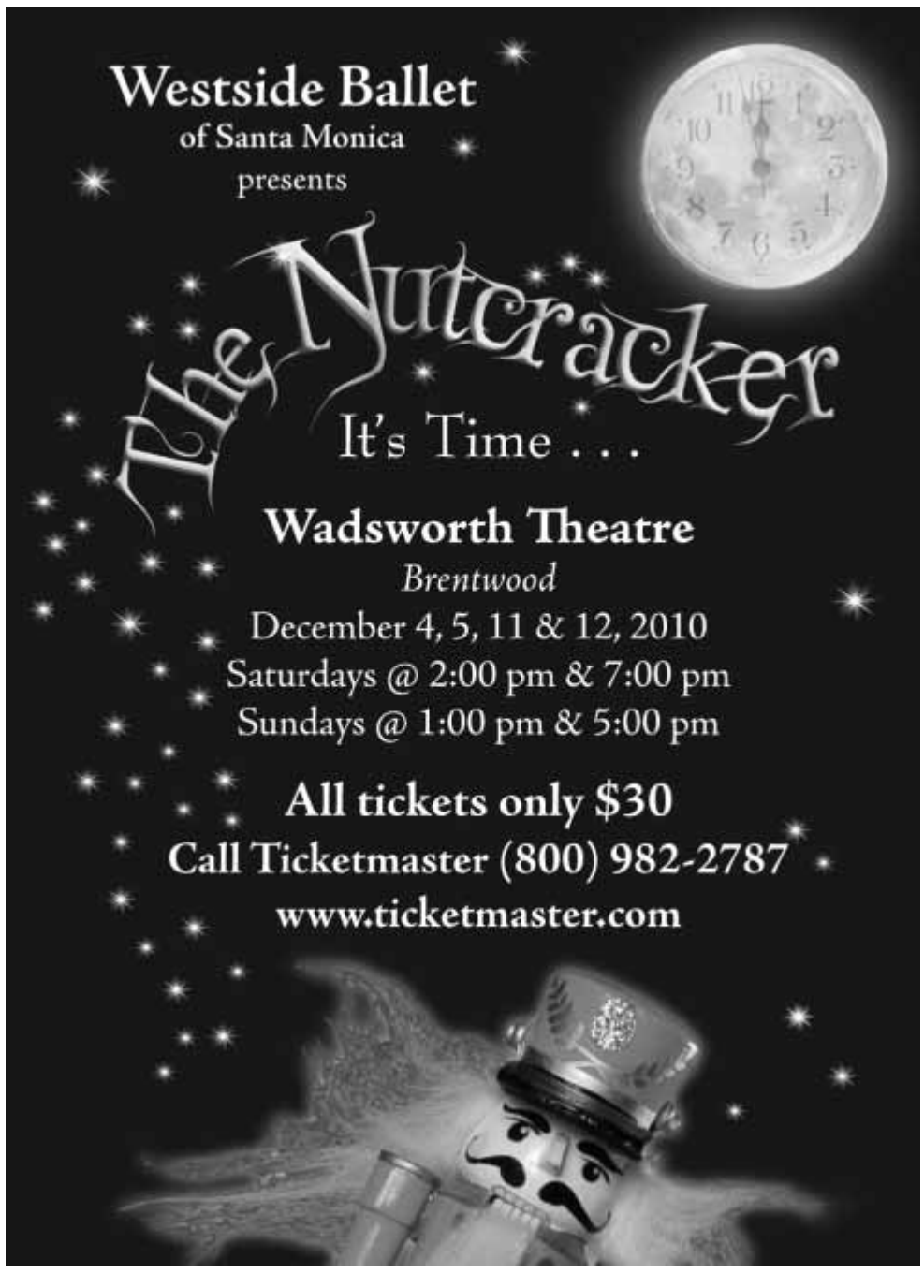
Almost all of the story is told in the lyrics of Brian Yorkey and the music of Tom Kitt, and the songs are clear and relevant as well as harrowing. "Catch Me, I'm Falling," she sings. But as her condition deteriorates ("I miss my life," she says), Natalie is improved by a devoted boyfriend, Henry (Preston Sadleir), who persuades her that he is "Perfect for You."

Director Michael Greif keeps the ensemble moving well, but the real star of this production is Mark Wendland's spectacular set. The three-story house is hollow, outlined in lights, bordered by ladder-like stairs, and holding a wonderful seven-piece band in the side wings. The actors are in continuous action in and around the house and the house itself features sliding panels and graphic displays. But the piece de resistance comes when Diana undergoes electroconvulsive therapy and the entire background becomes a massive panel of brightly colored flashing lights. The most impressive expression of a truly frightening medical procedure that you're ever likely to see.

"Next to Normal" is a story about love. But it's a cautionary tale, because as Dan notes, "The price of love is loss." A profound sentiment for a remarkable production, and one you'll think about long after the lights go out.

"Next to Normal" will continue at the Ahmanson Theatre at the Music Center, 135 N. Grand Ave., in Los Angeles, Tuesdays through Fridays at 8 pm, Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 pm, and Sundays at 1 p.m. and 6:30 pm through Jan. 2, 2011. Call (213) 628-2772 for tickets.

CYNTHIA CITRON can be reached at ccitron@socal.rr.com.



George Wendt a jolly St. Nick

MARK KENNEDY
AP Drama Writer

NEW YORK The Christmas season usually means a visit to see Santa. On Broadway this year, that means a trip to the Al Hirschfeld Theatre to see George Wendt.

The former "Cheers" dude-at-the-bar Norm Peterson is playing Mr. Claus in the musical "Elf," a role in which he's become somewhat of a specialist, having played jolly old St. Nick four times in the past few years.

"I think it just proves that if you stay fat enough and get old enough, the offers start rolling in," says the 62-year-old actor in his dressing room after a recent performance. His Santa suit was hung with care — in a closet.

Wendt has donned that red outfit in the TV movies "Santa Baby" with Jenny McCarthy in 2006, and last year's doggie Disney video "Santa Buddies." He's also played Father Christmas for TV specials by Larry the Cable Guy and Stephen Colbert.

This time, Wendt combines the characters played in the movie "Elf" by Bob Newhart and Ed Asner. As Santa, he appears in only a few scenes and sets an easy tone right at the opening of Act 1, sitting in an easy chair with a pitcher of eggnog and a bowl of Doritos, watching college football on TV.

"This Santa was kind of perfect," he says. "Much of my life is trying to create a little space in front of the television to watch a football game and eat a cheeseburger. It seems that's all Santa really wants to do."

Later, Wendt keeps the comedy rolling. At one point, he helps Buddy the elf, played by Sebastian Arcelus, leave Christmastown:

"Just keep heading due south until you find yourself in a big, smelly, industrial wasteland," Wendt says

"And that's New York?" asks Buddy.

"No, that's New Jersey," deadpans Santa.

Wendt is no stranger to the stage: He slipped on Edna Turnblad's housecoat in Broadway's "Hairspray" beginning in 2007, and was in the Tony Award-winning play "Art" in New York and London; he starred in the national tour of "12 Angry Men"; and appeared in a production of David Mamet's "Lakeboat." But this time, he gets to originate a role for the first time on Broadway, a regular-guy Santa.

"People can just associate with him going through the trials and tribulations of life and making them comedic. He brings the same qualities as Santa, and makes Santa a human being," says Warner Brothers Theater Ventures executive vice president Gregg Maday. "Plus he has the girth."

Wendt, who spent six years in Chicago's renowned Second City improv troupe, joins a long list of former "Cheers" alums on Broadway, including Kelsey Grammer, Bebe Neuwirth and Rhea Perlman.

"I think comedy is my long suit, for sure. My approach to comedy is usually not full-bore clownish," he says. "If you're trying to showboat or step outside, it doesn't always work. There are certain performers who almost specialize in doing that and they do it really well. But that's not my approach."

He says he's open to the idea of reprising his Santa role if "Elf" ever returns to New York or tours the nation next Christmas. He admits it's a pretty good gig for a guy not known for his high kicking or vocal ability.

"It's like all of a sudden musical theater is my life. But I don't sing and I don't dance," he says. "I do, however, do what I'm told. So if they ask me to sing it reasonably, I do so and if they ask me to move in a way that somehow approximates dance, I do so."



Traveling Back to Fitness

Taylor Van Arsdale
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Fighting the holiday bulge

THE HOLIDAYS ARE UPON US, AND, IN addition to a few weeks off of work, for many of us that means a plethora of cookies, baked goods, Christmas pudding, pies, ice cream and lots of booze … everywhere. OMG it's a caloric nightmare! For me those baked goods and office parties translate to way too many calories that I do not want on my currently shrinking frame.

So how do you get through the holidays without gaining a million pounds? I'm going to share a few pointers.

First of all, don't beat yourself up if you ate like a pig over Thanksgiving. That holiday is over. Put it behind you. So, maybe you ate too much stuffing. What's done is done. Think about today and about tomorrow and what you can do to make your life and health better moving forward. Here are five tips to help you keep the weight off or maintain your weight during the season:

Tip 1: Do some type of cardio everyday. A lot of you have demanding jobs, a family to tend to, and a million reasons why you wouldn't be able to make it in to the gym, but what I'm telling you is this: do not let anything come between you and your workout. This is the season for giving. Give yourself the gift of health. The days I can't make it to the gym (which are rare) I make sure I go on a quick walk. It's your daily gift to your body. Look at it like that and you will make the effort.

Tip 2: Keep a few types of lean protein in the fridge. This means turkey breast slices, egg whites, or chicken breast. Having these on hand will help stave off cravings for sweets. Buy fresh veggies and do the same. I keep a bag of string beans and cook them al dente on the skillet with a little Pam spray, some shallots or scallions, and a little fat free vegetable broth. When I need a crunchy bite I reach for my beans — way better than nibbling on chocolate.

Tip 3: Take a class. You're more apt to keep going and make better progress if you surround yourself with people who also are trying to get fit. Did you know that Burn Fitness offers some of the best classes in Santa Monica? And here's a secret tip: You don't have to be a member to attend. For $10 a class you can indulge in yoga, Pilates, TRX, kick box burn (a high intensity kickboxing/aerobic class that will leave you drenched in sweat), indoor cycling, aerobics and more.

Tip 4: Moderation. If you must, allow yourself one drink at the holiday party. A low calorie beer, a glass of wine, or one shot of vodka is OK. Also, make sure you're not drinking on an empty stomach. Don't allow everyone else's bad habits or lack of self-control to cramp your success. It's about getting through the holiday, healthy. A hangover does not equal victory.

Tip 5: If you have to eat sweets — eat sugar free. There are plenty of excellent, natural sugar substitutes out there. You can make tasty, low-carb, cookies that taste great and fit into a low-glycemic diet.

Remember, with everything you do, consistency is the key to success. Focus on being consistent. Don't worry about getting through next week's office parties. Take it one day at a time so that you may meet the New Year in health.

Happy holidays!

TAYLOR can be reached at tailfish@roadrunner.com.

By the numbers

Starting Weight: 182
Pounds Lost: 28.
Current Weight: 154
Goal Weight: 135
Pounds to Lose to Goal: 19

Fitness queen Jane Fonda plots comeback, new show

MESFIN FEKADU
Associated Press

NEW YORK Jane Fonda has something she'd like to work out: A television series.

"I have a sort of a vision of what it could be and that's all that I'll say," Fonda said in an interview last week. "I think the best, edgiest writing is now on cable television. It's pretty exciting."

While the Oscar-winner hasn't officially signed up for a TV show, she can be seen in new workout DVDs designed specifically for baby boomers.

"People who are of a certain age tend to be ignored by the fitness industry and being that I'm older and I've done a lot of research on what happens to a body when it gets older, I know that it's essential that we stay active," Fonda said.

The 72-year-old recently released "Jane Fonda: Prime Time Walkout" and "Jane Fonda: Prime Time Fit & Strong." She says too many older people dismiss working out, and that needs to change.

"It's the worst thing that a person could do when they're older is to say, 'Why bother now? I'm older. I don't need to,'" Fonda said. "I'm on this crusade to get older people out of the chairs, off their couches, moving in a way that's safe, easy and very doable even if they've never done it a day in their lives. It's never too late."

Fonda says she's also writing a book about aging called "Prime Time: Creating a Great Third Act." It is due out next year.

"It was the research that I did while writing my book on the aging body that motivated me to get back into the fitness industry again," Fonda said, who hasn't released a workout video since 1995.

She recently finished filming two movies and will take her Tony-nominated performance in the Broadway play "33 Variations" to a Los Angeles theater next year. Fonda said as she gets older, life gets easier.

"You get a little wiser as you get older. You've been there, done that. You know it's not gonna kill you. You've survived it before. You tend to make lemonade out of lemons instead of mountains out of mole hills," she said.



Children can be picky about holiday gift cards

BETH J. HARPAZ
Associated Press

NEW YORK Conventional wisdom holds that gift cards are the perfect present for picky teens. But not all teens agree.

Reasons include logistical hassles in using the cards, lack of interest in the store or brand, a preference for cash, or even a wish for something personal. Often the cards pile up unused, but some teens sell them for a portion of their face value or even create a black market and trade them for lunch money.

Allie Sakowicz, 16, of Park Ridge, Ill., says she has "a whole envelope of gift cards sitting on my desk." Her reasons for not using them are many: "You're not going to make a special trip to use a $20 gift card to get something you didn't need in the first place. And a lot of the gift cards are for dollar amounts that don't really buy you anything at the store — $20 is not going to buy you anything at Macy's."

Using them online is not always easy, either. "When you're online shopping, they don't always work or shipping is too high," she said. "And if you do use them, but not the full amount, then they're lying around because you have $2 on them."

Karen Hoxmeier, founder of a shopping bargain website called MyBargainBuddy.com, points out that "most older kids want big-ticket items, such as iPods and laptops, things a $20 gift card won't cover." She buys her teenager's unwanted cards at face value.

Pat McKenna, a mom in Kankakee, Ill., says her four daughters love gift cards, but a friend of the family, Annie Rockert, 18, does not. She has a half-dozen unused gift cards worth $300.

"I get afraid of it not working or not having as much money on it as I thought there was," Rockert said. "People get them because they don't know what their kids want, but if it was me, I'd rather get something that I need, not a generic, 'Here, I don't know you well enough to get a gift, so here's a gift card.'"

McKenna said adults shopping for teens should simply ask: "Would you like a gift card, or would you like a surprise, or is there something that you need?"

Joann Perahia, a mom in suburban Long Island, N.Y., says kids at a local high school where they can't go out for lunch until senior year have come up with a clever way to use unwanted cards. They're allowed to have food delivered, "so when someone is ordering and let's say the entree is about $12, kids will give their $25 Starbucks gift cards to pay the person who is ordering and laying out the money," she said.

Russell Hyken, a St. Louis psychotherapist who works with teens and has a website called TeenParentingExpert.com, says adults may be reluctant to give kids money because "they think the kid will spend it on something inappropriate. Giving $50 to a kid who may be engaging in risk-taking behavior allows them to engage in that behavior."

On the other hand, he said, "I've had clients who get gas cards, who stand at the gas station and say, 'I've got a $25 gas card, can you give me $20 for it?'"

He agreed with McKenna that "parents should have a conversation with kids to find out what they really want." He acknowledged that it's not always easy talking to teens — "the parents say to me, 'My kid doesn't want to talk to me'" — but a casual chat in the car or on the way to school might be a good opportunity. Adults can also add a personal dimension to a gift card by offering to take a kid to the store and make a day of it.

"Or instead of giving kids gift cards, say, 'I want to go to the mall with you,' and give the gift of time. Nothing bonds a family better than a little retail therapy," he added.

Some kids buy gift cards from others for a portion of the face value. A number of websites have formalized those transactions, buying gift cards for up to 90 or 92 percent of face value, then reselling them to the public for up to 30 or 40 percent off, depending on the site.

Rezart Bajraktari, 21, who founded Giftah.com with two other students at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada, says "there's a generation gap when it comes to gift cards. A lot of students end up with gift cards for Christmas from aunts, uncles, grandparents for things they can't use," like gift cards for a bookstore, but not the store where they buy textbooks. Or they'll get a gas card "when a lot of students tend not to have a car. They need money for groceries or rent."

One 14-year-old sent in a $500 gift card someone had given him for Harley-Davidson. "He really liked motorcycles, but he needed money for the movies and video games," Bajraktari said.

Anton Tsai, 27, founder of another site, Cardpool.com, said he started the site partly because he had accumulated a lot of Barnes & Noble and Borders gift cards. Indeed, the site has many booksellers' cards available, but Starbucks cards "will be sold within five minutes," he said.

Tracy Tuten, a professor marketing at East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C., has studied teens and gift cards and says the relationship between them is complicated.

Most teens say they prefer gift cards to other types of gifts, because they like the freedom to pick what they want, she said. But she found teens were also astute about categorizing gift card-givers' motives, identifying several types, including the acknowledger, "who just needed to acknowledge that I exist and didn't want to invest any of their own time, so they gave me a Visa card they picked up in Walmart"; the provider, who seeks to buy a card for something the person needs, like college textbooks; the socializer, who "thinks I ought to be doing this, and forces it on you with the gift"; and the compensator, often a step-relative or far-away grandparent who feels guilty. On the plus side, there's the pleaser, "the person who really cares about me and wants to make me happy."

Tuten says her teenage children say they want gift cards, but she recently found an unused stack of them from a long-ago birthday.

Some parents turn those abandoned cards into gold. Honor Lassalle of Brooklyn, N.Y., says she collects her teenage boys' cards after they've forgotten about them, "and then I use them to buy their holiday presents."

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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

BLOOM

MAYOR

FROM PAGE 1

Monica) will be termed out.

In an interview, he said his Assembly campaign was not the driving force behind his mayoral bid.

"When I was approached about the possibility of being mayor, I readily expressed interest because I think it's an honor and I think it's something that I do well," he said.

But he acknowledged the position could boost his campaign.

"Certainly, being mayor does confer a certain amount of additional profile in the community," he said. "But frankly, with everything else I've done and my long history of involvement in the community, I think it's something that adds to the public's consideration of me as a candidate, but it's not the [main] thing that people will think about."

Bloom said he has opened a campaign account, begun raising money and started gathering endorsements for his Assembly race.

The only other nominee for mayor on Tuesday was Kevin McKeown, who has served 12 years on the council and never held the mostly ceremonial role.

Gleam Davis nominated McKeown, but support from Davis and Bobby Shriver left him one vote short.

Shriver, who had been mayor since he was chosen in May to fill out the term left vacant by the death of Ken Genser last year, was not nominated to retain the position.

On Wednesday, he said he had been interested in continuing as mayor but realized he didn't have enough support to win an extension.

"I think it would have been an elegant, menchy move if Mr. Bloom's lieutenants had nominated [McKeown] for the first year and Mr. Bloom for the second year," he said, noting that McKeown received the most votes of any council candidate in November's election.

Davis was selected to serve as mayor pro tem after several voting rounds. In something of a surprise, council members rejected a proposal, put forward by Holbrook, to give Davis and O'Day, the two newest council members, a year each in the vice mayor role.

After being selected mayor with O'Day's support, Bloom initially backed the split term proposal but in the subsequent round cast the decisive vote for Davis to become mayor pro tem for two years.

On Wednesday, he said the decision to vote for Davis was not meant to be a snub of O'Day.

"It may have been that I was hasty in [switching my vote to Davis]," he said. "But things move quickly sometimes."

For his part, O'Day, who received 2,578 more votes than Davis did in November's election, said he wished the vice mayor vote had gone differently.

"I was a little disappointed at the outcome, but the world turns and I still have a lot to do to follow through on what the voters asked of me as a council member," he said. "And the reality is, the mayor pro tem position doesn't change that one way or another."

Meanwhile, Shriver said he was interested in looking into the possibility of amending the city's charter so that the voters, rather than members of the council, would be responsible for selecting the mayor.

"I'd like to put it on the agenda so we can have a community discussion about it," he said.

nickt@smdp.com



Photo courtesy Chris Carrico

TEAM IN QUESTION: **The Santa Monica Vikings club lacrosse team poses for a group photo. Members are trying to get Santa Monica High School to recognize lacrosse as an official sport on campus so students can play against other CIF-sanctioned teams.**

TEAM
FROM PAGE 1

that lacrosse is not a viable sport, not an important sport."

Daniel Escalera, athletic director of Samohi, said a severe drop in school funding and a lack of field space makes it difficult to add the sport.

"We'd love to consider it. Just, right now, we're kind of stuck with the fixed amount of field space. Right now, the fields get tore up, and they get beaten up … it could be unsafe," Escalera said. "You go to Pali and you go to Culver City, and you're going to see a whole lot [more] of green than you see at Santa Monica High School."

Samohi has three fields for sports, including football, baseball and softball. Currently, eight soccer teams, track and physical education classes share the fields.

"Those eight soccer teams are not all Samohi students. [It includes] AYSO and club soccer … who aren't all Samohi students." said Carrico. "Why don't lacrosse players have the same rights as all the other Samohi sports? We actually have less rights than an 11-year-old AYSO player."

To add a new school sport, the team must first seek the approval of the athletic director, who then recommends the idea to the school administration.

"They've tried to do all that, there's just nothing we can do right now," Escalera said.

In September, the team approached Escalera about adding lacrosse and received a mixed response.

"He was all smiles," said Carrico of Escalera. However, in subsequent e-mails the director of theater operations and facility permits rejected the team's proposal.

"We are funded strictly through parental support, and we're trying to keep pricing very low and affordable," said Carrico, who said registration fees for the club team were $450 last season. "We offered to rent the field space, and it's still no. We're not asking for a handout from the school."

Coach salaries, field space, officials, transportation, security, custodians and equipment costs are just some of the associated costs with becoming an official high school team sanction by the California Interscholastic Federation, said Escalera.

Athletic Director of Malibu High School Chris Neier said lacrosse needed $30,000 to get started at Malibu High, with most of the financial support coming from parents.

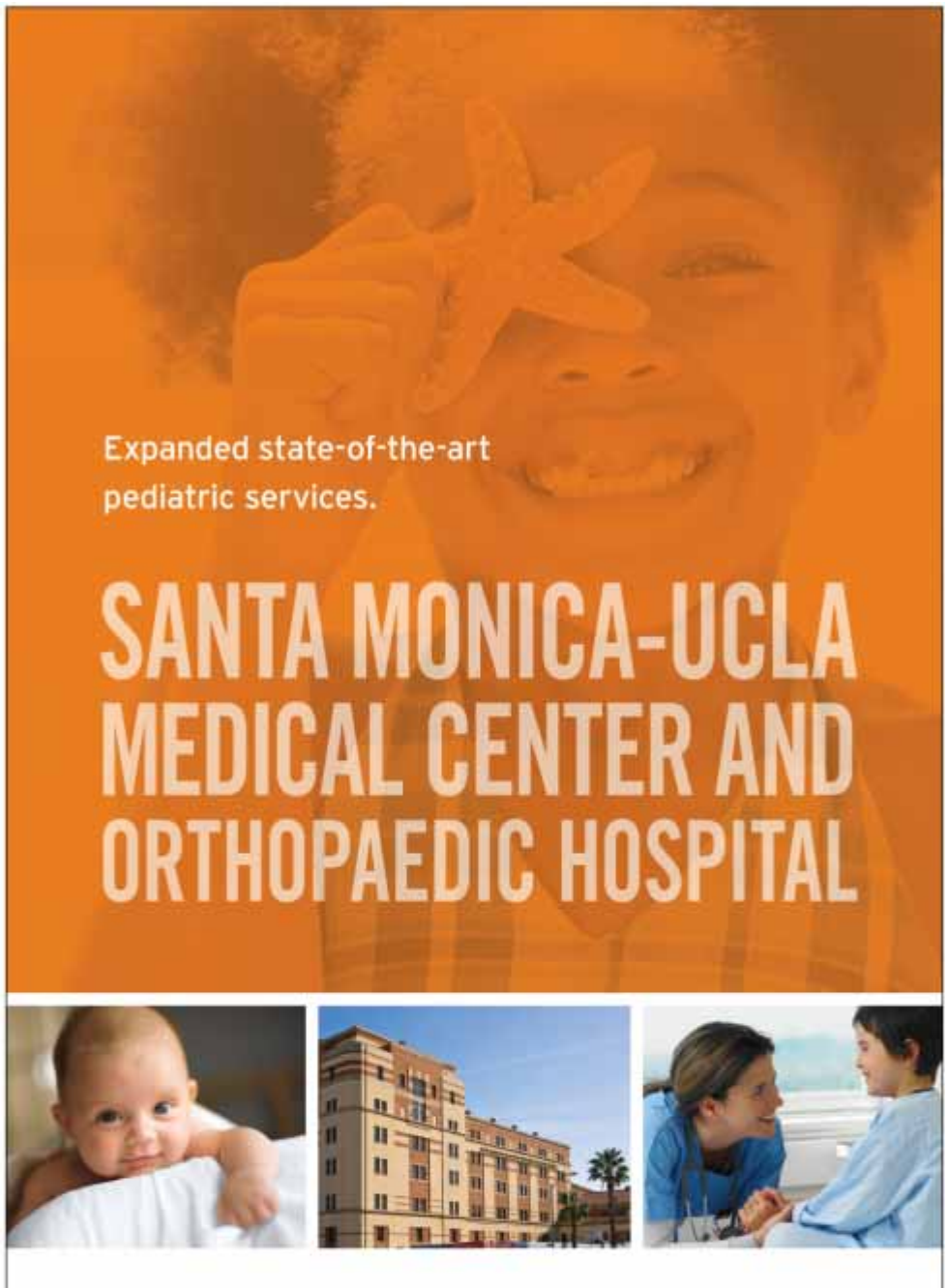
"It's an expensive sport to run. It's a lot like football. There's helmets. There's pads. There's sticks," said Neier. "[But] Lacrosse for our school has become kind of an 'it' program. It's extremely popular."

About 50 out of the 750 students at Malibu High participate in lacrosse, said Neier.

Due to the Samohi athletic director's opposition, the Santa Monica club team plans to confront district officials at a school board meeting Thursday night.

"We're hoping the school board and the athletic department understand how many kids want to play lacrosse and want to be there to support us … not [just] financially support us, but to back us as a [school] team," said Carrico, who hopes to raise the

SEE **TEAM** PAGE 12





GOLD
FROM PAGE 1

lawsuit against the company filed jointly on Friday by the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office and the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

The order also applies to the company's owner, Bruce Sands, and Superior Equity Group, another company affiliated with him.

A hearing is scheduled for Dec. 20 in Santa Monica to determine whether the receivership and asset freeze will stay in effect until the case is resolved.

The lawsuit, filed under the California Unfair Competition Law, accuses the company of capitalizing on the recent run-up in gold prices "by fostering fear and confusion among its customers."

The complaint alleges the defendants took payments for gold coins they never delivered, made false statements to trick customers into buying more expensive collector or foreign coins instead of basic gold bullion ones most people want, and charged exorbitant prices for coins by using deceptive practices to conceal markups.

The lawsuit seeks restitution to all former customers who lost money as a result of the alleged crimes, an injunction from the court to prevent further misconduct and monetary penalties, according to a press release from the City Attorney' Office.

The court-ordered receiver, attorney Dean Puccii of the firm Jones & Mayer, on Monday took control of both of Superior Gold's offices in Woodland Hills and Santa Monica.

The company, which has advertised on Glenn Beck's Fox News program, could not be reached for comment on Wednesday.

The suit came after a months-long investigation by the Consumer Protection Unit of the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office. Adam Radinsky, the head of the unit, said complaints about the company are still being accepted at the website gold.smconsumer.org.

nickt@smdp.com

TEAM
FROM PAGE 11

team to CIF level. "Becoming CIF is not something that happens overnight, but to put the wheels in motion for it to happen is our goal."

Not having lacrosse as an official school sport also limits future opportunities for students who dream of playing at the collegiate level. The team is not able to play other schools with CIF teams, such as Malibu High, in games that might draw scouts, said Carrico.

"The number of non-CIF teams is disappearing and pretty soon there won't be anyone to play," said Jeff Townsend, director of the club team.

"Some of the families have talked about pulling their kids out of Samohi and putting them in Pali and Malibu, who all have CIF teams," said Carrico, who has a son on the lacrosse team who hopes to play in college.

The school board meeting will be held tonight at 6 p.m. at the district offices located at 1651 16th St.

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Lenders mistakenly foreclose on some homes

MICHELLE CONLIN
AP Real Estate Writer

Christopher Marconi was in the shower when he heard a loud banging on his door. By the time he grabbed a towel and hustled to his front step, a U.S. marshal's sedan was peeling out of his driveway. Nailed to Marconi's front door was a foreclosure summons from Wells Fargo, naming him as a defendant. But the notice was for a house Marconi had never seen — on a mortgage he never had.

Tom Williams was in his kitchen thumbing through the mail when he opened a letter from GMAC. It informed him that the bank would confiscate his house unless he immediately paid off his mortgage balance of $276,000. But Williams had never missed a mortgage payment. And his loan wasn't due to mature until 2032.

Warren Nyerges opened his front door in Naples, Fla., to find a scraggly-haired summons server standing on his stoop. He plopped a foreclosure notice from Bank of America in Nyerges' hands. But Nyerges had paid for his house in cash. And he'd never had a checking account, much less a mortgage, with Bank of America.

By now, you may have heard the stories of bank robo-signers powering through hundreds of foreclosure affidavits a day without verifying a single fact. But most of those involved homeowners who had stopped paying their mortgage. They were genuine defaulters. Now a new species of homeowner is getting pushed into foreclosure hell.

People have always loved to complain about their banks. The push-button circus that passes for customer service. The larding on of fees. But the false foreclosure cases are hardly the usual complaints. These homeowners paid their mortgages — or loan modifications — on time. Some even paid off their loans. Worse, those on the receiving end of a bad foreclosure claim tell similar stories of getting bounced from one bank official to the next with no resolution while the foreclosure process continues apace.

Many have to resort to paying a lawyer, even after presenting documentation. They say they have to sue not only to stop the wrongful foreclosure but also to attempt to win back their costs.

There are no official statistics for these homeowners, but lawyers, real estate agents and consumer advocates say their ranks are growing. In November, during foreclosure hearings on Capitol Hill, senator after senator scolded the banks about wrongful foreclosures. They said their offices were deluged with complaints from people who had done everything right but were being treated by banks as if they had done everything wrong. And the Florida attorney general's office is also investigating the issue as part of its foreclosure probe.

"This is the worst I've ever seen it," says Ira Rheingold, an attorney and executive director of the National Association of Consumer Advocates. Diane Thompson, a lawyer with the National Consumer Law Center, has defended hundreds of foreclosure cases. "In virtually every case, I believe the homeowner was not in default when you looked at the surrounding facts. It is a widespread problem throughout the country."

Homeowners in Florida, Nevada, Texas and Pennsylvania have filed lawsuits alleging that they were victims of mistaken foreclosure. In many of those cases, the bank went so far as to haul away belongings and change the locks on the wrong homes.

One such suit was filed in March by Pennsylvania homeowner Angela Iannelli. She was up to date on her payments when, she says, she arrived home in October 2009 to find that Bank of America had ransacked her belongings, cut off her utilities, poured anti-freeze down her drains, padlocked her doors and confiscated Luke, her pet parrot of 10 years. It took her six weeks to get the bank to clean up the house.

Iannelli's lawyer says the parties are in the process of "mutually resolving the issues" and the lawsuit is "in the process of being discontinued." Bank of America did not immediately respond to a request for comment on her case.

But the incidents haven't stopped. Maria and Jose Perez of Seguin, Texas filed suit in October after Bank of America sent them a notice that their house was scheduled for a foreclosure sale Nov. 2. The couple say they are current on their mortgage payment and they have no loan with Bank of America. A trial is set for June 13.

Now the class actions are coming. In Kentucky and California, class-action lawsuits have been filed against major lenders on behalf of homeowners in loan modification programs who allege that they made all of their payments but got foreclosed on anyway.

"It is mind-boggling that these large banks accepted billions and billions of TARP money from the government, and they are just committing a fraud on the American people," says Jack Gaitlin, who filed the Kentucky suit on Oct. 4. He was referring to the 2008 government bailout of the banks, the Troubled Asset Relief Program.

To understand the banks' back-office dysfunction, you have to travel back to the credit bubble of the early 2000s. Rising home prices were turning real estate into the new national casino. Lending standards evaporated. No job or down payment necessary! Banks, meanwhile, stopped holding on to mortgage loans and pooled them into securities that were sold to investors.

The banks charged fees for servicing the mortgages — tasks such as collecting monthly payments. The banks slap on the biggest fees when a borrower can't make payments and the bank forecloses. Says Rheingold, "They created a servicing model where they made the most money by foreclosing on people as quickly and cheaply as possible." When a foreclosed house is put back on the market and sold, the proceeds are used to pay creditors, like mortgage servicers, first.

Now it's becoming clear just how chaotic the whole system became. Depositions from employees working for the banks or their law firms depict a foreclosure process in which it was standard practice for employees with virtually no training to masquerade as vice presidents, sometimes signing documents on behalf of as many as 15 different banks. Together, the banks and their law firms created a quick-and-dirty foreclosure machine that was designed to rush through foreclosures as fast as possible.

Former employees at banks and foreclosure law firms have testified that they also knowingly pushed through foreclosures on the wrong people.

Tammie Lou Kapusta is a former paralegal with the law offices of David J. Stern, a Florida firm that works for all the major banks and handles up to 70,000 foreclosure cases a year. Kapusta testified in September that she received as many as 50 calls a day from homeowners who said they were the victims of mistakes. But she was told, she testified, to ignore the callers and push through the foreclosures anyway. The law firm is under investigation by the Florida attorney general.

The banks say they are reviewing their mortgage and foreclosure procedures and most of the people involved in foreclosure deals were behind on their payments. As for people wrongly caught in the foreclosure net, they say they are reviewing those cases, too.

But what emerges from court filings, depositions, and interviews is that once the bank places you on its foreclosure assembly line, it becomes nearly impossible to get off.

The minute Marconi ripped the foreclosure notice from the door of his house in Garrison, N.Y., on Oct. 20, he saw he was named as a defendant along with a woman who had run a red light and smashed into Marconi's car four years earlier. Marconi had received a payment from her insurance company. It was her house, in Rye, N.Y., that Wells Fargo was foreclosing on.

Marconi explained the bizarre mix-up to Wells Fargo's customer service department, its ethics complaint department, its law firm and the office of the chief executive officer, John Stumpf. Marconi says they all told him that they could not help him and that he needed to get a lawyer.

Wells Fargo spokeswoman Vickee J. Adams says Marconi was named in the foreclosure suit because he filed a judgment against the woman in the car accident. It is common for lien holders to be mentioned in foreclosure documents. But Marconi says the judgment against the woman was satisfied in April 2009.

"Now I have to pay a $3,500 retainer for a lawyer to get my name pulled off some lawsuit by Wells Fargo," Marconi says.





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Officials: Man who spoke of jihad arrested in plot

BEN NUCKOLS
Associated Press

BALTIMORE A 21-year-old construction worker who had recently converted to Islam and told an FBI informant he thought about nothing but jihad was arrested Wednesday when he tried to detonate what he thought was a bomb at a military recruitment center, authorities said.

Antonio Martinez, a naturalized U.S. citizen also known as Muhammad Hussain, faces charges of attempted murder of federal officers and attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction, according to court documents filed Wednesday.

The bomb he is accused of trying to detonate was fake and had been provided by an undercover FBI agent. It was loaded into an SUV that Martinez parked in front of the recruiting center, authorities said, and an FBI informant picked him up and drove him to a nearby vantage point where he tried to set it off.

It was the second time in less than two weeks that a young man was arrested trying to detonate what he thought was a bomb during a sting operation.

"There was never any actual danger to the public during this operation this morning," U.S. Attorney Rod J. Rosenstein said Wednesday after a hearing in U.S. District Court in Baltimore. "That's because the FBI was controlling the situation."

Martinez appeared in court Wednesday afternoon and was ordered held until a hearing Monday.

According to court documents, he has been on the FBI's radar screen since October, when he told a confidential FBI source he wanted to attack and kill military personnel. Investigators believed Martinez posed a genuine threat and that he came up with the plan by himself.

"The investigation was undertaken only because experts had made the determination that there was a real risk," Rosenstein said.

The case is similar to one in Portland, Ore., where authorities said they arrested a Somali-born teenager the day after Thanksgiving when he used a cell phone to try to detonate what he thought were explosives in a van. He intended to bomb a crowded downtown Christmas tree-lighting ceremony, but the people he had been communicating with about the plot were in fact FBI agents.

Stocks show modest growth

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK The compromise backed by President Barack Obama and Republican leaders on extending tax cuts crushed bonds Wednesday as traders expected the plan to lead to higher budget deficits and a pickup in economic growth. Stocks posted modest gains.

Congressional Democrats could still scuttle the tax agreement, but bond traders are acting like it's a done deal. Treasury prices dropped sharply, sending their yields higher for a second day. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 3.24 percent, the highest level since June 21 and a huge jump from the 2.93 percent it was trading at Monday before the tax deal was announced.

Part of the reason bonds are selling off is that investors now expect the tax package, which also includes an extension of unemployment benefits, to lead to better growth in the U.S. economy. That means less incentive to keep money parked in ultra-safe investments like Treasurys and also a greater likelihood of inflation, which would erode the value of the fixed payments from bonds.

Economists are already raising their estimates for economic growth as a result of the tax-cut package. Goldman Sachs economists released a rough estimate Wednesday saying that the tax relief could wind up adding between 0.5 and 1 percentage point to economic growth next year.

"There is no question that near term this tax deal will be a net positive for the economy because it will help growth," said Nariman Behravesh, chief economist at IHS Global Insight.

Another reason the tax package is pushing bond prices lower is that it will lead to a greater supply of Treasurys in the marketplace as the U.S. government issues more debt to finance its increasingly large budget deficits. Estimates of the total cost of the tax-cut package vary widely but go as high as $900 billion over the next few years.

Higher Treasury rates ripple through every corner of the economy, raising borrowing costs for the government, business and consumers. The Treasury Department auctioned another $21 billion in 10-year notes Wednesday at a rate of 3.34 percent, the highest since May. The Treasury will sell $13 billion in 30-year bonds Thursday. Selling long-dated bonds is often tricky: investors like the higher yields, but 30-year bonds would get hit the hardest if inflation picks up.

The Mortgage Bankers Association also reported that mortgage applications slipped last week as refinancing activity fell. The average rate for a 30-year fixed loan rose to 4.66 from 4.56 percent the previous week.

Stock indexes wobbled for most of the day before turning positive in the afternoon.

The Dow Jones industrial average edged up 13.32 points, or 0.1 percent, to 11,372.48.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 4.53 or 0.4 percent, to a new yearly high of 1,228.28. The index last traded at this level in late September 2008. It is now up 10.1 percent for the year.

Four of the 10 company groups in the S&P index rose. Financials rose the most with a 1.8 percent gain. Bank of America Corp. rose 3.7 percent to lead the 30 stocks that make up the Dow.

The Nasdaq composite index rose 10.67, or 0.4, to 2,609.16.

The higher rates in the Treasury market helped push the dollar up against other currencies including the Japanese yen and the euro. The dollar rose 0.2 percent against an index of six other major currencies.

In corporate news, McDonald's Corp. fell 1.6 percent to $78.74, making it the biggest decliner among the 30 stocks that make up the Dow. The company reported November sales figures that fell short of analysts' expectations.

Fortune Brands Inc. rose 1 percent to $61.76 after the company announced plans to split into three parts. Fortune will keep its liquor business led by Jim Beam bourbon while shedding the units that make Titleist golf balls, Moen faucets and Master Locks.

Two stocks fell for every one that rose on the New York Stock Exchange. Consolidated trading volume came to 7.6 billion shares.

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POSITIVE EXISTENCE

Couple sought in man's dismemberment, death

ROBERT JABLON
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES A manhunt was under way Wednesday for a Pennsylvania couple accused of killing a man, cutting up his body and stashing the pieces in a backpack and under a bed in their Skid Row hotel room.

Edward Garcia Jr., 36, and Melissa Hope Garcia, 25, who also goes by the name of Melissa Turner, are considered armed and dangerous, police Detective Richard Arciniega said.

The couple from York, Pa., had several previous arrests for robbery in that state, and investigators believe they were trying to rob Herbert Tracy White on Thanksgiving weekend when the Good Samaritan who had befriended the couple was killed at the Continental Hotel, Arciniega said.

Investigators planned to contact Pennsylvania authorities about a similar case in that state in which the victim wasn't killed, Arciniega said. He declined to provide details.

A message left by The Associated Press with detectives in York, Pa., was not immediately returned Wednesday.

White's family asked for the public's help in finding the Garcias.

"Get these monsters off the streets," said a brother, Anthony DeMarco White, 51, of Los Angeles.

The Los Angeles County district attorney's office charged the couple Tuesday with murder with the special circumstance of torture.

White, who would have turned 50 Wednesday, was cut into five pieces with a knife and his limbs were stuffed into a backpack, the detective said. His torso was found wrapped in a blanket under the bed.

A maid discovered the grisly evidence on the morning of Nov. 29.

The couple had tried to wipe up the blood in their hotel room, and investigators suspect they were going to take away the body but were interrupted, Arciniega said.

Investigators believe White, from Hollywood, met the couple a day or two earlier.

"He befriended them, helped them out, gave them money, maybe a place to stay, and they ended up killing him," Arciniega said.

At a news conference, weeping relatives said White, who had battled alcoholism but was clean for 15 years, went out of his way to help the unfortunate. He felt it was a way of paying back the help he had been given.

White would get up in the middle of the night to drive home friends who had been drinking, they said.

He hired homeless people off the street to help him on odd jobs, made up plates of food to hand out, and doled out cash — sometimes $20 at a time — that he kept in his pocket, said his brother David White, 49, of Los Angeles.

When he last talked to his brother less than two weeks before his death, White said it was his "busy time of year" for helping people, David White said.

Family members sometimes worried about White's penchant for helping strangers without a second thought, but he was "a man who did what he wanted to do," his wife said.

White mentioned that after Thanksgiving, he had met a "lovely young couple" at an ATM and had given them a couple of cigarettes and a couple of dollars, said his mother, Elizabeth White.

Around 2 a.m. Nov. 28, White got a telephone call and told his wife that he had to go and give someone a ride, she said.

She thought it was someone who had gotten tipsy because White hated drunken driving and made himself available as a driver if people had been partying too much, said his wife, Annie Coty-White, 72.

"He said, 'I'll see you tomorrow.' That's the last I saw of him," she said.

Her husband borrowed her car, which was found outside the hotel where he was killed. His keys were missing, she said.

The hotel room was rented by the Garcias, Arciniega said.

The night before White's body was discovered, a security guard received a report of a noisy commotion in the room. He knocked on the door and told them to "stop with the noise."

"They talked to him through the door and said ... that they would quiet down," he said.

Family members said it was likely their brother, an athletically built man who stood 6-foot-5 and knew martial arts, was ambushed. He may have been struck while sitting down or bending over, relatives said.

"He befriended someone and let his guard down," David White said. "He would accept you first and run your resume later."

BH police: Ex-con acted alone in publicist slaying

GREG RISLING
Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS Police say an ex-con who killed himself acted alone in slaying a Hollywood publicist and it was not a professional hit.

In addition, Beverly Hills Police Chief David Snowden says the gun used by Harold Martin Smith to commit suicide appears to have been used to kill publicist Ronni Chasen.

Chasen was shot multiple times in the chest Nov. 20 as she drove through Beverly Hills after returning home from a premiere of the movie "Burlesque."

Smith later shot and killed himself when police went to speak with him at a rundown apartment building.

Officers approached Smith after someone phoned a tip into the TV show "America's Most Wanted."

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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

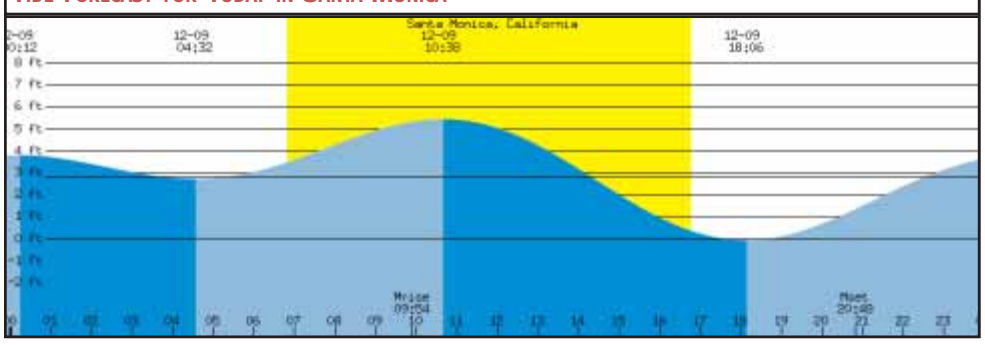
Swell Forecast

Most west facing breaks are looking at some head high sets. By late morning, size should reach 2-3' overhead at most west facing spots; DOH set waves are likely at standout west facing breaks.

Long Range Synopsis

WNW swell should back off to head high mostly, with still some overhead pluses at times.

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 **December 1, 2010**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 9
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 32 / 19
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 13 / 22

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Grousbeck Family Foundation, simplehuman, SIMA, Carlson Family Foundation, Inc.

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
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechasa and Las Alina creeks.	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	B	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	F	F
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	C	A
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A+	D
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	D
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	F	B
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+	D
Pena Creek at Los Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	D	A+
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	F	B
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	F	A+

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	C	B
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	A
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	B	C
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A	C
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	C	F
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	B	C
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	D	B
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A	F
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	B
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	B
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	F
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	C
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	C
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	D
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	F	A
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	D	D
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	A+
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	F
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	C	C
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A	C
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	F

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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NBA

Source: Union says league officials won't give an inch

BRIAN MAHONEY
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK The NBA players association has told its members that the league has not moved off its original negotiating position, and reiterated to them it would not accept a hard salary cap or the massive salary rollbacks being sought.

The players have received an audio podcast and mailings outlining the owners' proposal for a new collective bargaining agreement, along with details of a union counterproposal that includes rolling back the draft age requirement to 18, a person with knowledge of its contents told The Associated Press on Wednesday. The person requested anonymity because the contents were not made public.

The players rejected the league's initial proposal during All-Star weekend in February and delivered their own on July 1, one that the person said was "designed to move the negotiations forward and the union's intent was to come up with a proposal that addresses the concerns of both sides."

It even offers to negotiate a reduction in the players' guarantee of 57 percent of basketball revenues, which Commissioner David Stern has said is a central issue in the negotiations.

Stern said it was too similar to the current system and was rejected, and both sides say there has been little progress since. Union executive director Billy Hunter said last month he was "99 percent sure" there would be a lockout when the CBA expires June 30, 2011.

Stern has said the league wants to cut salary costs by $700 million to $800 million, a reduction of almost 40 percent. The league also wants to eliminate fully guaranteed contracts.

"Our goal remains the same," NBA spokesman Mike Bass said. "A sustainable business model that encourages teams to make necessary investments and provides the opportunity for all 30 teams to compete for a championship."

The union also told players that the league seeks to eliminate all exceptions that allow teams to exceed the salary cap and that they "will not agree to a hard cap on the heels of the league generating record revenues year after year."

The union argues that the current system has largely worked, telling members that with its proposals it is "shifting the responsibility to the teams to make better business decisions."

The players' proposal calls for increased revenue sharing, saying small-market teams need relief and it shouldn't be strictly from the players. They say a "portion of national revenue, plus a meaningful percentage of unshared local revenue should be reallocated."

Stern has said expanded revenue sharing will come along with a new CBA, but not as a part of it. The league is still determining what model it wants to use, and the union likely will want details of it during negotiations.

Other highlights of the union's proposal, according to the person:

• Enhanced "trade and signing flexibility," such as the elimination of base-year compensation and altering the rule requiring salaries in a trade to match within 125 percent when a team is over the cap, which the union says would benefit both sides by making deals easier. The players also seek to reduce the window for teams to match offers to restricted free agents, which is currently a week.

• Rolling back the draft age requirement from 19 to 18, with perhaps a financial incentive for athletes who attend college. The league has been expected to push for a new limit of 20.

• Neutral review of on-court discipline. Players currently can only appeal to an arbitrator for suspensions of more than 12 games. Less than that, the appeal goes to Stern's office.

• Replacing the biannual exception, worth $2 million, with a second midlevel exception, available to teams each year for the value of the average NBA salary that season ($5.8 million this season), and reducing the maximum length of both midlevels from five years to four.

• A request to negotiate "enhanced pension benefits" for retired players.

NCAA SPORTS

USC moves to purchase Coliseum land from state

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES The University of Southern California is in talks with the state to buy property encompassing Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, the adjacent Sports Arena and some parking lots.

University real estate chief Kristina Raspe said Wednesday that formal talks began last week about buying state-owned land in Exposition Park across from the school.

The Coliseum has hosted two Olympics and is the home field of the USC Trojan football team.

The sports venues are operated by a city-county-state joint powers commision which leases them from the state. A deal would technically make USC the landlord but wouldn't affect the commission's control until its lease expires in 2054.

USC says it would preserve the historic 1920s-era Coliseum.



MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
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Where the Day Takes You (R) 1hr 45min
7:30pm

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade
(310) 458-6232

Burlesque (PG-13) 1hr 40min
1:30pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:40pm

Today's Special (NR) 1hr 39min
1:55pm, 6:45pm

Social Network (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:10pm, 10:00pm

Next Three Days (PG-13) 2hrs 02min
1:15pm, 4:00pm, 6:50pm, 9:50pm

Dead Awake (R) 1hr 29min
4:20pm, 9:15pm

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

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix (PG-13) 2hrs 18min
11:00am, 12:00pm, 3:25pm, 5:30pm, 6:40pm, 9:55pm

Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 40min
10:45am, 1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:50pm

Morning Glory (PG-13) 1hr 42min
11:30am, 2:40pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:35pm

Unstoppable (PG-13) 1hr 38min
11:45am, 2:30pm, 4:55pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

Burlesque (PG-13) 1hr 40min
10:50am, 2:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Megamind 3D (PG) 1hr 36min
11:15am, 1:35pm, 4:35pm, 7:15pm, 9:35pm

Next Three Days (PG-13) 2hrs 02min
2:15pm, 9:00pm

Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader in Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 52min
12:01am

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

Meskada (R) 1hr 38min
1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:20pm, 9:55pm

Fair Game (PG-13) 1hr 48min
1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:10pm, 9:50pm

Inside Job (PG-13) 1hr 48min
4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:40pm

127 Hours (R) 1hr 33min
12:50pm, 3:10pm, 5:30pm, 7:55pm, 10:15pm

Essential Killing (NR) 2hrs 05min
1:55pm

AMC Criterion 6
1313 Third Street Promenade
(310) 395-1599

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
1:00pm, 4:10pm, 7:20pm, 10:30pm

Due Date (R) 1hr 35min
12:45pm, 3:10pm, 5:25pm, 7:45pm, 10:10pm

Faster (R) 1hr 38min
1:45pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:35pm

Love and Other Drugs (R) 1hr 53min
2:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:35pm, 10:15pm

Tangled (PG) 1hr 40min
12:20pm, 2:55pm, 5:30pm, 7:55pm, 10:20pm

Warrior's Way (NR) 1hr 40min
12:30pm, 3:00pm, 5:30pm, 8:00pm, 10:25pm

Tourist (PG-13) 1hr 43min
12:00am

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

Order in, Scorpio

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Home in on the bottom line with a partner. If you are feeling weary or tired, know that it has been a stressful week in many ways. Others respond in kind to a goodwill gesture. Let someone explain him- or herself, even if you aren't interested. Tonight: Dinner for two.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You have different ideas from others. Give those around you the courtesy of weighing their ideas and what they think. You might be surprised by how different yet valid their perspectives are. Tonight: Burning the candle at both ends.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Deal directly with others at a distance. If you need to call in an expert, don't challenge this person. Your questions need to be phrased most politely, unless you want a firestorm. Positive news allows for a new direction. Tonight: Make plans for a day outing.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Defer to others, knowing full well your limits. Someone whom you consider yourself to be close to steps up to the plate. Gain a better understanding through a chat with a loved one. Vulnerability can open many doors. Tonight: Go with another's suggestion.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Others come forward and express their ideas. Someone also might have an ulterior motive for approaching you. Investigate new possibilities with an eye to another person taking the lead. What a change for you! Tonight: Decide which offer sounds best.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Dive into a project with a positive attitude. Others respond. A conversation that concerned you and you thought could be difficult goes off without a hitch! The extra care you put into a relationship -- be it a call, dinner or a card -- pays off. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Honor a commitment to change directions and approach someone in a more upbeat manner. Careful -- you might have a tendency to lavish money all over the place. Caring doesn't necessarily involve spending. Tonight: Flirt the night away.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ If you think staying home or a home-based business could be more effective, investigate that possibility. If you are feeling cramped, you just might want to take the day off and do what you absolutely want to do. Tonight: Order in.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ You could go way overboard as you attempt to let someone know where you are coming from. Envision what you want and expect. Being unusually gracious wouldn't hurt, either. In the long run, it is the right way to go. Tonight: Hang with your friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Curb a need to use money as a measure of others. Actually, if you detach, you can see that many people have a lot to offer. Walk away from your value system for at least a day. Understand that everyone has limits. Tonight: Buy a treat on the way home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Stop and take a breath. Look around. You might notice an easing off of tension that allows greater give-and-take. Your ability to anchor in on your priorities and convince others to go along emerges. Tonight: Your winning smile says it all.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Understand that by pulling back, you'll have greater give-and-take. Gather information. Call someone at a distance whom you care about. You discover how good you can feel by not acting out. Tonight: Make weekend plans.

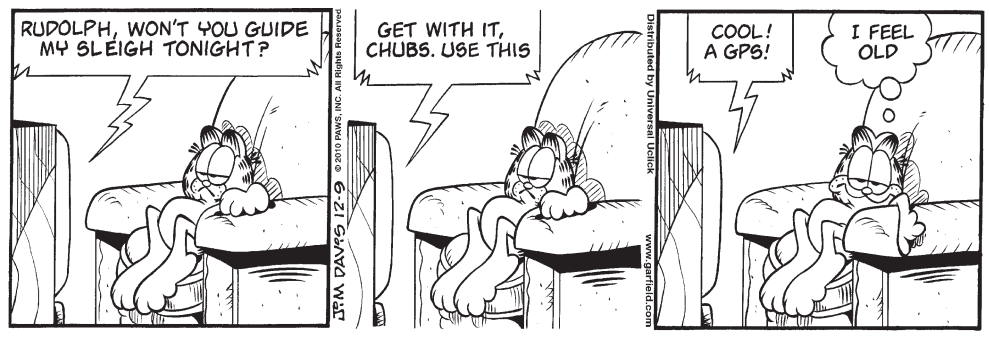
Happy birthday

This year, you say what you mean, and others respond to your words. You also might purchase new toys that involve communication, from cars to computers. Make sure that you are making sound decisions for you in the long run. Take time for neighbors and siblings. Visit more often. If you are single, you meet people with ease. You might even find yourself dating more than one person. Enjoy. If you are attached, the two of you might opt to take a class together or develop a new hobby. You will delight in more time together. AQUARIUS comes up with wild ideas.

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



Garfield
By Jim Davis



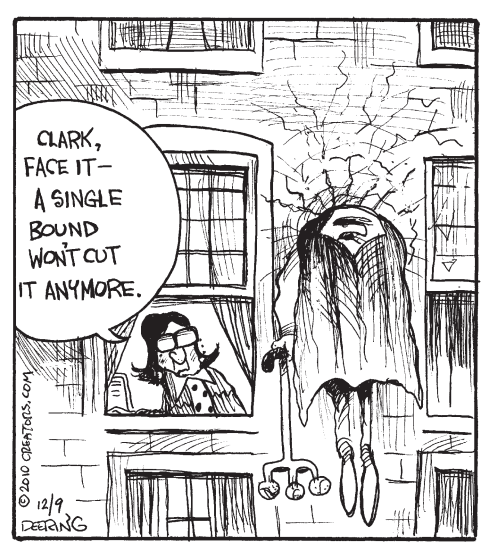
The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



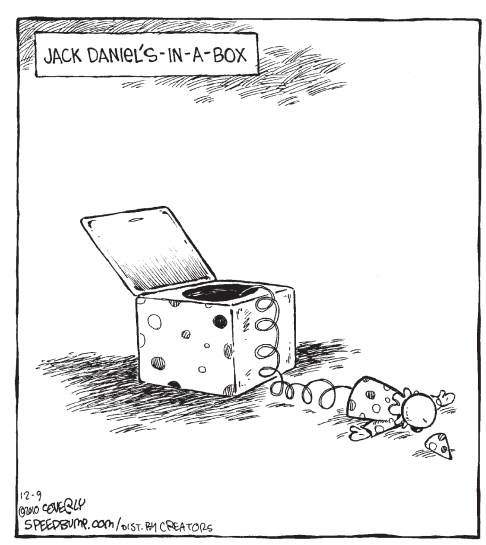
Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



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

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

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



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Memory problems
5 Check for purity
10 Draw out
12 Urban pollution
13 Short putt
14 Oklahoma city
15 Diamond worker
16 Scary movie
18 Freud topic
20 Travel stop
21 Poker round
23 UFO fliers
24 Aspirin target
26 Blunders
28 Take a load off
29 Folded food
31 Lowly worker
32 Masher's target
36 Sprightly
39 Kitten cry
40 Seoul setting
41 Customary
43 Vote in
44 Billiards shot
45 Classroom fixtures
46 Track competition

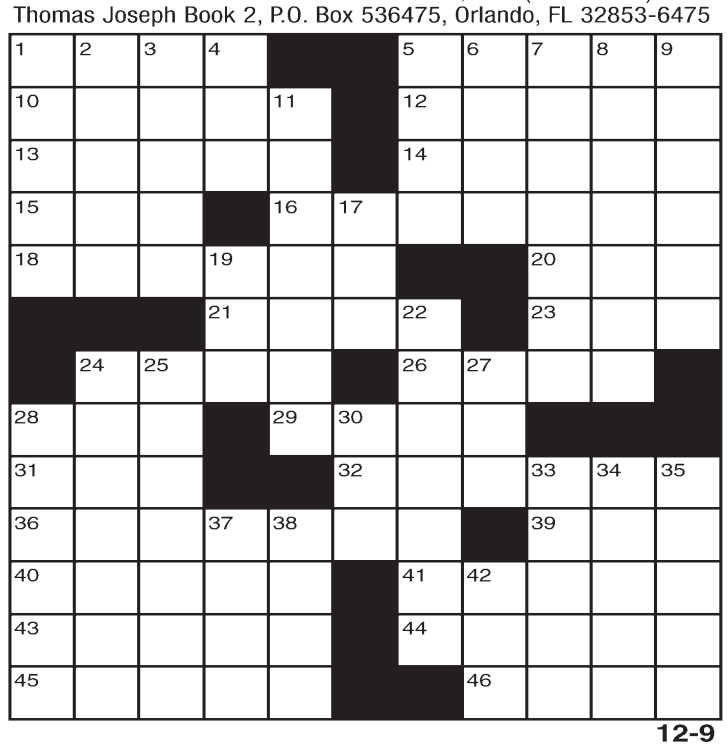
DOWN

1 Outfit
2 Washington successor
3 Litter member
4 Biol. or geol.
5 Nay voter
6 Music genre
7 More ludicrous
8 Agrees
9 Longs
11 Charm
17 Egg tender
19 Greek X
22 Propriety
24 Tiny opening
25 Dresses
27 Go bad
28 Fired
30 King Kong, for one
33 Tickle
34 Make fun of
35 Wee hooter
37 Quick kiss
38 Light touches
42 "Cheers" bartender

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

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



12-9

ARITHMO™

CrossMath + × − ÷

• Fill the grid with the set of given numbers (1 to 12) to satisfy the Equa demands (7 to 24) in the shaded boxes. The Equa demands represent the sum of the digits that you will insert into the empty squares.

• Each horizontal row has one Equa demand to satisfy; each vertical column also has one demand to satisfy. Each empty square in the grid dictates the math operation (addition +, subtraction -, multiplication X, and division ÷) that must be performed to meet the demands.

• You must follow the given math operations for each square and you must make sure all the numbers satisfy the demands in the shaded boxes when connected in adjacent threes and calculated together from left to right, and top to bottom.

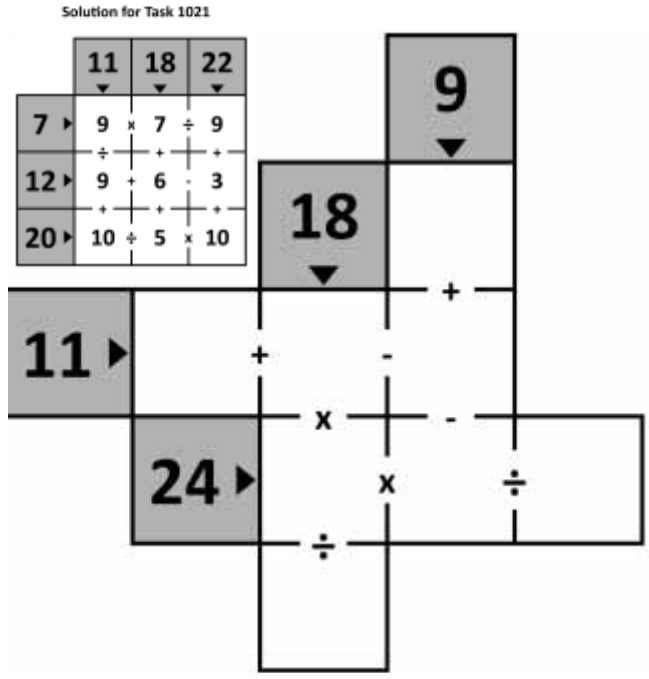
• The numbers you insert into the grid must satisfy the Equa demands both horizontally and vertically.

For more games, go to www.arithmo.com

Fill in the empty fields with the given numbers so when calculated together they satisfy all Equas in the gray boxes:

5, 8, 8, 10, 10, 11, 12, 12

Solution for Task 1021



DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 4 38 45 53 54 Meganumber: 9 Jackpot: $88M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 8 28 32 37 44 Meganumber: 24 Jackpot: $10M

Fantasy 5: 3 11 19 29 38

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 3 2 3 EVENING: 9 4 3

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 12 Lucky Charms 2nd: 10 Solid Gold 3rd: 04 Big Ben RACE TIME: 1:41.82

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

■ Artist Noam Braslavsky's life-size sculpture honoring the great Israeli army general and prime minister Ariel Sharon went on display in Tel Aviv in October. However, Braslavsky chose to depict Sharon (who he said is "kind of an open nerve in Israeli society") not in battle nor as a international statesman -- but in his hospital bed, where he has been confined, in a medically induced coma, since suffering a massive stroke in January 2006.

■ Sheriff's deputies in Manatee County, Fla., arrested two men in October after a traffic stop when, following a thorough search of the car's trunk, they found marijuana. In fact, the search of the messy trunk was so thorough that they also turned up a bong, which driver Mark Fiasco said he had lost and been looking for for seven years.

■ Responding to a domestic-dispute call at the I-77 Motor Inn in Fairplain, W.Va., in October, sheriff's deputies encountered Melissa Williams naked from the waist down and holding a knife. Two men in the room (one, her estranged husband) said Williams had threatened them. "(S)omebody," she reportedly said, "is going to eat my (vulgar anatomical reference) or I'm going to cut your (expletive) throat." The sheriff's report also noted that one of the men approached Williams to comply but was repelled by Williams' "horrible vaginal odor." In November, Williams was sentenced to 90 days in jail.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1935 Walter Liggett, American newspaper editor and muckraker, is killed in gangland murder.

1937 Second Sino-Japanese War: Battle of Nanjing – Japanese troops under the command of Lt. Gen. Asaka Yasuhiko launch an assault on the Chinese city of Nanjing.

1940 World War II: Operation Compass – British and Indian troops under the command of Major-General Richard O'Connor attack Italian forces near Sidi Barrani in Egypt.

WORD UP!

bespoke
\ bih-SPOHK \ , adjective;
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Roomates
Commerical Lease
Real Estate
Real Estate Loans
Storage Space
Vehicles for Sale
Massage
Services
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Announcements

AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPEN

Community Corporation of Santa Monica announces the opening of the 2011 Marketing List. To be considered you must pick up an appointment card at 502 Colorado Blvd. In the Community Room between Dec. 6th and Dec. 29th ,M-Th 8 a.m. – 5p.m.. Friday Dec. 10th, Thursday Dec. 23rd and Wednesday Dec. 29th 8 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Closed Dec. 17 and 24, EOH

Employment

Front Desk Receptionist. We are looking to hire a Receptionist and would love to hear from you if you are 18 years of age and above, have a High School Diploma or GED, have good communication and people skills and can handle various responsibilities. We are looking for characteristics more so than experience, so if you are upbeat, friendly and like to help people, please apply today! Con-

Employment

tact us: (dagarner@live.com)

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2006 Bobcat T300 Track Loader Asking $2960, heat and A/C, contact me for details and pics harvath34ga@msn.com / 559-328-1985

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Yard Sales

SATURDAY 8A.M.-2PM 230 Bay St., 2 family yard sale, waterbed, art, like new baby items, beautiful desk, much more

Auto Donations

DONATE A Car Today To Help Children And Their Families Suffering From Cancer. Free Towing. Tax Deductible. Childrenís Cancer Fund Of America, Inc. www.ccfoa.org 1-800-469-8593

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501 N. Venice 1+1, #26 $1250/mo stove, fridge, carpet, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. (310)574-6767 www.jkwproperties.com

501 N. Venice unit 18 single, $1025/mo $750 off move-in stove, fridge, carpet, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. (310)574-6767 www.jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA 12450 Culver Blvd. gated parking, intercom entry, stove, fridge, utilities included, laundry, parking, no pets. $995 and up $750 off move-in (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA 12610 CASWELL ave.unit 1, 1bdrm/1ba $1075/mo. stove, fridge, time/carpet,floors ceiling fan blinds, parking, laundry, no pets. $75 off move-in (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

VENICE 714 1/2 Indiana Ave. 2 bedroom 1 bath lower, unit stove, ceiling fans tile hardwood floors laundry gated entry, small pet OK with deposit $1595 (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

For Rent

MV/MDR adj. Spacious 1 bedroom upper with private balcony near Centinela/90 Fwy. Stove, fridge, large closets, laundry, parking. One month Free $1100/mo. (310)828-4481 or (310)993-0414 after 6p.m.

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SM. ADJACENT Ocean View large 2+2, top of hill, private drvway/sundeck 2 parking, $2095 (310)390-4610

WLA Spacious 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath, upper apt, near SM. Blvd/Bundy. Large bedrooms & baths, stove, fridge, D/W, fireplace, laundry, parking, smaller quiet building, $1685/mo One month FREE. Info (310) 828-4481

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DBAS

ICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 10-1670925
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: GUEST GALOSHES, 1025 GRANDVILLE AVE. #17, L.A., CA 90049. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) SARAH WILSON, 1025 GRANDVILLE AVE. #17, L.A., CA 90049. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: SARAH WILSON. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 11/18/10. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE- This Fictitious 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 in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Pub. Nov. 29 Dec. 06, 13, 20, 2010
Publish: Santa Monica Daily Press

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 20101560059 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 10/29/2010 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as ALL DIALECTS TRANSLATIONS; ALL INTERNATIONAL CONSULTING; CAR TECH. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: ROBERTO ARIAS 2242 KELTON LOS ANGELES, CA, 90064. This Business is being conducted by: a Limited Liability Company. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:ROBERTO ARIAS; OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 10/29/2010. 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 11/25/2010, 12/02/2010, 12/09/2010, 12/16/2010.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 20101578729 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 11/03/2010 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as LIVE LANGUAGE LOS ANGELES; LIVE LANGUAGE L.A.. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: DEIRDRE CLARIDGE 2216 6TH ST, UNIT B S.M., CA 90405. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)05/27/2005. /s/: DEIRDRE CLARIDGE; OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/03/2010. 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 12/02/2010, 12/09/2010, 12/16/2010, 12/23/2010.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 10-1593652
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: PRIME PARKING SERVICE CO., 13904 CARFAX AVE., BELLFLOWER, CA 90706. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) JOSE VINTIMILLA, 13904 CARFAX AVE., BELLFLOWER, CA 90706. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: JOSE VINTIMILLA. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 11/05/10. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE- This Fictitious 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 in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Pub. Nov. 15, 22, 29 Dec. 06, 2010
Publish: Santa Monica Daily Press

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Kate Bransfield

Happy Holidays

Estates Director
Society of Excellence
Previews Properties Specialist

310.395.1133

1608 Montana Avenue
Santa Monica, CA

Kate@SantaMonicaListings.com





In Escrow!

624 Marguerita Avenue
4 Bed, 2 Full & 2 Half Bath
$2,700,000
North of Montana Ave.
Roosevelt School District
Coveted Street!



New Listing!

515 Ocean Avenue # 507 South
3 Bed , 2.5 Bath
$ 1,629,000
North of Montana Condo
Great Views from the Living Room & Balcony

Open House Tuesday December 14th

11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Median Price of ALL Santa Monica Listings from ALL Agents from ALL Companies Listed for Sale As of Early December 2010

	Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	$1,995,000	$2,347,000
North of Montana	$3,249,000	$1,275,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	$1,650,000	$ 849,750
South of Wilshire	$724,000	$499,000
Sunset Park	$1,073,750	$527,000
Ocean Park	$1,449,000	$849,900
Statistics Updated Every Monday		

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1425 Stanford Street #6
2 Bed, 2.5 Bath
$639,000
Please Call for Private Showing

Purchase includes 42" Plasma TV, HD Digital Recorder & Stainless Steel Refridgerator



1325 Washington Ave Unit E
1 Bed, 1 Bath
$395,000
Open Sunday, Dec. 12th from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
Sound Proofed Common Walls, Copper Plumbing, Complete ADT Security Systen, Remodeled Bath-room & Kitchen

In Escrow!



934 2nd Street # 3
2 Bed , 2.5 Bath
$ 939,000

In Escrow!



11687 Montana # 208
2 Bed , 1.75 Bath
$ 469,000

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