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Santa Monica Daily Press
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2014
Volume 14 Issue 25

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

BASKETBALL BATTLE
SEE PAGE 10

THE DARREN IS AN OLD MAN ISSUE

Several filing for Ed Board appointment

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQRTRS The six remaining members of the Board of Education will have at least a few names to choose from when appointing a seventh in January.

Former board candidate Jake Wachtel, recently unseated Boardmember Ralph Mechur, and Lincoln Middle School PTA President Jon Kean have filed or plan to file applications to fill the vacant seat.

Former Boardmember Ben Allen was elected to the State Senate last month and, as a result, announced his resignation from the board. His term has two years left on it and the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District plans to fill his seat through a public appointment, which will occur in January and - barring protest - be finalized in February.

At least four members of the board will have to approve the appointment of the new member.

Interested candidates have until Dec. 18 to apply.

Jake Wachtel placed eighth out of eight candidates in the 2010, pulling in just over 6,000 votes.

"I filed the very last day," he said. "Nobody knew who I was. Even my own neighbors said they were going to vote for this guy Jake because there were signs on the street and I said, 'I'm Jake.' I basically went from zero to 60."

He's stayed involved, he said, and has served as a PTA President at Grant Elementary. He worked previously as a coach and a teacher.

Wachtel considered running in this year's election, and even pulled the necessary paperwork but ultimately declined because he had some professional obligations and because he wanted to help support his daughter, who was transitioning to middle school.

"When you're talking about a time where there are many challenges and people very

SEE SCHOOL PAGE 8

McKeown named mayor

Vazquez to be mayor in second year

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL After 16 years as a member of City Council, Kevin McKeown is the mayor of Santa Monica.

Tony Vazquez will serve as the mayor pro tempore for a year and will take mayoral seat from McKeown at the end of next year. Vazquez will serve for one year. He will become the first Latino mayor of Santa Monica.

Ted Winterer will serve as mayor pro tempore in the second year.

The unanimous vote was the first for newly elected Councilmember Sue

SEE MAYOR PAGE 8



Samuel Telecki editor@smdp.com

ART TOUR: Students from Olympic High School gave tours to police officers as part of a program at the Santa Monica Museum of Art.

Teens and officers learn about each other through art

BY MATTHEW HALL
Editor-in-Chief

SMMOA Kids telling cops about art — in a nutshell, that's what happened on Dec. 6 during the "Art Tours: Teens and Officers" program at the Santa Monica Museum of Art. However, contained within the starkly simple premise was an interactive art performance designed to build community, challenge conventional thinking and highlight the power of art to prompt change.

Through Dec. 13, the museum is hosting "Citizen Culture: Artists and Architects Shape Policy," an exhibit that combines art, politics and education. It features the work of artists, architects, designers, creative thinkers, and collectives who have reshaped public policy using aesthetic strategies in multiple cities and countries.

Asuka Hisa, Director of Education and Public Programs at the Museum said the

SEE ART PAGE 9


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

December 11

Holidays on Vinyl
The Georgian Hotel
1415 Ocean Ave., 6 - 9 p.m.
The Georgian Hotel is inviting residents to gather around the hotel's classical trumpet horn phonograph and spin back the hands of time to the sounds of contemporary crooners and modern day musicians on vinyl. The line-up includes the classics like Bing Crosby's White Christmas and Elvis' Christmas Album to more recent Christmas smashes like Kelly Clarkson's Wrapped in Red and Michael Buble's Christmas.

Ono'u International Street Art Exhibit
Le Méridien Delfina Santa Monica
530 Pico Blvd. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.
The exhibition will offer a unique opportunity to discover the island of Tahiti through photos and time lapse videos revealing the amazing mural art walk created in the city center of Papeete by some of today's living legends of the worldwide street art scene.

Storybook reading and letters to Santa
Downtown Santa Monica
6 p.m.
Come listen to holiday tales and write a letter to Jolly Old Saint Nick. For more information call (310) 393-8355 or visit www.downtownsm.com.

Book into film discussion: "Emma"
Ocean Park Branch Library
2601 Main St. 7 p.m.
Discussions of books which were adapted to film. The book discussions will be followed the next week by a screening of the movie by the same title.

Rent Control Board
City Hall
1685 Main St. 7 p.m.
Regular meeting. Visit www.smgov.net/rentcontrol for more information.

Classic Movie: How to Marry a Millionaire (1953)
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd. 3 p.m.
Lauren Bacall, Betty Grable and Marilyn Monroe headline this fizzy 1953 comedy classic, in which a trio of New York models, tired of the cheap dates they usually get stuck with, hatch a plan to attract and marry millionaires. (95 min)

Free Fitness Talks
Show Up Fitness
1207 4th St #150
7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Weekly talks focus on fitness and nutrition related subjects including diabetes, heart disease, Physical Therapy, and neuroscience. Social mixer and talks are free.

December 12

Malibu choir performance
Bank of Books Malibu
29169 Heathercliff Road #109, 1 p.m.
Malibu High School Choir performs holiday music at the Point Dume Village Christmas tree. 20 percent of all sales from 1-3 p.m. goes to MHS choir.

SEE LISTINGS PAGE 3

For help submitting an event, contact us at **310-458-7737** or submit to editor@smdp.com

LISTINGS
FROM PAGE 2

It's a Wonderful Life Radio Stage Play
First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica
1008 11th St.
Times vary
Join the All Community Theater (A.C.T.) at First UMC for their encore rendition of It's a Wonderful Life. Done as a 1940s style radio stage play complete with commercials and even the Andrew Sisters, the classic story of George Bailey and how his guardian angel Clarence Odbody saves his life and wins his wings is retold with all the heart and warmth of the movie from which it is lovingly adapted. Tickets available at http://santamonicaumc.org/#/music-theater/theater-act. Performances are Dec. 12 at 7 p.m., Dec. 13: 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Simkins Hall.

Kids on Stage
Morgan-Wixson Theatre
2627 Pico Blvd., 6:15 p.m.
Kids On Stage Teen Master Troupe Players Presents The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee. The show centers on a fictional spelling bee contest where six quirky adolescents compete in a bee that is run by three equally quirky grown-ups. Suitable for audience ages 5 and older. Adults $10; Kids 16 & under $5; Lap sitters Free (2 and under).

Virginia Ave Park Community Posada
Pico Branch Library
2201 Pico Blvd. 5 - 8 p.m.
Join the Virginia Avenue Park Community for the annual Posada procession starting at 5 pm, followed by a performance of a Pastorela Play culminating with refreshments and piñata. Programa bilingüe.

Books for Cooks
Montana Avenue Branch library
1704 Montana Ave. 4 - 5 p.m.
Kitchen Kid presents winter stories and a lesson on cooking. Ages 4-8. Limited space. Call (310) 458-8682 to register.

Word I (MS Office 2010)
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.
12 - 1 p.m.
Introduction to using Microsoft Word 2010 to create and format basic documents. Intermediate level. Seating is first come, first served. For more information, please visit the Reference Desk or call (310) 434-2608.

Guest House Docent Tour
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 Pacific Coast Highway, 11 a.m.
Free, docent-led tours of the Marion Davies Guest House begin at 11 a.m., 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. No reservations needed.

December 13

Organic gardening workshop
Pico Branch Library
2201 Pico Blvd. 12 - 2 p.m.
Join organizers for a workshop on Organic Gardening lead by master gardener and Zero Waste ambassador Emi Carvell. Space is limited and registration is required, please email oneiemi@earthlink.net or call the library to save your spot.

Bookmaking Workshop
1704 Montana Ave.
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Create marbled paper, make an accordion book or card, and cover with the paper. Workshop led by artist Debra Disman.

Clothing & Textile Recycling
City Yards
2500 Michigan Ave.
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Recycle all dry unwearable clothing, towels, bedding, shoes, and other textiles at this drop-off event. Residents are encouraged to take reusable goods to any of the many charities benefiting the Santa Monica area. A reuse guide is available at www.smgov.net/r3.

Pub Crawl
City wide
5 p.m.
Bars and restaurants will raise money for those in need during the holidays through a partnership with Westside Food Bank. With an official SMPC wristband you will receive drink and food specials at the participating locations. Visit www.santamonicapubcrawl.com for more information. Admission: $12-$25

Hail Mary grand opening
Hail Mary boutique and denim bar
2665 Main St. 5 - 9 p.m.
There will be a lineup of great music featuring Ralicke, amazing drinks by Ole Smokey Tennessee Moonshine and fun people to celebrate with.

A Christmas Carol Read-Along
The Christian Institute
1308 2nd St. 5:30 p.m.
Participate in an entertaining holiday tradition: the annual group reading of Charles Dickens' beloved classic "A Christmas Carol." You're invited to take a turn reading aloud a passage from the master text, to "read along" in your own copy, or to simply close your eyes and listen to the story teller. Approximately three hours. Come and go as you please. Refreshments to follow.

Roosevelt Elementary Holiday Boutique
Roosevelt Elementary School
801 Montana Ave. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
More than 25 community vendors will be there with products and services. 20% of sales will be donated to the Santa Monica Education Foundation, which provides art and language programs.

Friends annual Holiday Book Sale
Kaufman Brentwood Branch Library
11820 San Vicente Blvd.,
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Take advantage of this opportunity to shop for holiday gifts at bargain prices and help the library as well. There will be a large selection of books in a variety of categories. Unsold books will be available for purchase through Dec. 31. For more information, call (310) 575-8273.

Book events
Bank of Books Malibu
29169 Heathercliff Road #109,
Storytime with Mr. Steve from St. Aidan's Preschool at 10:30 a.m., Dr. Nancy Merrick discusses and signs Among Chimpanzees: Field Notes from the Race to Save Our Endangered Relatives at 2 p.m.

Holiday workshop and Repair Café
1450 Ocean
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Repair stations include: Bikes, Archival Book Repair, Acoustic Guitars, Jewelry, Smartphones, Sewing and Small Appliances. Large item drop off zone right in front of the building. If you have something broken you'd like to learn how to fix, bring it over. If you know how to fix something and would like to volunteer, please send email to recycling@smgov.net. Visit smgov.net/1450ocean for more information.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Using Lincoln

Editor

I read with great interest the article entitled, "Living On Lincoln" by Killeen Pilon (SMDP, Dec. 8). I'm an avid bicyclist who rides for both pleasure and transportation. I live just off the intersection of Ocean Park and Lincoln Blvds., very near Ms. Pillon's senior residence. I must travel both north and south along Lincoln Blvd. every day. Whereas I would love to obey the bicycle regulations and stay in the street, I find this to be unreasonably dangerous, especially at certain times of the day and night. I've tried to find an alternative route through the residential neighborhoods to the west and east of Lincoln Blvd., but both present nearly impossible problems due to steep hills, parks, discontinuous or circuitous street design, the Interstate 10, and other similar impediments. Also, I think it is unreasonable of Ms. Pilon to think of the Lincoln corridor as a "neighborhood," which she obviously does. Along almost its entire length from Sepulveda Blvd. in the south to Wilshire Blvd. to the north, Lincoln Blvd. represents a supremely busy arterial expressway full of commercial businesses of all descriptions. It can hardly be construed as a neighborhood. It seems that Ms. Pilon wants to redesign Lincoln Blvd. to meet her own individual needs. I feel her position be unrealistic.

James R. Brennan
Santa Monica



YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

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Culture Watch

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

Holiday Potpourri

SANTA MONICA HAS ITS OWN NUTCRACKER!

Westside Ballet of Santa Monica, now in its fifth decade, returns to the Broad Stage, in collaboration with Santa Monica College Symphony, to present the holiday dance classic, from Dec. 13 - 21, nine performances only.

Comprised primarily of dancers from Santa Monica and surrounding communities, featured performers include Westside Ballet alumnae Joy Womack, now an international ballet star with Kremlin Ballet Theatre, and Lyrica Blankfein, currently touring with "Little Dancer," soon to appear on Broadway.

For information and tickets visit www.westsideballet.com. The Broad Stage is located at 1310 11th Street.

'TIS THE SEASON FOR DOCUMENTARIES

There are two terrific documentaries opening tomorrow.

"Monk with a Camera" is a moving meditation on the life and work of photographer and Tibetan Buddhist monk (now Abbot) Nicholas Vreeland, grandson of fashion icon, Diana Vreeland (Vogue magazine).

And "She's Beautiful When She's Angry," is a truly edifying, entertaining and historic overview of the feminist movement.

"She's Beautiful" was an eye opener for me. It's funny how when you're living through an era such as the 60s and 70s, you can't really get the big picture or see the impact of the history unfolding around you. Growing up in this period, confronting many of the same issues they did, I personally felt the fights that feminists fought on my behalf while fighting my own battles in my own way.

Notwithstanding the suffragette movement, with its more-than-century-old history that took decades to give women the right to vote, it's easy to forget how new the rights that feminism brought us really are, how relatively quickly the changes came to pass- and how threats to our liberty as women are rearing their ugly heads again.

This film focuses on women who don't immediately come to mind when discussing the movement and/or women's liberation. We all know who Gloria Steinem and the late Betty Friedan are, but this film focuses on unsung but crucial figures whose histories might otherwise have been overlooked.

How many of us remember the collective that created "Our Bodies, Ourselves," the worldwide phenomenon that gave women their first glimpse into the mysteries of female anatomy? It's still being revised and updated and continues to sell millions of copies globally.

We learn about the beginnings of NOW, the National Organization for Women, founded when gloves and hats were still mandatory for proper ladies.

Sexual freedom may have been easy for men, but birth control became the responsibility of women. We meet the leaders of the pro-choice movement, and creators of the abortion underground during the days when it was still illegal.

This is a really important documentary that brings us into contact with the grassroots organizers of the movement and the different factions within it.

I highly recommend "She's Beautiful When She's Angry," which was funded via a Kickstarter campaign. Go see it as soon as you can at Landmark's Nuart Theatre in West Los Angeles. It opens on Friday for a short run. www.landmarktheatres.com.

MONK WITH A CAMERA

While women's liberation came out of the actions of women banding together to change their world, Buddhism is a practice that looks to make the world a better by making changes from within.

Perhaps the least likely man to become the Abbot of one of the most important Tibetan Buddhist monasteries in exile, Nicholas Vreeland, the son of a diplomat who'd been raised in Europe and lived in New York City, was a wealthy, privileged member of high society, and a fashion dandy who loved women.

One passion that he pursued to perfection was photography. Through his grandmother's connections, he apprenticed with two of the most famous photographers of his (and all) time, Irving Penn and Richard Avedon.

With his mother facing a diagnosis of cancer, he began to wonder whether there was more to life than superficial pleasures, something more spiritually fulfilling. Following a break-in resulting in the theft of all his camera equipment, he decided it was a sign of a new beginning. Having met one of the Dalai Lama's own spiritual teachers, he began to study Buddhism.

A life-changing trip to India ultimately brought him to a then-rundown monastery that served as a way station for Tibetan monks in exile, fleeing a harsh crackdown by China which had taken control of their country.

Vreeland met the Dalai Lama, who saw something in him and advised him to begin his Buddhist practice in earnest at the Rato Monastery in India. Without a camera for many years, Vreeland focused on practicing Buddhism and studying to become a monk.

The Dalai Lama would later tell Vreeland he could be an important link between Tibetan Buddhism and the Western world. So he returned to the U.S. to study with the Dalai Lama's now-aging master, Khyongla Rato Rinpoche, founder of the Tibet Center in New York.

Although Vreeland struggled with the question of whether it was right for a monk to take photographs, ultimately he found both his own and his mentors' approval to resume his art.

And it is this art that made it possible for him to rebuild the monastery, which was bursting at the seams. An exhibition of pictures he shot at the monastery raised the needed money for its reconstruction, with a few bumps along the way.

Recently, the Dalai Lama appointed Vreeland as Abbot of the Rato monastery, making him the first Westerner in Tibetan Buddhist history to attain such a highly regarded position. "Monk With a Camera" chronicles Vreeland's journey from playboy to monk to artist.

His photos will be on view through Jan. 23 at The Royal Theatre, part of the Laemmle "Art in the Arthouse" series; the film opens on Friday at The Royal, 11523 Santa Monica Blvd. in West L.A. www.laemmle.com

SARAH A. SPITZ spent her career as a producer at public radio station KCRW-Santa Monica and produced freelance arts reports for NPR. She has also reviewed theatre for LAOpeningNights.com.

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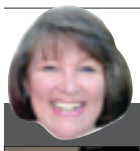
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OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. 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.



Play Time

Cynthia Citron
Send comments to editor@smdp.com



Courtesy Photo

ONE-WOMAN-SHOW: **Monica Piper presents the story of her life through December 21.**

The Piper Plays A Merry Tune

WHEN MAY LEE DAVIS WAS LOOKING for a pizzazzy name to reflect her ascending career as a standup comedian, she was suddenly inspired by a large neon sign that identified the Santa Monica Pier. She added a well-placed P, and just like that, May Lee Davis became Monica Piper.

Piper is still going strong. Her latest performance was commissioned by the Jewish Women's Theater and tells the story of her life in hilarious detail. The one-woman show is called "Not That Jewish" and can be seen at the JWT in its new venue at The Braid in Santa Monica.

She talks about her father, a vaudevillian who encouraged her by passing on his particularly Jewish shticks, and her mother, who specialized in making chopped liver. "So when a Jewish person asks 'What am I, chopped liver?' The answer is 'Yes,'" Piper says.

She tells of her marriage to a blond, blue-eyed Gentile god and her mother-in-law's wedding invitation which announced her handsome Harvard-educated lawyer son's marriage to "a short Jewish girl who smokes."

At that point, Piper says, she didn't know which was worse, "being Jewish or being short."

So, after she and the god divorced, she became an English teacher, but, she says, she "couldn't handle the money or the prestige."

Moving on, she studied improv with Second City in Chicago and then, going solo, she became one of Showtime Network's Comedy All-Stars and landed her own Ace Award-winning Showtime Special, "No Monica…Just You."

After being nominated for an American Comedy Award as one of the top five female comedians in the country, she went on to write for Roseanne Barr on the hit sit-com "Roseanne."

She also wrote for "Mad About You", "Veronica's Closet", and "Duckman", won an Emmy for the #1 children's animated series, "Rugrats", and developed and wrote series for Nickelodeon, Disney, and Cartoon Network.

Then, with her usual "Jew ne sais quoi", she married again, to another blond, blue-eyed Gentile. "It could have worked out," she explains, "if he'd been an entirely different person."

She talks about her neighbor, whose dog was named Get off the f-ing couch. "And isn't that a coincidence," she says. "Her husband was named that, too."

She talks about having a yard sale and finding that "a blouse I had spent $100 on no one would buy for a quarter."

And then, with her biological clock ticking, she decided, at 41, to adopt. Her son Jake, now a young man, provides additional spice to her story, as she tells of the challenges of being his mother and bringing him up alone.

She also tells, with great poignancy, of the death of her father, her mother's struggle with Alzheimer's, and her own battle with cancer. "So what do Jews do in times of crisis?" she asks. "They complain!"

But there is little complaint from Monica Piper. Turning adversity into comedy and idiocy into irony, she presents her life with no holds barred, and, despite the vexations, she appears to have enjoyed every minute of it.

And so will you.

Monica Piper in "Not That Jewish" will continue at The Braid, 2912 Colorado Ave., #102. In Santa Monica on Thursdays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 and 7:30 p.m. through Dec. 21. Call (310) 315-1400 or visit www.jewishwomenstheatre.org, for tickets.

CYNTHIA CITRON has worked as a journalist, public relations director, documentary screenwriter and theater reviewer. She may be reached at ccitron66@gmail.com





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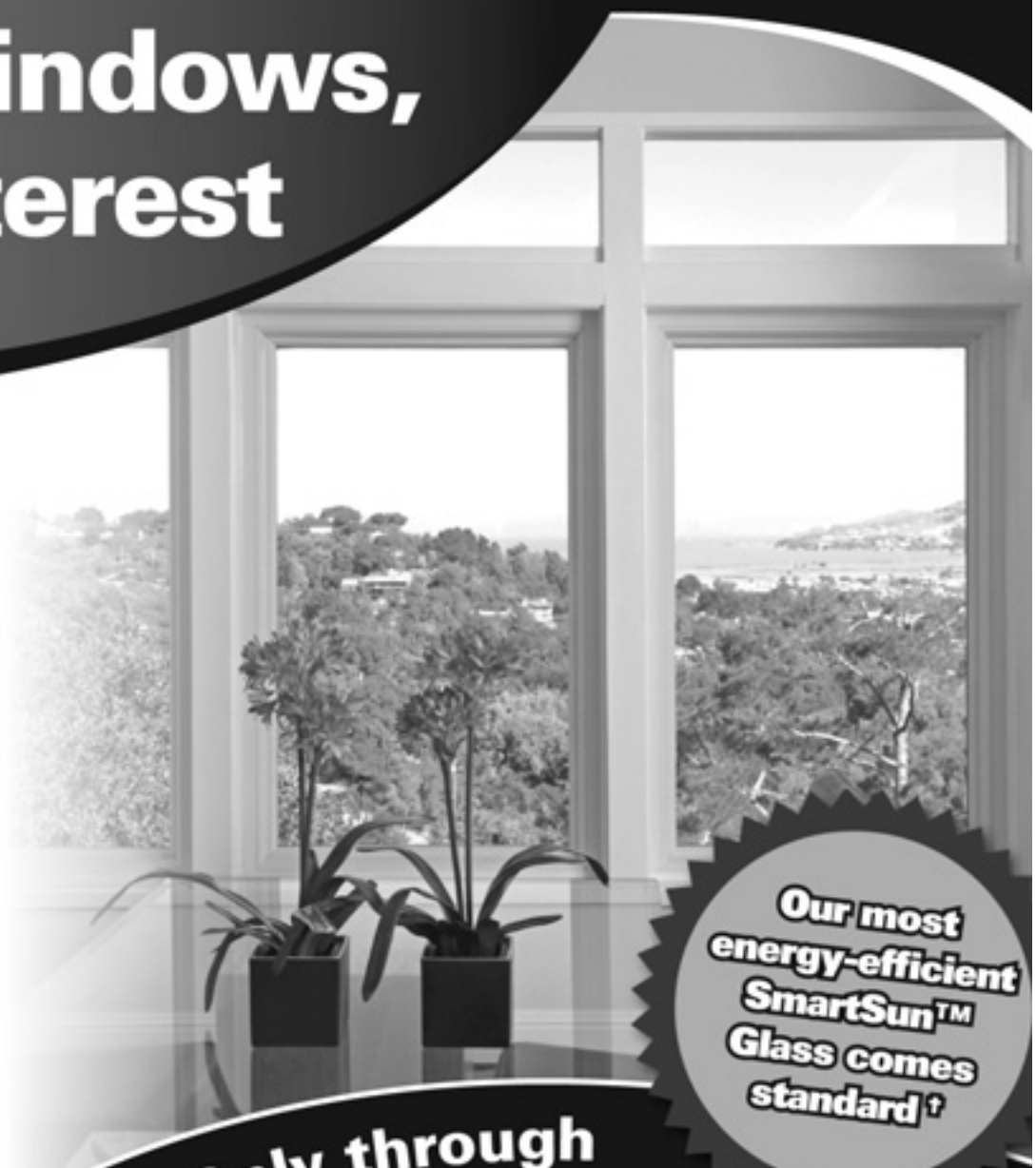
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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SMC

SMC presents holiday art sale

Santa Monica College's 37th Annual Holiday Student Art Sale, featuring a wide range of works in various media, will be a three-day event again this year. The sale will be held Friday, Dec. 12, through Sunday, Dec. 14. Hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, and 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday

The sale will be held at the Pete & Susan Barrett Art Gallery, located at the SMC Performing Arts Center on Santa Monica Boulevard at 11th Street, Santa Monica. Ample free parking will be available.

Offering an excellent selection to satisfy both holiday and year-round gift needs, the sale is a once-a-year opportunity to buy some truly unique works of art, including ceramics, blown glass, jewelry, prints, and more.

Proceeds from the sale help support the SMC Art Department.

For more information about the Holiday Student Art Sale or SMC's art programs, please call (310) 434-4230.

– SUBMITTED BY GRACE SMITH

1450 Ocean

City of Santa Monica Hosts 2nd Repair Café

If it's broke, fix it! Come to the City of Santa Monica's Repair Café at 1450 Ocean on Dec. 13, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. to learn how to fix common household items. Experienced volunteers, known as "Fixers" will be there to offer their expertise.

Hosted by the Resource Recovery & Recycling Division, the Repair Café will focus on repair and reuse as part of the city's Zero Waste Strategic Plan. Organizers said that we throw away an incredible amount of stuff everyday - but imagine extending the life of items at little to no cost. Saving used items from landfills is key to reducing waste.

Bring torn clothes, books, broken furniture, electrical appliances, bicycles, computers, and toys. The Repair Café Fixers are experienced electricians, seamstresses, carpenters, and more. They will offer instruction, tools and materials to fix what you need repaired.

This event brings together 1450 Ocean's Free Craft Lounge, where all are invited to work on craft projects, and our biannual Repair Cafe, which brings together community experts with those seeking to learn how to repair common household items.

For more information: Visit www.smgov.net/r3 or visit us on Facebook www.facebook.com/SantaMonicaRRR.

- SUBMITTED BY CARRIE LUJAN

CITYWIDE

Local woman signs book deal with HarperCollins

Rachel K. Burke has signed a three-book deal with HarperCollins's digital first romance imprint, HarperImpulse. Her first novel, Sound Bites, was published on Dec. 5, 2013. The sequel, Love Bites, is being released as an eBook on Dec. 29, 2014, and will be released in paperback on Feb. 26, 2015. It is available to pre-order immediately, details are available at http://www.harperimpulseromance.com or http://www.rachelkburke.com.

Rachel initially self-published Sound Bites as an eBook where it received excellent reviews, and placed in the Amazon top 100 bestseller list in both 2012 and 2013, ultimately resulting in this book deal with book publisher, HarperCollins.

"I am thrilled to be a part of the team at HarperImpulse," said Burke. "They are an incredibly successful publishing company, and team has been wonderful to work with. With their support, I'm excited to expose Sound Bites series to a wider market. It's a dream come true."

Sound Bites is described as a novel about love, friendship, betrayal, forgiveness, and the power of music to help you find your way. In Love Bites, characters learn that right and wrong decisions aren't always black and white, and sometimes you have to follow your heart to see where it leads.

Ruston Hutton, Harper Impulse's fiction editors, said, "Sound Bites is a slick, cool New Adult book with brilliant, quirky central characters, a fab setting in the music world and a fresh, addictive relationship plot. Rachel K Burke has the most beautiful voice, transporting you straight into her world - making it more like a snapshot of real life than a story. As poignantly emotional as it is wryly funny, it leaves you eager for Rachel's next book. New Adult fans and fiction readers alike are in for a treat with Sound Bites ... and we predict it's just the start of a long writing career."

– SUBMITTED BY HARPER IMPULSE



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

Resource Recovery & Recycling Division www.smgov.net/r3
WINTER 2014
REPAIR CAFE
Free repairs & demos!
Textile recycling also available.
Convenient drop-off in front of facility
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• Bicycles • Jewelry
• Clothing • And more!
• Electronics
Additional workshops:
• Tai Chi
• Eco-Friendly Gift Wrapping
• Craft Lounge with reDiscover
In partnership with:
Community & Cultural Services Department
www.facebook.com/1450ocean

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed bids for:

BID #4172 FURNISH AND DELIVER FOURTEEN (14) NEW AND UNUSED CNG POWERED FORD F150 PICK-UP TRUCKS, AS REQUIRED BY FLEET MANAGEMENT.

- **Submission Deadline is January 12, 2015 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

BID #4174 FURNISH AND DELIVER THREE (3) NEW AND UNUSED 3/4 TON EXTENDED CAB SERVICE BODY TRUCKS, AS REQUIRED BY FLEET MANAGEMENT.

- **Submission Deadline is January 13, 2015 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

BID #4176 FURNISH AND DELIVER EIGHT (8) NEW AND UNUSED CHEVY SPARK EV 1LT VEHICLES, AS REQUIRED BY FLEET MANAGEMENT.

- **Submission Deadline is January 14, 2015 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

The bid packets can be downloaded at:

- **http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/QuickSearch.cfm**

Request for bid forms and specifications may be obtained by e-mailing your request to Regina.Benavides@smgov.net. Bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica.

MAYOR
FROM PAGE 1

Himmelrich.

A former planning commissioner, Himmelrich nominated McKeown, Vazquez, and Winterer for the positions.

"I have worked with Ted and Tony and Kevin and most of the people up here and I think that Kevin is way due for this," she said. "I think Tony is way due for this. I think that all three of them will do a great job."

The nominations mark the end of two-year terms for Pam O'Connor and Terry O'Day as mayor and pro tempore respectively.

O'Day — following Himmelrich's nomination but before the vote — suggested that Winterer be mayor for two years. Winterer hesitated, speaking off-microphone with O'Day and O'Connor to his left and right. He then suggested that the first nomination — of McKeown, Vazquez, and himself — be accepted through acclamation, or a voice vote. O'Connor suggested Gleam Davis for mayor but Davis quickly withdrew her name. Winterer quickly followed suit. In doing so, he may have turned down a two-year term as mayor.

"There are probably better ways to start off a new council than by electing the mayor the way we do," Winterer told the Daily Press after the meeting. "The first thing you do most times around is just get everybody angry at each other."

Had Winterer accepted the nomination and voted for himself he may have had the votes necessary — from Davis, O'Day, and O'Connor — to take the seat.

"My sense was that Sue's compromise motion, which allowed us all to share the responsibility of being mayor and mayor pro temp, seemed to be met with a positive response. I just didn't see any reason, at that point, to do anything but step back and have us move forward in the next two years harmoniously."

After the unanimous affirmation by council, of McKeown, Vazquez, and Winterer, the standing room only audience erupted in applause.

"I want to thank Pam O'Connor for her service as mayor," McKeown said of his political rival as he assumed the mayor's seat. "I want to acknowledge that we've made history here tonight because Antonio Vazquez is going to be the first Latino mayor in the history of the city of Santa Monica and that is long overdue. And lastly, I want to note that we are a city with many challenges ahead of us in the coming year and I hope that we, the City Council representing our community, can work together as a team, addressing the issues. I'm very honored to the be the mayor but I hope we can lead in every seat."

Santa Monica's mayor is always a council member selected, every two years, by his or her council colleagues. The position is largely, though not entirely, ceremonial. Aside from the title, the mayor leads council meetings and, along with the mayor pro tempore, sets the agendas for the meetings.

McKeown, whose gruff approach sometimes ruffles the feathers of his colleagues, was the longest serving council member not to have taken a turn as mayor. He was the top vote-getter in his last three elections. He served as mayor pro tempore for three years.

dave@smdp.com

SCHOOL
FROM PAGE 1

frustrated about several issues, from toxicity to issues with construction that was done improperly, it's probably a good time to have somebody who's very level-headed and has a lot of community buy-in," he said.

Mechur placed fifth in a race for four seats in November, losing out to Boardmember Oscar de la Torre by less than a percentage point.

He'll be submitting an application.

At a board meeting, after the election but prior to the end of his term, members of the teachers union expressed support for Mechur's appointment.

Mechur joined the board through an appointment in 2007 after Emily Bloomfield announced she would step down because her family was moving to Washington, D.C.

Mechur was elected in 2010.

He was endorsed by Santa Monicans for Renters' Right (SMRR), the city's largest political party, before this election.

Jon Kean, who's currently the PTA President at Lincoln Middle School, said that he, too, will throw his hat in the ring this year. He's also served as the PTA President at Roosevelt Elementary School.

"As someone who has spent over a decade working as a parent leader at both the site and district level and as a PTA President at two schools, I am uniquely qualified to participate in the discussions necessary to determine and set policy with the Board of Education," he said in an e-mail. "At the same time, thanks to my experiences at various sites, I understand the realities of how things operate in the actual world that is our schools."

Kean presents himself as someone who's willing to jump the logistical hurdles in order to deliver the best outcomes for kids.

"I believe that the one guiding principle in our district should be: if there is something that would be beneficial for a student and we are capable of doing it, then we must do it," he said. "Too often, our first instinct is to resist change, based on budget constraints or institutional tradition."

Santa Monica-Malibu PTA Council President Rochelle Fanali said she is not planning to apply for the vacated Ed Board seat. As a PTA officer, she can't endorse any of the candidates.

The Daily Press reached out to the sixth and seventh place candidates in November's race, Dhun May and Patty Finer, to see if they were interested in the seat.

May had expressed interest in filling the open seat while on the campaign trail but did not respond to request for comment by press time.

Finer expressed interest in being on the board but was not aware, prior to the Daily Press' inquiries, that she could apply for the position. She will apply, she said.

dave@smdp.com

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21 | 1 & 5 pm

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ICE Grand Opening
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Corner of 5th St. & Arizona Ave.
Downtown Santa Monica Community
Tree Lighting & Santa Parade
Nov. 20, 2014
Promenade Santa Arrival | 6pm
Santa Monica Place Tree Lighting | 6:30pm
Photos with Santa
Nov. 21, 2014 – Dec. 24, 2014 | 11am – 8pm
Santa Monica Place, Center Court
Let it Snow
Nov. 27, 2014 Thanksgiving Day | 6pm
Third Street Promenade @ Wilshire
"Paws & Claus" Pet Photos w Santa Claus
Dec. 1, 8 & 15, 2014 | 5pm – 8pm
Santa Monica Place
Story Time With Mrs. Claus
Dec. 3, 2014 | 11am
Santa Monica Place, SAMO's Kids Club
Christmas Karaoke & Kids Crafts
Dec. 4, 2014 | 6pm
Third Street Promenade @ Wilshire
Breakfast with Santa
Dec. 6, 2014 | 9am
Santa Monica Place
Holiday Story Time & Letters to Santa
Dec. 11, 2014 | 6pm
Third Street Promenade @ Wilshire
Menorah Lightings
Dec. 16 - Dec. 23, 2014 | Sundown
Third Street Promenade between
Arizona Ave & Santa Monica Blvd.
Holiday Movie Night
with Hot Chocolate
Dec. 18, 2014 | 6pm
Third Street Promenade @ Wilshire
PAL Best Gift Ever Toy Drive
Nov. 6 – Dec. 12, 2014
Donate a new unwrapped gift or gift card!
Drop-off locations:
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ICE PAL | Corner of 5th St. & Arizona Avenue
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ART
FROM PAGE 1

exhibit showcases the way artists are working to promote social change.

"What I like to say in summary is they make beautiful art, do beautiful work and do beautiful actions," she said.

She said the museum has an ongoing commitment to art education. The organization also has a commitment to art as social action and while every exhibit isn't always focused on the same topics, the institution looks for opportunities to showcase, and teach about, social change.

Central to the exhibit, and the teen project, is Suzanne Lacy's participatory, legislative project No Blood/No Foul. The mixed media installation and video documents Lacy's 10-year project in Oakland that brought together different sections of the community for discussion and education about youth issues in the 1990's.

During the program, museum officials trained students to give tours of the exhibit. Each student then had to explain two pieces of art in the exhibit to a local police officer. Students were required to use No Blood/No Foul as one piece but had free choice for the other.

"We gave the youth the responsibility to retain the information, for their own learning, then to share that knowledge to the best of their ability and share it with those that are willing," said Hisa. "It was great. It gave them the challenge of responsibility and they rose up and they did it."

Hisa said the current debate regarding the use of force by police departments nationwide added particular value to Lacy's work as it serves as a way for youth and police to meet outside the traditional relationships.

"We are certainly aware of the context of 'Trayvon' and 'Ferguson' with this program but as Olympic's Criminal Justice class and SMMoA's tour initiative demonstrate, we have an ongoing commitment to empowering teens to grow, learn, and engage with society responsibly," she said. "These programs open lines of communication between youth and law enforcement in new and compelling ways."

Lacy, currently Chair of the Public Practice Program at Otis College of Art and Design, said the Santa Monica exhibition was an exercise in citizenship education that is particularly noteworthy for its efforts to help students see the local implication of broader topics.

"I think that the museum's response to making a work that occurred 10-20 years ago, in another part of the state, to make it relevant today is a good thing and part of their goal, it seems to me, is to make many peoples' interest in making art relevant to the broader public," she said.

She said the actual tours themselves should be considered a piece of art that fits into the historical context of life interactions as artistic subjects.

"The theater of every day life is now accepted as an artistic response to current social conditions, whether it's a poster, mural or what I would call a performance," she said. "The performance in this case was Asuka framed a learning opportunity for young people and for the police officers by using the installation as the site of a real time conversation and I think that's both education and artistic."

Some of the participating students came from Anthony Fuller's government class at Olympic High School. He said the experience was incredibly valuable as a means of providing perspective for his students.

"It is incredibly topical," he said. "The fact that we are having shootings of unarmed men of color and people of color feel disenfranchised in many ways and specifically, lately, by the police. I thought this was a good way to address the issue."

Fuller said he tries to give his students a sense of the big picture when it comes to complex issues and he wants them to consider the way institutional structures and systems can be at fault when specific issues come to the forefront of the debate.

For a discussion around the relationship between police and citizens, he said he wanted his students to have an experience that helped them understand the individuals in the uniforms as opposed to just seeing an institution. Through their explanations of the art exhibits, he said students found connections to officers that were stronger than any academic exercise could have been.

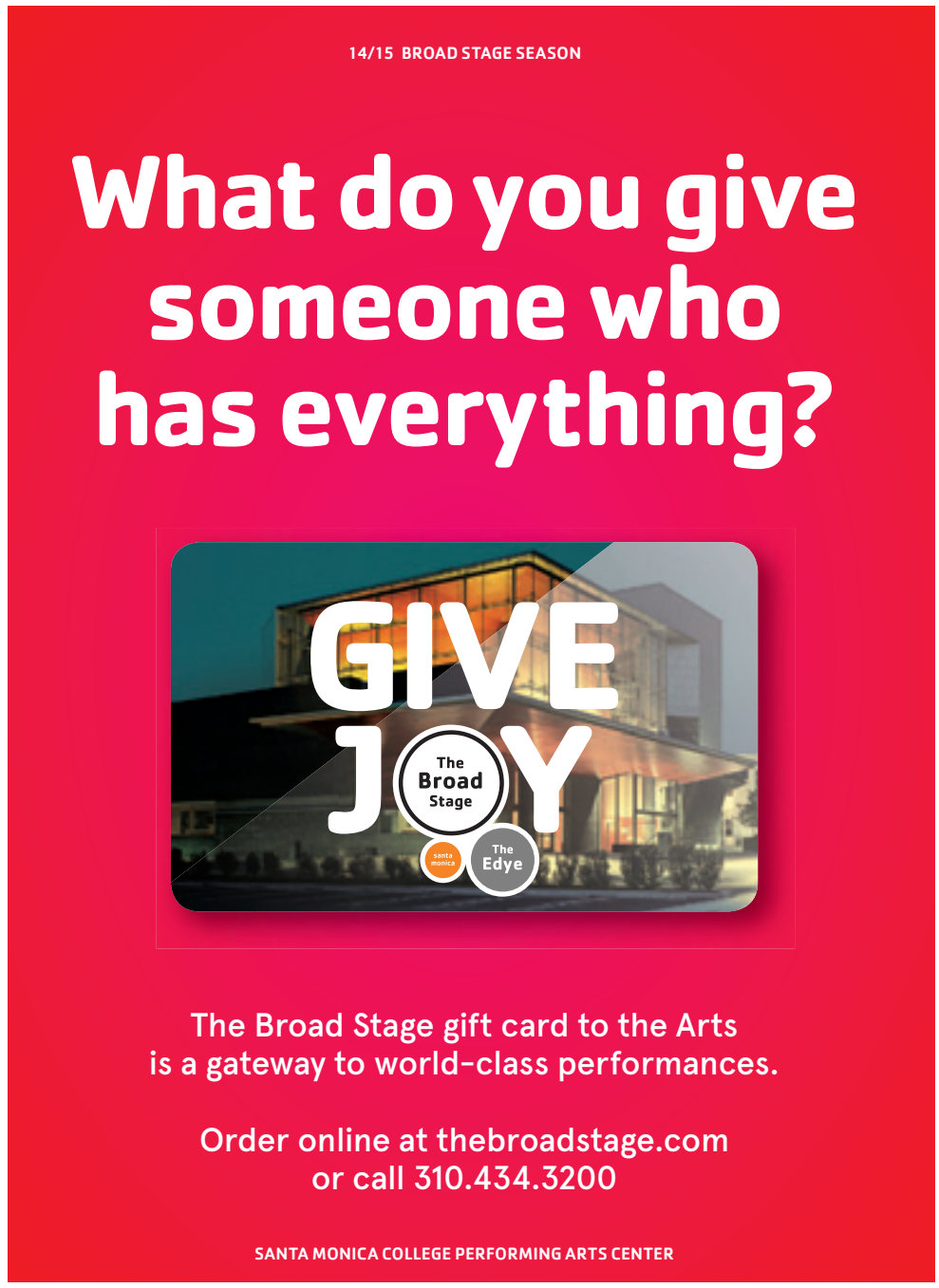
"It wasn't necessarily about the actual pieces of art," he said. "You know how we sometimes get along better with our parents when there are other people around, because you can't focus on each other? Well (students and officers) couldn't really focus on each other and focus on the art and talk about it. Neither group are art aficionados so they both went in there with fresh eyes and had a shared experience and they did it in a way that I don't know I could ever do."

matt@smdp.com













SANTA MONICA VS. ST. MONICA

Morgan Genser *editor@smdp.com*

Santa Monica High School played St. Monica's in the first round of the St. Monica Classic basketball tournament on Dec. 9. The St. Monica team won 44-40. Pictured are Alejandra Lopez from St. Monica's jumping for a lay-up past Amanda Foshag from Samohi and Imanni Maxwell from Samohi driving to the basket on her way to attempt a lay-up in between Sara Gobrial and Faith Nduti from St. Monica's.

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF PREPARATION/ SCOPING MEETING FOR A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT / ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED SANTA MONICA PIER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

DATE: December 11, 2014

TO: State Clearinghouse, Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, Organizations, & Interested Parties

LEAD AGENCY:
City of Santa Monica,
Civil Engineering Division
1437 4th Street, Suite 300,
Santa Monica, CA 90401
Contact: Selim Eren,
Phone: (310) 458-8721 ext. 5107,
E-mail: selim.eren@smgov.net

The City of Santa Monica intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA) for the Santa Monica Pier Bridge Replacement Project. In accordance with Section 15082 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the City of Santa Monica has prepared this Notice of Preparation to provide Responsible Agencies and other interested parties with information describing the proposal and its potential environmental effects. Environmental factors that could be potentially affected by the proposed project are:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Construction Effects
- Cultural Resources
- Economic and Social Impacts
- Geology / Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology / Water Quality
- Land Use / Planning
- Neighborhood Effects
- Noise
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Shadows
- Transportation / Traffic / Circulation
- Utilities / Service Systems
- Mandatory Findings of Significance

PROJECT APPLICANT:
City of Santa Monica

PROJECT LOCATION: The project site is located in the western portion of Los Angeles County, in the City of Santa Monica Intersection of Ocean Avenue and Colorado Avenue and intersection of Appian Way and Moss Avenue, extending west to the Santa Monica Pier, Santa Monica, California.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Pier Bridge structure extends west on Colorado Avenue from the intersection of Ocean Avenue and Colorado Avenue and connects to the Santa Monica Pier. The Pier Bridge was built in 1939 and is near the end of its useful life, with a sufficiency rating lower than 25 out of 100. The bridge is considered to be structurally deficient and functionally obsolete.

The proposed project would be implemented primarily for seismic safety to improve the structural stability of the Pier Bridge. The project would also address vehicular and pedestrian congestion and safety concerns at the Pier Bridge. Traffic and pedestrian congestion occurs on the Pier Bridge throughout the year. The pedestrian volumes exceed the sidewalk capacity on the bridge forcing pedestrians on to the vehicular lanes bringing vehicular traffic to a standstill. With the completion of the EXPO light rail, Santa Monica Downtown Metro Station and Colorado Esplanade Project, the pedestrian volume is expected to increase exponentially. After an extensive conceptual design process, three alternatives were developed to address the reconstruction of the Pier Bridge: Alternatives 1, 2, and 3.

Under Alternatives 1 and 2, the existing Pier Bridge would be demolished and a new wider bridge would be constructed in the same location. The replacement bridge would be approximately 58 feet wide, a total of 24 feet wider than the existing bridge. The replacement bridge would feature separate lanes for pedestrians, bicycles, and vehicles. During construction, temporary vehicular and pedestrian bridges would be provided to maintain access to the Pier. The temporary pedestrian bridge would connect Ocean Avenue to the Pier and may be located on the north or south side of the existing bridge alignment. Under Alternative 1, the temporary vehicular bridge would be located at Moss Avenue between Appian Way and the Pier for the duration of the construction. Under Alternative 2, the temporary vehicular ramp would be located at north and west of the existing bridge alignment providing vehicular access from the beach parking lot adjacent to the pier for the duration of the construction.

Under Alternative 3, two permanent bridges would be constructed. A new permanent bridge would be constructed at Moss Avenue between Appian Way and the Pier for public vehicular access to the Pier parking. The new permanent bridge at Moss Avenue would be used during construction of the Pier Bridge replacement bridge, as well as permanently as the main vehicular access to the Pier. The existing Pier Bridge would be demolished and a new bridge would be constructed with the same current width of 34 feet, but would be designed primarily for pedestrian and bicycle traffic. The Pier Bridge will also serve the purpose of providing limited access for emergency and delivery vehicles during off peak periods.

Please visit the following website for more information about the project:
www.smconstructs.org/smpierbridge or
www.smgov.net/smpierbridge

REVIEW PERIOD: As specified by the State CEQA Guidelines, the Notice of Preparation will be circulated for a minimum of 30-day review period. The City of Santa Monica welcomes agency and public input during this period regarding the scope and content of environmental information related to your agency's responsibility that must be included in the Draft EIR/EA. **Comments may be submitted, in writing, by 5:30 p.m. on February 2, 2015** and addressed to:

Selim Eren, P.E., Civil Engineer
City of Santa Monica
- Civil Engineering Division
1437 4th Street,
Suite 300, Santa Monica, CA 90401
Phone: (310) 458-8721 ext. 5107,
e-mail: selim.eren@smgov.net

SCOPING MEETING: The City has scheduled a Public Scoping Meeting for the EIR/EA to describe the proposed project, the environmental review process, and to receive your input on the information that should be in the EIR/EA. The Public Scoping Meeting is scheduled at the following time and location:

Tuesday January 6, 2015
5:30 PM – 8:00 PM
Ken Edwards Center
1527 Fourth Street
Santa Monica 90401

ESPAÑOL: Esto es una noticia de la preparación de un reporte sobre el remplazo del puente al muelle de Santa Monica, lo cual puede ser de interés a usted. Para más información, llame a
Carmen Gutierrez, al número
(310) 458-8341.

Is rider safety the real Achilles heel for Uber and Lyft?

BARBARA ORTUTAY &
JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES The growth of ride-hailing companies such as Uber and Lyft so far has not been hindered by limits from government regulators and campaigns by taxi cab competitors. A bigger threat to the new industry's impressive start could come from customers - if enough people stop using the services over fears that drivers aren't safe.

Not safe as in the drivers won't get into an accident - safe as in they won't attack passengers.

Uber operates in more than 250 cities in 50 countries, and recently was valued at $40 billion based on $1.2 billion that investors poured into the company in its latest funding round. Lyft, meanwhile, operates in 70 markets in the U.S., up from 30 at the start of the year.

So far, controversies have not seemed impact the popularity of ride-hailing apps. They boast several advantages over taxis, including no-cash payments and an app that shows how far away a car is and whether the driver received positive reviews from prior riders. Uber ranks 39th in the Apple iTunes store among the most popular free apps, ahead of Gmail and the music streaming service Pandora. Lyft, which is much smaller, is not in the top 100.

But just this week, California prosecutors sued both, saying they misrepresent and exaggerate the rigor of their background checks. Police in India questioned an Uber executive about its background checks after a driver was accused of raping a passenger. And Uber removed a driver in Chicago after a customer reported she was sexually assaulted during a ride in the city last month. The company said it is cooperating with police in what it called "an appalling and unacceptable incident.

This week's incidents follow scattered anecdotes of previous assaults by Uber drivers. They don't prove the services are unsafe alternatives to traditional taxis. But they do present a challenge if riders begin to think they reflect a systemic disregard for passenger safety.

Jeff Brewer, pastor at a church in the Chicago suburbs, wouldn't step into an Uber car. Though he likes the convenience Uber would bring, he sticks with taxis on trips into the city.

"Whether it's right or wrong, there's at least some sort of perception that there's a company that has vetted the person," he said.

As with airlines, if passenger safety becomes an ongoing issue with Uber rather than isolated incidents, it could face long-term consequences, said Alex Stanton, a crisis management and communications specialist.

"At some level, there is a point at which safety does trump convenience," Stanton said.

The safety and regulatory issues "absolutely" affect Uber's valuation, said Sam Hamadeh, CEO of research firm PrivCo. Unlike, say Twitter and WhatsApp, Uber is not a "nice, clean technology company, the type that venture capitalists in Silicon Valley usually invest in - which is software, Web apps" and so on, he said.

"Here you are talking about actually, physically having to transport people," he said. "Uber's work isn't done once the taxi is hailed on their app. That's when all the problems begin."

On its website, Uber says its drivers are "screened through a rigorous process we've developed using constantly improving standards." In a written statement, Uber added that it screens would-be drivers against "federal, multi-state and county criminal background checks spanning the past seven years." The company expects to complete more than 2 million checks this year, according to spokesman Lane Kasselman.

But California prosecutors, who filed lawsuits against Uber in San Francisco Superior Court, say the company's safety checks are not as rigorous as they sound. Unlike with regulated taxis in San Francisco and Los Angeles, Uber's background checks do not require drivers be fingerprinted.

Hirease, the company that performs Uber's background checks, instead relies on "personal identifiers," such as license numbers and Social Security numbers are supplied by the applicants. As such, the lawsuit says, there is no way to ensure that the applicants are who they say they are.

As part of a settlement of a similar lawsuit, Uber rival Lyft agreed to drop claims that its background checks are the "best available" and the "gold standard."

Lyft spokeswoman Erin Simpson said in an emailed statement that the company has "pioneered strict safety screening criteria that far exceed what's required for taxis and limos in nearly every municipality across the country."

Regulators at the California Public Utilities Commission are revisiting ride-hailing company rules they put in place last year. Among the questions: "Did we get the criminal background check right, is it exhaustive as it should be," said Marzia Zafar, director of the agency's policy and planning division. That review is likely to take about a year.

She did note that most of the 100 or so phone calls the commission received this year and converted into written complaints against ride-hailing companies had to do with fee charges, not safety.

Cab drivers have seized on the safety issue, however, saying that taxi drivers have to pass government-standard checks which cost more but do a better job screening out bad applicants. The Taxicab, Limousine & Paratransit Association has launched a "Who's Driving You?" campaign targeting Uber and Lyft.

"Once consumers realize Uber and Lyft are cutting costs, they'll begin to shy away," said Dave Sutton, an association spokesman.

Ortutay reported from New York. Paul Elias contributed from San Francisco.

At 84, Rowlands dances back onscreen in 'Lessons'

MIKE CIDONI LENNOX
AP Entertainment Writer

WEST HOLLYWOOD Don't get Gena Rowlands started on the bulk of film roles she gets offered these days: a lot of grumpy and ill-fated old women.

"I can say, for sure, I die," the actress noted, smiling. "But I have had some really great parts, too."

Indeed, the 84-year-old veteran's resume includes two Oscar nominations earned while working with her late husband, actor-director John Cassavetes, first for their 1974 indie classic "A Woman Under the Influence" and again for the 1980 crime drama "Gloria."

A new generation of filmgoers was introduced to Rowlands as the elderly version of the Rachel McAdams character in the 2004 romantic-drama blockbuster "The Notebook," directed by Rowlands' son, Nick Cassavetes.

In "Six Dance Lessons in Six Weeks," opening this weekend, Rowlands is Lily Harrison, a sharp-tongued septuagenarian who gets more than she bargained for after hiring a private dance instructor, portrayed by Cheyenne Jackson.

Rowlands said she wasn't much of a dancer at the start of shooting the film adaptation of the stage play, but learned enough to get by from Broadway veteran Jackson ("Xanadu").

And Rowlands returned the favor, offering her co-star advice about acting. Recalled Jackson: "We were talking about close-ups, and I had to do a monologue and was kind of in my head about it and she said, 'If you think it, the camera will see it.'"

Added Rowlands: "You know John Cassavetes did the same thing for me. I was stuck on one of the first pictures that he and I did together and I couldn't quite get it. I said, 'John, would you give me a hint about this?' He said, 'I wrote the script and I wrote it with you in mind. And you read it.' And he said, 'You do it. Now do it!' That's the best advice I ever had."

Rowland's award wins including four Emmys and two Golden Globes, and last week, she was honored with a handprint ceremony in front of Hollywood's Chinese Theatre.

Looking back on her career, Rowlands said, "I just think the really wonderful thing about acting is that you get to lead so many lives. You don't just have to get stuck with your own life, even if you like your own life. Every part you play opens part of the world to you, and you can't help but understand more things than when you started."

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Cuban defectors are trending in baseball

BY TONY CAPOBIANCO
Special to the Daily Press

Yasmany Tomas grew up as the son of a humble fuel-truck driver in the island nation of Cuba, who over time, had her beauty and luster slowly sapped away from communism and isolation. Many have tried to escape the island for the hope of freedom in America only 90 miles within their haggard grasps.

Those who failed faced lifetime of suffering along, with their family. Those who succeed in defecting, like Tomas and many before him, sign multi-million dollar contracts.

Tomas escaped Cuba in June of 2014 and landed in Haiti, where he later established residency and became an MLB free agent. There is a current climate in baseball were teams are rich in pitching yet starving for sluggers. With the recent hitting market relatively thin in depth, teams have been treating Cuban sluggers and pitchers fresh off defection like premier free agents.

First Aroldis Chapman signed for six years, $30.5 million in 2010. Then people saw him throw 100 MPH at will for the playoff bound Cincinnati Reds. Which led to Yonis Cespedes signing for four years, $36 million and Yasiel Puig with the Los Angeles Dodgers for seven years, $42 million in 2012. Then they led their respective teams to the postseason in exciting fashion filled with glamour and Home Run Derby trophies. Which then led to the White Sox signing Jose Abreu to six-years, $68 million only to see him club 36 home runs right off the bat.

Which now leads to Tomas, who is a part of a trend where Cuban defectors are signed, sealed and delivered to Major League Baseball with the same hype as NBA rookie franchise saviors. Everyone wanted Tomas but the Arizona Diamondbacks got him for six-years, $68 million, the exact same contract as Abreu.

"Recently Cuban players are reemerging," said Tony LaRussa, Hall of Fame manager and chief baseball officer of the Diamondbacks. "You go to the old days with [Tony] Oliva, and [Bert] Campaneris, so you know they're playing quality baseball down there. But when you make an acquisition, some of the first clubs that did it, and they had success, we all paid attention. So I think it's fair to say that Cuba will now be viewed as Mexico, Puerto Rico, Dominican, and Latin America, Venezuela as a source of potential Major League stars."

The Diamondbacks got him with the help of former Dodgers assistant general manager De Jon Watson. He left the Dodgers in September to be the Diamondbacks senior vice president of baseball operations. The way he got Tomas is not unlike the way he got Puig to Los Angeles. According to Watson, they got themselves a great player.

"I'm excited about who he is as a man," Watson said. "The first time I met him in the Dominican, our conversation was solid and we talked about some of the players I had with the Dodgers in my past. We had good conversations and good dialogue. He told me different stories about those players and opened himself to me to see who he was as a player."

Even the Los Angeles Angels are involved in the chase. They are closing in on finalizing a deal with 20-year-old Cuban infielder Roberto Baldoquin, who will be in Los Angeles for his physical.

According to Angels' general manager Jerry Dipoto, Baldoquin is "a very well-rounded player" who's "a gifted defender with soft hands," "has plenty of arm strength to move around the diamond" and "a very advanced feel in the batter's box." His only weakness would be speed, which Dipoto called "fringe to average," but nevertheless is "a guy who has a chance to be league-average-plus bat, league-average-plus power with an above-average defender who has a great sense to play the game."

Simply put: "If you found Yasiel Puig in a shortstop package," Dipoto said, "by God, sign that guy!"

"The Cuban players right now are coming out in such a greater volume," Dipoto said. "It seems like every week, there's another six or eight guys that they have to track and some of them have a history with the Cuban national team, some of them don't."

Domestically in America, the evaluation process with players takes years - watching the potential players grow and scout them throughout their journey through the amateur ranks. With Cuban players, the scouts are starting from scratch and have to evaluate and project their potential success in the big leagues with their eyes.

The instant individual success of the Cuban players who came before Tomas and Baldoquin have created a track record that leads to them being a more coveted commodity.

SURF REPORT



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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **64.9°**

THURSDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **4-6 ft** shoulder high to 1 ft overhead occ. 7ft
West-WNW swell holds fairly steady all day; Lightest wind/best conditions early before prefrontal southerly wind gradually rises up through the day

FRIDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **5-8 ft** head high to 3 ft overhead occ. 9ft
Potential for an even larger pulse of West-WNW swell to show; Unfavorable wind/weather conditions lining up at this point;

SATURDAY – **FAIR TO GOOD** – SURF: **5-8 ft** head high to 3 ft overhead
BIGGEST EARLY; Easing West-WNW swell; Possible WNW-NW wind all day

SUNDAY – **FAIR TO GOOD** – SURF: **4-6 ft** shoulder high to 1 ft overhead
BIGGEST EARLY; Easing West-WNW swell; Possible lighter wind due

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 3, 2014**

HEAL THE BAY - 1444 9th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 - beachreportcard.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 -- 4
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 28 / 5
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 2 / 19

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: SMA Swain Barber Foundation

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	F
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisa creeks.		
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	B
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	F
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach.	A+	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	F
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 21572 Malibu Rd..	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	F
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	A	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	F
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	ns	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	D
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	B	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	B	C
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	B	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	D
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	F
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	B
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	F	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	B
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	F
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	F	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	ns	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	A+	B
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	B
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	A

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

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

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

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

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MOVIE TIMES

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

no movie

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade
(310) 458-3924

Dumb And Dumber To
12:30PM, 3:20PM, 7:45PM, 10:25PM

Gone Girl
12:00PM, 6:45PM

Interstellar
12:15PM, 3:00PM, 6:00PM, 9:40PM

Nightcrawler
4:00PM, 10:05PM

Theory Of Everything
1:55PM, 4:50PM, 7:00PM, 9:55PM

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

Big Hero 6
11:45AM, 2:35PM, 5:15PM

Exodus: Gods And Kings
8:00PM

Horrible Bosses 2
11:05AM, 1:45PM, 4:30PM, 9:00PM

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1
1:55PM, 4:50PM, 7:10PM, 9:55PM, 11:00AM

The Penguins Of Madagascar
1:35PM, 6:35PM, 11:10AM, 4:05PM

Top Five
8:00PM, 10:40PM

For more information, e-mail **editor@smdp.com**

PAINT THE TOWN RED, SAG

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Holding back and thinking before you act might not be as successful as you had hoped. Actually, you are better off being impulsive. Someone could offer a different perspective. Tonight: Add a little spice to a relationship.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Emphasis seems to be on your personal life. A partner or loved one might make a suggestion that could affect your financial situation, but you could be quite attached to the status quo. Try to open up to different perspectives. Tonight: Happiest at home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Be willing to break a standoff and make an important phone call. You might not be happy about making the first move, but ultimately it will be for the best. A friend might be unusually expressive. Try to understand what is happening. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You might want to take a hard look at your finances and decide what would be best to do. Look at a situation more carefully in order to understand what is happening with an associate. This person's optimism might not be realistic. Tonight: Relax with friends.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Someone could be a little too contentious for your taste. You might respond to this person's mood with a knee-jerk reaction, so be careful. Someone is likely to misread your intensity and your natural charisma as being something else! Tonight: Ever playful.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Be aware of your limits, and recognize that you just might not be up to snuff. It happens to everyone. Take a day off from your normal patterns and/or schedule. Create a special 12 hours for you. Do you know what that would look like? Tonight: Not to be found.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Zero in on what you want, and don't allow someone to push you too far. If this person's interests are similar enough to yours, you'll have an opportunity to work together. Tonight: Found among the crowds.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You could be wondering what the best way to handle someone would be. How you present what you want will make a big difference in the outcome. Money could be a key issue. Tonight: A must appearance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ You know where to head to get more information. Don't hesitate to go past that level and find an expert. You could be emotional when discussing various scenarios, but you will make the right choice regardless. Do not jump to conclusions. Tonight: Paint the town red.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ You relate well to others, especially if they are authentic and clear. As conversations continue, you will want to consider what you are hearing before drawing any conclusions. Let others know what you are thinking. Tonight: Find a favorite person.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Others are likely to have a lot to say. Keep an open mind, and be willing to listen and learn from them. You might have the whole situation played out in your head, but choose not to share your judgments just yet. Tonight: Go along with someone else's plans.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might be taken aback by all the possibilities that surround you. Think about what would be the best way to complete what you must do. If you do, you will be more relaxed with what serendipity presents in your life. Learn to flex. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

Thursday, December 11, 2014

This year you open up to having more compassion for others. You are likely to develop a stronger relationship with your friends and family as a result. You might be stunned when you see the difference that accepting love can make. If you are single, you are likely to go through several different relationships before you find someone you can respect who knows how to love well. If you are attached, the two of you will spend more and more time together. You often act like two teenagers in love. LEO knows how to make people relax and smile.

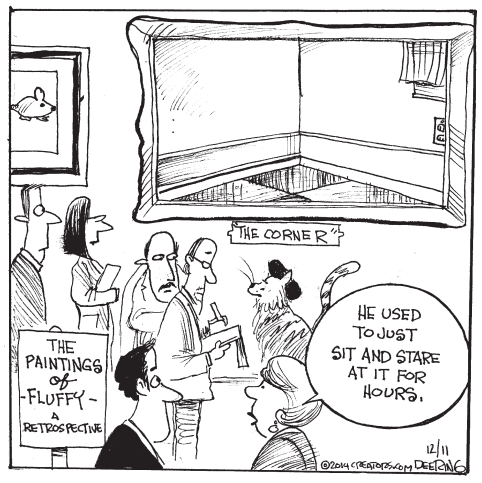
JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
Check out the HOROSCOPES above!
smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office **(310) 458-7737**

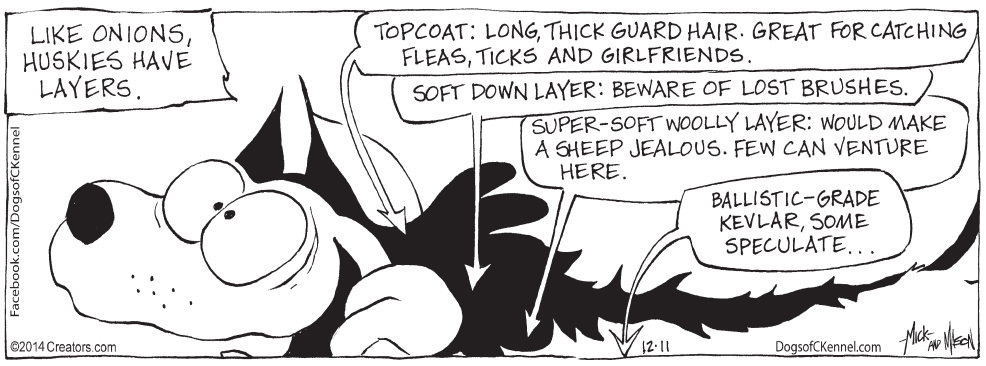
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from ★ (easiest) to ★★★★★ (hardest).

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department responded to 371 calls for service on Dec. 9.

BELOW IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

Burglary on the 900 block of 17th St. at 12:14 a.m.
Fight on the 1100 block of 12th St. at 1:39 a.m.
Arson at 16th and Santa Monica at 5:31 a.m.
Theft of recyclables on the 600 block of PCH at 6:42 a.m.
Auto burglary on the 1000 block of 2nd St. at 7:25 a.m.
Traffic accident on the 2700 block of Pennsylvania Ave. at 7:45 a.m.
Burglary on the 300 block of 25th St. at 7:54 a.m.
Traffic accident at 20th and Pico at 9:25 a.m.
Grand theft auto on the 1700 block of Stewart St. at 10:22 a.m.
Hit and run on the 400 block of Broadway at 10:42 a.m.
Attempted burglary on the 900 block of 6th St. at 10:47 a.m.
Traffic accident at Cloverfield and Interstate 10 at 11:32 a.m.
Auto burglary on the 2600 block of Barnard Way at 12:11 p.m.
Auto burglary on the 2200 block of Lincoln Blvd. at 12:39 p.m.
Traffic accident at 4th and Pico at 1:02 p.m.
Traffic accident at 26th and Pico at 1:32 p.m.
Identity theft on the 3100 block of Neilson Way at 2:17 p.m.
Hit and run on the 1600 block of 7th St. at 2:32 p.m.
Truant juvenile on the 2200 block of 5th St. at 3:08 p.m.
Fight on the 2400 block of Lincoln Blvd. at 4:11 p.m.
Burglary on the 3200 block of Donald Douglas Loop at 4:18 p.m.
Stalking on the 300 block of the Santa Monica Pier at 4:20 p.m.
Burglary on the 900 block of 2nd St. at 4:22 p.m.
Theft on the 1200 block of 4th St. at 4:34 p.m.
Armed robbery on the 800 block of 14th St. at 4:40 p.m.
Hit and run at Euclid and Washington at 5:10 p.m.
Harassing phone calls on the 1000 block of 5th St. at 5:13 p.m.
Hit and run at Lincoln and Washington at 7:05 p.m.
Overdose on the 1400 block of 16th St. at 7:36 p.m.
Harassing phone calls on the 1000 block of 5th St. at 7:46 p.m.
Drunk driving at Berkeley and Santa Monica at 8 p.m.
Grand theft auto at 14th and Hill at 9:23 p.m.
Burglary on the 1200 block of 9th St. at 10 p.m.
Fight on the 1400 block of 6th St. at 11:22 p.m.



MYSTERY PHOTO

Matthew Hall *matt@smdp.com*

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Hint: the photo was taken east of 20th Street. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

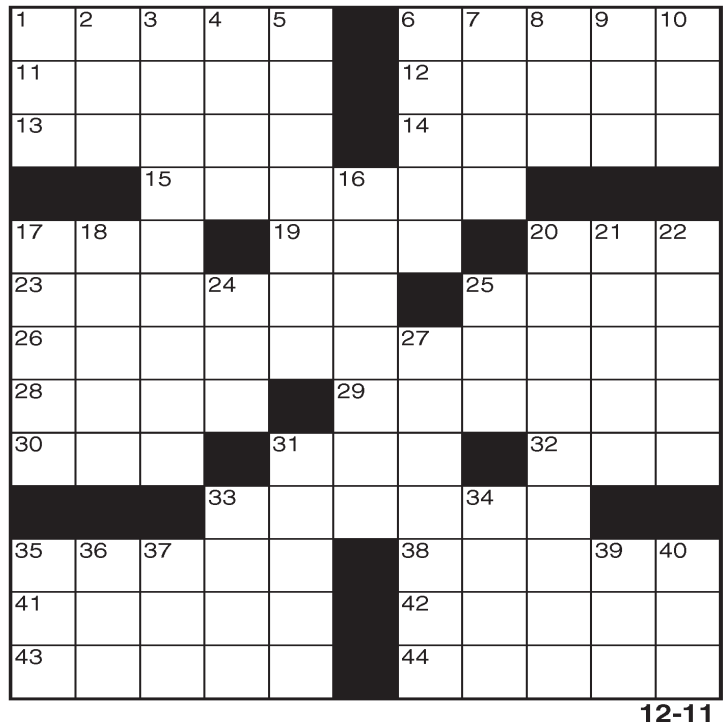
ACROSS
1 Cover words
6 Leg part
11 Soapbox Derby setting
12 Ham's need
13 Chin cover
14 UV stopper
15 Computer key
17 Reverent wonder
19 Powerful bunch
20 "I didn't need to know that," informally
23 Bewail
25 Raised
26 Sports news
28 On this spot
29 Undermines
30 Be inquisitive
31 Avril follower
32 Have a bite
33 Guiding maxims
35 Dieter's lunch
38 Hawke of Hollywood
41 Unescorted
42 Mall business
43 Screen dot
44 Took to impound

DOWN
1 Bar bill
2 Mamie's mate
3 Logo, often
4 Folk learning
5 Touchdown boundary
6 Easy gaits
7 Visibility lessener
8 Wedding words
9 Collins base
10 Garden tool
16 Beg
17 First letter
18 Cardiff's land
20 Fair
21 Sorceress of myth
22 That is: Lat.
24 Pupil's place
25 Sis' sibling
27 Least original
31 Runway worker
33 Lion feature
34 Painter Dix
35 Easy victim
36 Ring legend
37 Bagel topper
39 Live and breathe
40 Homer's neighbor

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

Yesterday's answer

THOMAS CROSSWORD BOOKS 1 AND 2! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) for each book to P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



12-11

DAILY LOTTERY

Draw Date: 12/6
12 15 22 43 49
Power#: 14
Jackpot: $60M

Draw Date: 12/9
27 45 49 51 52
Mega#: 14
Jackpot: $102M

Draw Date: 12/6
20 30 38 44 45
Mega#: 20
Jackpot: $21M

Draw Date: 12/9
1 5 17 35 39

Draw Date: 12/10
MIDDAY: 8 1 2

Draw Date: 12/9
1st: 01 Gold Rush
2nd: 12 Lucky Charms
3rd: 10 Solid Gold
RACE TIME: 1:44.24

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

■ A German woman who identifies herself only as "Anna Konda" described to Vice Media in October her Female Fight Club in Berlin, now three years old, for women to test themselves in all-out wrestling matches. While some are fetish-motivated dominants, others display no particular sexuality -- like Anna herself, who, she admits, simply likes to "crush" men's and women's skulls between her massive thighs. Anna says she is a product of East Germany's cliched development of tough, muscular female athletes.

■ Those Frightening Alabama Schools: (1) In October, a mother charged that officials at E.R. Dickson School in Mobile, Alabama, first detained her daughter, 5, for pointing a crayon at another student as if it were a gun, and then pressured the girl to sign a paper promising not to kill anyone or commit suicide. "What is suicide, Mommy?" the girl asked when her parents arrived. (2) In a 2010 incident at Sparkman Middle School near Huntsville, Alabama, an administrator coaxed a special-needs girl, 14, into a boys' bathroom to "bait" a 16-year-old boy who had previous sexual misconduct issues into committing a prosecutable offense -- and then failed to protect the girl. (The girl's family sued and won a summary judgment, but the school board appealed, and in September 2014 the U.S. Justice Department formally endorsed the family's lawsuit.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1994 – A bomb explodes on Philippine Airlines Flight 434, en route from Manila, Philippines, to Tokyo, Japan, killing one. The captain is able to safely land the plane.

2001 – The People's Republic of China joins the World Trade Organization.

WORD UP!

happenstance
\ HAP-uhn-stans \ , noun;
1.
a chance happening or event.

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