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Santa Monica Daily Press
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2012
Volume 12 Issue 27



LOHAN HEADS BACK TO COURT
SEE PAGE 3

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

THE ON THE MEND ISSUE



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

PARK IT: **A parking meter on Main Street.**

Parking meters strike again

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

BAY STREET New technologies come with a learning curve and Santa Monica's "smart" parking meters are no different, but that's a hard pill to swallow when you're on the wrong end of a $53 parking ticket.

That's where San Francisco resident Lisa Steinborn found herself on Nov. 20 when she returned to her car on Bay Street after a walk and found the telltale envelope on her windshield.

The time was 12:30 p.m., and she'd paid $10 to keep the spot for another two and a half hours.

"You have a digital meter. That's supposed to be an upgrade from analog," Steinborn said.

Steinborn is not the first to have a run-in with the updated parking meters, which have been in place in Santa Monica since last year.

A friend who lives in Santa Monica has also had time mysteriously disappear off the clock, Steinborn said. Another woman contacted the Daily Press several months ago to report problems with the Parkmobile smartphone app that landed her with a pricey ticket as well.

City officials have been hearing about it, too.

"We have occasional complaints about meters resetting before the paid time expires," said Don Patterson, assistant director of the Finance Department. "We continuously track complaints and work with our staff and meter company to resolve any known issues to keep the error rate as low as possible."

Staff calculated the error rate over two

SEE METERS PAGE 8

Competing hotels differ over landmark status

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Local property owners rarely get involved in landmark proceedings except in an attempt to evade them, but a move to designate a portion of the Fairmont Miramar Hotel has proven the exception to the rule.

In an unusual move, the ownership of the 85-year-old hotel requested a landmark designation for select elements of its site, and the competing Huntley Hotel has jumped into the fray to push the Landmarks Commission to go even further.

Representatives of the Fairmont Miramar Hotel hope to extend an existing designation for the historic Moreton Bay fig tree to include the Palisades Wing of the complex and a 50-foot buffer around the building.

Furthermore, the ownership requested that the contiguous nature of the parcel underneath the hotel — the only block in Santa Monica that remains whole — also be preserved.

Landmark status does not benefit the owners, but they felt it was necessary to do right by the historic nature of the property and the community's wishes, said Alan Epstein, an executive with MSD Capital, which owns the hotel.

The owners have stuck to the script laid out by the 2010 Land Use and Circulation Element, an historic assessment created by noted historian and architect Robert Chattel and extensive community outreach, he said.

"Those three pillars have guided all of our planning over the last three years," Epstein said.

SEE LANDMARK PAGE 9



BREAK FAST

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

Peace activist Jerry Rubin (right) is fed a piece of birthday cake by his wife Marissa on Tuesday to celebrate his 69th birthday. The bite of cake was the first food Rubin has had in 24 weeks. He had been fasting in support of 'Chain Reaction,' a Civic Center sculpture that city officials say is in need of repairs. Rubin and a group of activists have been trying to raise the funding needed to repair the landmarked towering sculpture.

Suicide forces boulevard closure

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

SANTA MONICA BLVD A man committed suicide in a car Tuesday morning, forcing police to shut down a stretch of Santa Monica Boulevard for three hours.

People near the 1500 block of Santa Monica Boulevard called 9-1-1 at 9:26 a.m. to report a gunshot. Police responded to the scene and found an adult male in his 50s dead in the car, said Sgt. Richard Lewis, spokesperson for the Santa Monica Police Department.

Officials would not identify the man.

Police reopened the road at 12:30 p.m., Lewis said.

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, Dec. 12, 2012

Follow that chef
Downtown Farmers' Market
Third Street and Arizona Avenue, 9 a.m.
Tag along with chef Matthew Biancaniello as he browses the Downtown Farmers' Market for inspiration. Watch and learn as he picks out fixings and heads back to the Gourmandise School to craft his meal. For more information, call (310) 656-8800.

Light the menorah
Third Street Promenade and Wilshire Boulevard
Sundown
Downtown Santa Monica will celebrate the Chanukah season with a lighting of a menorah at sundown. There will be a daily lighting throughout Chanukah. For more information, visit downtownsm.com/winterlit.

Hey ladies
Santa Monica Civic Auditorium
1855 Main St., 5 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Girls Night Out returns offering unique designers, fancy drinks, pampering and a goodie bag. For more information, visit sheckys.com/events.

Heating up
Mi's Westside Comedy Theater
1323-A Third Street Promenade, 8 p.m.
Comedians and writers read aloud their own personal fan fiction. Previous stories have included: "Game of Thrones," "Golden Girls," "Twilight," "Knight Rider" with "The Haunted Mansion" and a musical "Walking Dead." For more information, call (310) 451-0850.

Thursday, Dec. 13, 2012

Talking films
Montana Library
1704 Montana Ave., 2 p.m.
A down-on-his-luck screenwriter (William Holden) falls into a mercenary romance with a faded silent-film star in "Sunset Boulevard." Followed by a talk with film scholar Vivian Rosenberg. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Block party
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3:30 p.m.
Use your creativity to build something special with Lego blocks. Ages 4 and up. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Winter melodies
Santa Monica High School
601 Pico Blvd., 7 p.m.
This annual Winter Choral Concert features all of the students in the Santa Monica High School choral music program. Choirs are strategically situated throughout Barnum Hall, with songs following each other without applause, from one piece to the next. For more information, visit samohichoir.org.

Big Will
The Broad Stage
1310 11th St., 7:30 p.m.
Poisoning, beheading, cross-dressing, and betrayal become fresh and frisky thanks to Fiasco Theater's inventive production of Shakespeare's rarely seen epic romance "Cymbeline." This up-and-coming New York theater company brings us a young ensemble of six versatile actors who resolve the twisted fates of 14 characters with live music that ranges from a cappella madrigals to bluegrass. For more information, visit thebroadstage.com.

To create your own listing, log on to smdp.com/submitevent

For help, contact Daniel Archuleta at 310-458-7737 or submit to editor@smdp.com

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com/communitylistings



Opinions wanted on Lincoln Boulevard

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

LINCOLN BLVD Residents and merchants along Lincoln Boulevard are being encouraged to participate in two surveys to help transform the bustling street into an attractive, pedestrian-friendly, neighborhood-serving street that reflects the needs of those who live and work there.

The Lincoln Boulevard Task Force, which was formed in February, is working with city planners on breathing new life into Lincoln. The task force includes representatives from several neighborhood groups, said task force Chair Roger Swanson in a news release issued Monday.

The surveys, one for residents and another for business owners, are online and can be accessed by visiting www.opa-sm.org/lincoln

Discussions with city planners so far have been preliminary, Swanson said.

"The current activity of the task force anticipates the city's public design process that will start next year, and the two surveys will allow the community to lead the design process rather than have outside interests determine what improvements are made," Swanson said.

The surveys address a variety of issues, from streetscape design (trees, medians and public art) to priority bus lanes and the re-use of existing buildings, to traffic speed and additional crosswalks.

The resident survey is for all Santa Monicans. The business survey is designed to get opinions of businesses already located on Lincoln Boulevard south of Interstate 10, as well as those considering re-locating to Lincoln.

Swanson can be reached at rogercswanson@gmail.com.

news@smdp.com



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

THE SPOT: **A man walks by the Pacific Coast Highway sign on Lincoln Boulevard.**



OIFER

SMC's faculty of the year

BY BRUCE SMITH
Special to the Daily Press

SMC Eric Oifer, an accomplished scholar and widely praised campus leader who is as well known for his intellectual acumen as much as his pioneering teaching methods, has been named Santa Monica College's 2012 Faculty of the Year.

In naming the winner, the SMC Academic Senate also announced that it is nominating the political science professor for the statewide Hayward Award, which honors outstanding community college faculty who have a track record of excellence in teaching and professional activities and have demonstrated commitment to their students, profession and college. The Hayward Award is sponsored by the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges.

"Eric Oifer is an incredibly fine human being, colleague, scholar and instructor and a dedicated environmentalist and global citizen," said SMC Academic Senate President Janet Harclerode. "We are proud to nominate him for the Hayward Award and grateful for the opportunity to extol his service."

Oifer, who has been teaching a variety of political science courses at SMC since 1999 — including political philosophy, environmental politics and the politics of gender — received his Ph.D. in political theory from USC.

"This honor makes me think of a favorite quote by naturalist Ben Gadd — 'I am lucky beyond words. I have all three things needed to make me happy: I live in a place I love, with people I love, doing work I love to do,'" Oifer said. "It is an incredible honor to be recognized by my colleagues in this way. I wish everyone at the college could experience what I experienced upon being nominated by my mentors and good friends

SEE **SMC** PAGE 9

Prosecutors seek to violate Lohan's probation

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Los Angeles prosecutors on Tuesday asked a judge to revoke Lindsay Lohan's probation and schedule a hearing that could lead to the actress' return to jail.

The filing came one day before Lohan is scheduled to be arraigned Wednesday on three misdemeanor charges filed last month related to a June car crash.

Lohan will not need to be present for Wednesday's arraignment on charges she lied to Santa Monica police, was driving recklessly and obstructed an officer from performing duties related to the crash investigation. She remains on probation for a 2011 necklace theft case and could be sentenced to 245 days in jail if a judge determines her conduct was a probation violation.

Her attorney Shawn Holley did not immediately return an e-mail seeking comment.

City attorney's spokesman Frank Mateljan said any probation violation proceedings are likely to be heard after the Santa Monica case. Prosecutors allege Lohan lied about being a passenger in her Porsche when it crashed on Pacific Coast Highway on the way to a film shoot.

The "Liz and Dick" star was released from supervised probation in March after completing several months of court appearances and morgue cleanup duty.

Lohan has yet to be booked on the new charges and a judge on Wednesday will likely set bail and the terms of her release.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Corporations need to be more human

Editor:

Dear corporate America and its leaders,

Please take our U.S. politicians out of your pockets and let them air out, get a fresh perspective and come to realize what being a public servant really means. And, please, while you're at it, give the rest of the U.S. a much needed break!

Why not spend the money you're currently investing in local and national politicians in order to obtain government contracts and political favors at virtually every level of the political spectrum (from local to national), and instead pay your fair share of taxes? You pass your costs along to consumers anyway. Why not take at least a portion of your obvious overflow of wealth and create new jobs, training programs that create and make ready for work highly competent Americans now begging for employment? Why not invest your bounty, most of which is created on the backs of the American public, and spend those monies to manifest a better America and the betterment of humankind?

Is it really so very much to ask that American corporations pay their fair share of taxes and do their part to sustain and support the American way of life for the rest of us? If a corporation were truly a person (as our Supreme Court seems to think), there would be a beating heart and the answers to these very simple questions would be as abundantly clear to each of you (1 percent) as it is to the majority of us (99 percent).

It is to the very human individual leaders of America's corporations and the all too human politicians elected by us to serve us that I sincerely beg for mercy for the rest of us! Please support America.

Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for the rest of us depends, it seems, entirely upon you!

H. Levinson
Santa Monica

Quality control

Editor:

I have been a resident of Santa Monica for more than 25 years and have always been proud of the city, but I must say that the quality of drivers of our Big Blue Bus has definitely waned.

I happily support public transportation, yet my experiences in the past year have made me consider purchasing a car in 2013. While I have had wonderful experiences with a few drivers, on a whole I find most drivers are not happy in the role of servicing the public.

I am a 55-year-old woman and last night at 9:15 p.m. I was standing on the corner of Lincoln Boulevard and Montana Avenue and the driver looked at me, waved me away and kept on driving. Not only did he leave me stranded, but a young man as well.

Unfortunately, this was just the tip of the iceberg of many unpleasant experiences of rudeness. I have seen tourists berated, the handicapped disregarded and the elderly abused.

Shame on you, Big Blue Bus drivers. I am sure the city pays you very well.

My suggestion? Mandatory Big Blue Bus driver customer service training and accountability.

I do hope my letter helps others.

L. Ford
Santa Monica





Meredith Pro Tem

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

The lost art of sharing

"I FEEL LIKE WHEN I SHARE IT SENDS THE wrong message to my friends. Yes, I want them to be happy, but not happier than me."

So wrote someone on Twitter with the handle "Honest Toddler," but my older daughter Petunia, otherwise known around these parts as "Embarrassingly Blunt Preschooler," easily could have uttered those same words.

"I only want Wendy and Amy to come over to my house for play dates from now on," Petunia declared crossly, and loudly, the other night. "Ava and Brooke are not invited here ever again."

There's no shame in recognizing and verbalizing the desire to further cultivate some friendships while at the same time letting others quietly and discreetly run their course.

Announcing in an outdoor voice to Ava and Brooke, who happen to be standing indoors in your living room directly in front of you, however, that they are not only unwanted guests but actually suspected hostile hangers-on would seem more appropriate coming out of the mouth of someone suffering from a bad case of Tourette's, not a 4-year-old who knows better.

Before Ava, Brooke and their parents arrived at our house for dinner Sunday, I ran through the same drill with Petunia that I do each morning before she leaves for school as well as before we ever walk out the front door: No pushing or hitting, and no saying "I got it first" or "It's mine." Petunia gets it. Whether she chooses to abide by it, though, is another thing.

She can usually keep it together at school, but play dates — particularly at our house — are a whole different animal. Lately, she doesn't just not share. She hoards. If someone wants something, and it doesn't matter if that something is something she hasn't looked at, played with or touched in recent memory or ever, Petunia has to have it. If she can't have it, you can bet your bottom dollar she'll go to great lengths to ensure no one else will, either.

Usually, only my younger daughter Peony feels her big sister's wrath when it comes to ensuring that no one could possibly be more spitefully armed with toys. But occasionally Petunia has friends to the house, and it is in the moments just before they arrive that I secretly hope they fall ill — although not seriously, of course. Just, like, a 12-hour non-puking-or-diarrhea bug that necessitates a last-minute cancellation, because, as Ava and Brooke learned the obnoxious way, when Petunia is over it, everyone suffers. Especially them. (And me for having to witness it unfolding in a painful fashion.)

There's no question it's tough being 4 years old. You know, if you don't count the fact that preschoolers are invited to nap daily (sometimes even twice) and snack frequently, and if they catch you at the right moment, they can possibly convince you to wipe their butts even though you know they know how to do it but they just don't always feel like it.

Still, it can be challenging to keep it together at a time in their life when not so long ago they easily got away with doing and saying anything the moment they had the urge, with people just chalking up their white lies and tantrums to their incomplete development.

LATELY, SHE DOESN'T JUST NOT SHARE. SHE HOARDS. IF SOMEONE WANTS SOMETHING, AND IT DOESN'T MATTER IF THAT SOMETHING IS SOMETHING SHE HASN'T LOOKED AT, PLAYED WITH OR TOUCHED IN RECENT MEMORY OR EVER, PETUNIA HAS TO HAVE IT.

That time has now mostly passed for Petunia even if she doesn't seem to appreciate or accept that hissy fits and various degrees of anything but the truth are unacceptable.

Lately, when it comes to sharing, an evil force consumes her. It's as if she sees each toy being used by someone not her in a new light and that being apart from the toy has shown her the grave mistake she's been making all this time by ever bothering to play with anything but that toy. She will lie, grab and otherwise have a nuclear meltdown if the toy isn't back in her hands — now.

If she can't have it, the only other outcome that's possibly acceptable is if the toy is removed from the situation entirely, even if it means she has to suffer through a time-out or her friend has to go home in the process. Either she is happy or everyone else is miserable. Anything between is grounds for an explosion to which storms with names like Sandy and Katrina tip their hats.

After the skies clear, Petunia returns to her sometimes-normal self, which means she is eminently more willing to share. Of course, it's easy to share when you've scared off anyone who would have been interested in sharing with you to begin with. Then again, that just might have been the goal in the first place.

More at www.meredithcarroll.com.



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The Taxman

Jon Coupal
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Not out of the woods yet

ACCORDING TO SEVERAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS in the days since the election, California has turned a corner and will soon resume its rightful place as the best place in America — nay, the world — to live, raise a family and start a business. It's Nirvana all over again.

Perhaps what started all this happy talk was a report on the state budget by the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) projecting budget surpluses starting with the 2014-15 budget. After years of budget deficits, the mere appearance of the word "surplus" caused mass swooning among pundits and politicians. Moreover, this also seemed to validate as a wise decision the electorate's passage of Proposition 30, the $50 billion tax hike making California the most heavily taxed state in the nation.

Heck, even Standard & Poor's called the passage of Prop. 30 a "favorable" development for California's credit rating. Take that, you supply side, free market purists!

In the wake of the LAO report was more good news in a seemingly favorable poll from the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC). Headlines were downright orgasmic: "Renewed Hope in California Buoys Governor Brown" (San Jose Mercury News) and "Gov. Jerry Brown, State Budget Get Higher Marks in New Poll" (Los Angeles Times).

We regret being the lump of coal in the stocking, especially this time of year. But Howard Jarvis himself was a bit of a curmudgeon and we are compelled to carry on the tradition.

The cold, hard truth is that California is far from being out of the woods and absolutely nothing has been done to address our dysfunctional system of governance.

Take the LAO report. The analyst himself, Mac Taylor, is known as a fairly straight shooter not given to "irrational exuberance." Thus it's no surprise that his report is chock full of caveats. First, LAO bases his positive outlook on the assumption that the majority party in the Legislature, now that it has secured a supermajority of more than two-thirds in each house, will restrain its well-known penchant for overspending. I suppose we could also assume that you could leave an alcoholic in a room with a bottle of Jack Daniels for an evening and he wouldn't touch it.

Taylor was therefore wise in stating that "caution is appropriate" because if some or all of the assumptions — including a rational resolution of the "fiscal cliff" at the federal level — do not come to pass "the out year operating surpluses" would "be lower or eliminated."

Keep in mind that the LAO projections are for two years out. No one disputes that both this year and next, the state will continue to spend more money than it takes in.

The PPIC poll deserves a closer look as well beyond its characterization in the cheerleading headlines. For example, half of those surveyed believed that California was still headed in the "wrong direction" while only 44 percent of adults say "right direction." And support continued to be very strong for a spending limit, something the majority party has wrongly kept off the ballot for two election cycles. Without spending restraint, today's partying over the good news will surely lead to tomorrow's hangover.

California continues to have an accumulated budget deficit of several billion dollars, including more than $4 billion owed to various special funds. Our pension debt dwarfs the entire budget of several states and our overall tax and regulatory environment has caused states like Arizona and Texas to adopt programs directed specifically at California businesses to get them to relocate — a process already well underway. And, despite the "favorable" comment from Standard & Poor's, our credit rating remains unchanged — dead last among all states.

Lest one think that we who opposed Proposition 30 because of the damage it will surely inflict on California's economy are the only pessimists in the room, State Controller John Chiang (not Republican) issued a chilling warning after seeing the latest cash flow figures. After noting that revenues continue to fall short of projections, he cautioned that "this serves as a sobering reminder that, while the economy is expanding, it is doing so at a slow and uneven pace that will require the state to exercise care and discipline in how its fiscal affairs are managed in the coming year."

The big unknown, of course, is how many high income individuals will flee the state. Yes, many will stay. But given that Proposition 30 has only magnified our reliance on the wealthy, it is clear we can't afford to lose too many.

These are simply the harsh realities from those of us whom Gov. Brown has derided as "declinists." We prefer to call ourselves "realists."

JON COUPAL is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association – California's largest grass-roots taxpayer organization dedicated to the protection of Proposition 13 and the advancement of taxpayers' rights.

The Q Line

Planning Downtown

City Hall is in the process of developing a Downtown Specific Plan that will dictate development in the heart of Santa Monica. There was a workshop last week that let residents voice their opinions about the direction the district should take.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
What would you like to see Downtown look like 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 **310-573-8354**.



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Audit: Whistleblowers ID thousands in waste

JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. State employees engaged in bribery, conspiracy to commit mail fraud, received improper overtime payments and were wrongly reimbursed for thousands of dollars in travel expenses, including one scheme that cost two state agencies more than $227,000 in lost payments, California's state auditor reported Tuesday.

In her annual whistleblower report, state Auditor Elaine Howle said her office received 7,238 reports of improper activity from April 2011 through the end of June 2012 and has opened investigations into nearly 1,500 cases from that time and before. The state's whistleblower act authorizes her office to investigate improper and illegal government activity that is wasteful or involves gross misconduct, incompetence or inefficiency.

In the biggest case cited this year, Los Angeles employees of the Franchise Tax Board and secretary of state's office collected thousands of dollars in payments from a courier in exchange for supplying him with hundreds of official state letters for his clients without charging the $15 to $20 per letter fees, the report said. All three were convicted of bribery and ordered by the Los Angeles County Superior Court to pay more than $227,000 in restitution for the ruse that occurred from at least 2007 to 2009.

The report said at least one other employee knew about the scheme and lied to investigators, while another quit.

One staffer was sentenced to seven days in county jail, 400 hours of community service and four years of probation, and a second to three years' probation and 400 hours of community service. The courier was sentenced to 14 days in custody, six years' probation and 200 hours of community service.

The auditor's report also found that a "high-level official" in the University of California president's office was wastefully reimbursed for $6,100 in travel expenses from July 2008 through July 2011, including for a five-day trip to England, even after she highlighted wasteful reimbursements to the man totaling more than $152,400 when he worked at the California State University chancellor's office.

The auditor also found:

• A Department of Education employee "misused state time and equipment when he posted nearly 4,900 comments on The Sacramento Bee's news website during state time" — 195 of the 208 days he was at work during the span reviewed, according to the report. He also used state time and resources for his second job as a contractor. The report said the man's supervisor knew that he was not doing much worked and was on the Internet excessively but repeatedly failed to supervise him or report the infractions so he could be punished.

The report does not say that the employee was fired, and a spokesman for the state Department of Education, Paul Hefner, did not immediately return a call Tuesday seeking information about whether the employee is still on the payroll.

• A former Employment Development Department staffer falsified documents for a bankrupt company to allow two of her friends to receive unemployment benefits by claiming they were laid off from a company where they never worked. The accounting technician and the recipients were later convicted of conspiracy to commit mail fraud for receiving nearly $93,000 in unemployment payments. The employee and one of her friends were sentenced to federal prison, and another was sentenced to probation. They were also ordered to repay the money.

• The California State Athletic Commission overpaid nearly $120,000 to 18 of its athletic inspectors by paying them an hourly overtime rate rather than straight-time pay for the jobs they did voluntarily in addition to their regular state jobs.

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Court case claims cable's 'Storage Wars' show is rigged

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Some of the valuables found hidden in abandoned lockers on A&E's "Storage Wars" have been added by producers to deceive viewers, a former cast member of the show claims in a lawsuit filed Tuesday.

David Hester's suit claims producers have added a BMW Mini and newspapers chronicling Elvis Presley's death to lockers in order to build drama for the show and that his complaints about the practices led to his firing.

Hester is seeking more than $750,000 in his wrongful termination, breach of contract and unfair business practices lawsuit. A&E Television Network declined comment, citing the pending lawsuit.

"Storage Wars" follows buyers who bid for abandoned storage lockers hoping to find valuables tucked inside.

"A&E regularly plants valuable items or memorabilia," the lawsuit states. Hester's suit claims he was fired from participating in the series' fourth season after expressing concerns that manipulating the storage lockers for the sake of the show was illegal.

He claims that producers stopped adding items to his units after his initial complaints but continued the practice for other series participants. The lawsuit alleges entire units have been staged and the practice may violate a federal law intended to prevent viewers from being deceived when watching a show involving intellectual skills.

"Storage Wars" depicts buyers having only a few moments to look into an abandoned unit before deciding on whether to bid on it at auction. The lawsuit claims some of the auction footage on the show is staged.

Hester, known as "The Mogul" on the show, has been buying abandoned storage units and re-selling their contents for 26 years, according to the suit.

Nielsen Co. has ranked "Storage Wars" among cable television's top-ranked shows several times since its 2010 debut.



City of Santa Monica
Ordinance Numbers 2414 (CCS)
(City Council Series)

Ordinance Number 2414 approves a development agreement for a mixed-use project consisting of 377 residential units and approximately 29,000 feet of commercial space on the site of the Village Trailer Park, which would close except for a portion of the park, consisting of 10 spaces, which the developer would continue to operate. The development agreement includes relocation benefits for current park tenants.

This ordinance will become effective thirty days after adoption The full text of the ordinance is available upon request from the Office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, California; phone (310) 458-8211.

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METERS
FROM PAGE 1

months at roughly 1.7 percent, considerably lower than what they were seeing with the previous generation of parking meters.

Assuming that error rate stayed steady across an entire year, however, that's 200,000 errors out of the 12.2 million transactions completed at Santa Monica's parking meters.

"The new meters have a significantly lower error rate than the old meters. The old meters reset frequently if a heavy truck or bus went buy," Patterson said.

The new meters have their weaknesses as well.

Each meter comes equipped with a rechargeable battery that gets powered by a small solar panel on the street-facing side of the device. The machines can get more error-prone when the battery runs low, something that happens more frequently to meters sitting under Santa Monica's beloved urban treescape.

Heavy activity next to meters can also reset them, as well as people trying to "trick" the meter, Patterson said.

He didn't want to describe exactly how one might do that, although a quick Google search reveals all.

"What we've noticed more recently is low batteries. We will be formalizing the replacement schedule," Patterson.

That's little comfort for someone like Steinborn, who is out $63 between the amount she paid and the ticket she must now dispute.

Technically, it's easier for her to win her case with the new meters, which keep records of transactions, versus the older models which did not.

That doesn't save any time, however.

"This has taken a couple of hours of my life, but when something ticks you off, you have to do something about it," Steinborn said.

City Hall spent $4.5 million on the installation of the 6,100 parking meters last year.

Each spot has a sensor installed underneath the asphalt which uses a magnetic field to determine whether or not a vehicle is occupying the space. The meters transmit that information to a central system so that parking professionals know how spots are being used throughout the city.

The sensors also tell them when someone has left a spot, at which point they reset the meter to zero, canceling out the remaining time on the meter. That led to a wave of articles and news reports across the nation calling the new meters "greedy."

One Santa Monica resident also turned in a $1.7 billion complaint against the city for the new meters, which she said were causing her to become ill.

Despite the issues — real and perceived — with the meters, most parking professionals are getting behind them because they really do work better and provide information that makes parking more efficient and easier on the patrons, said Carey Jones, chair of the International Parking Institute, an association of parking gurus.

"If we can make one space serve three, four or five patrons a day, it makes us much better managers of the resource," Jones said.

The new meters also offer multiple forms of payment, including mobile app, credit card and the traditional coin, all of which aims to make life easier on the person who needs the space.

"Parking is a people business," Jones said. "You can add all the technology you want, but it remains a people business. All we want to do is deliver the customer a better experience, and this technology helps us do that."

ashley@smdp.com







SMC
FROM PAGE 3

Christine Schultz (chair of the Social Science Department) and (philosophy professor) Amber Katherine."

Oifer is the author of several articles in academic journals and has presented widely throughout the state at scholarly and academic organization conferences on topics ranging from "Masochism and the Military-Style Education" to "Improving Institutional Effectiveness."

Among colleagues he is best known as an articulate and thoughtful leader who served as Academic Senate president in 2009-11 and has served on countless academic and planning committees. Currently, he is chair of the Academic Senate Environmental Affairs Committee.

A native of the Los Angeles area, Oifer received his master's in political science from USC and his bachelor's in political science from UCLA. He and his wife Kim live in Marina del Rey, Calif.

news@smdp.com

LANDMARK
FROM PAGE 1

The request itself is unusual not only because of its origins — owners rarely request landmark status, something that only ties their hands when it comes to renovations or changes — but also for the scope, which confused both commissioners and the deputy city attorney.

"I don't think this has come before the commission before," said Heidi vonTongeln, an attorney with the city.

And, in the stated opinion of the owners of the Huntley Hotel, it never should have.

In two letters at the Nov. 12 and Dec. 10 Landmarks Commission meetings, attorneys representing Second Street Corporation, the owners of the Huntley Hotel, said that their client hoped the commission would choose to preserve the entire Fairmont Miramar property.

That includes the bungalows, which once housed stars like Jean Harlow and Eleanor Roosevelt, and even landscaping on California and Ocean avenues.

So, while the Huntley supports the Fairmont Miramar's decision to landmark the Palisades building, it's not enough, wrote Rick Zbur, a partner with the law firm Latham & Watkins.

"However, the Huntley also believes that the entire Miramar property should be designated as a landmark and that the commission must consider other aspects of the Miramar's existing development as 'contributing factors' to that landmark designation besides the Palisades building and the Moreton Bay fig tree," Zbur stated.

If that were to occur, it could throw a wrench into plans to update the Fairmont Miramar from a mishmash of architectural styles built through a number of decades into a hotel with modern amenities and a classic look.

Landmark designations help preserve historic properties by requiring additional steps and public process before owners make alterations to certain aspects of the buildings.

Work must be completed within certain guidelines handed down by the federal Secretary of the Interior and generally approved by the Landmarks Commission through a mechanism called a "certificate of appropriateness."

Demolition would also have to go through the Landmarks Commission.

At the last public meeting on the topic, the Fairmont Miramar team proposed a 556,000-square-foot project with between 265 and 280 hotel rooms and potentially 120 luxury condominiums on top.

The plans have consistently irked the Huntley Hotel, which has sent representatives to various public meetings to speak against the project which would be much taller than the current hotel and potentially block views from its competition to the east.

Critics have also accused the Huntley of creating and funding an anti-development community group in the most recent election in order to elect Richard McKinnon and Ted Winterer, both of whom have been critical of the proposed Miramar development's size and scale.

Epstein would not comment on the Huntley's proposal to landmark the entire site.

Landmarks Commissioners have put the decision off until January at the earliest, expressing discomfort with the proposal and asking the City Attorney to look into the ramifications of designating the parcel.

ashley@smdp.com

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Fed likely to revamp bond purchases to aid economy

MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON The Federal Reserve is expected to announce a revamped bond-buying plan Wednesday to maintain its support for the U.S. economy.

The Fed's goal would be to keep downward pressure on long-term interest rates and encourage individuals and companies to borrow and spend. If it succeeds, the Fed might at least soften the blow from tax increases and spending cuts that will kick in in January if Congress can't reach a budget deal.

But its actions wouldn't rescue the economy. Chairman Ben Bernanke warned last month that if the economy fell off a "broad fiscal cliff," the Fed probably couldn't offset the shock.

Fears of the cliff have led some U.S. companies to delay expanding, investing and hiring. Manufacturing has slumped. Consumers have cut back on spending. Unemployment remains a still-high 7.7 percent. If higher taxes and government spending cuts lasted for much of 2013, most experts say the economy would sink into another recession.

On Tuesday, the Fed began a two-day meeting, which will end Wednesday afternoon with a statement announcing its policy decisions. Afterward, the Fed will update its forecasts for the economy, and Chairman Ben Bernanke will hold a news conference.

The expectation is that the Fed will unveil a program to buy $45 billion a month in long-term Treasurys. This would replace an expiring program called Operation Twist. With Twist, the Fed sold $45 billion a month in short-term Treasurys and used the proceeds to buy the same amount in longer-term Treasurys.

Twist didn't expand the Fed's investment portfolio; it just reshuffled the holdings. But the Fed has run out of short-term securities to sell. So to maintain its pace of long-term Treasury purchases and help keep long-term rates low, it must spend more and increase its portfolio.

The new bond purchase plan would join a program announced in September. Under that program, the Fed is buying $40 billion a month in mortgage bonds to try to force already record-low home-loan rates lower to encourage home buying. The total Fed bond purchases from the two programs would remain $85 billion.

"The Fed really has only one key decision at the meeting, and that is how much of the current program will they replace," said David Jones, chief economist at DMJ Advisors.

If, on the other hand, the Fed chooses not to replace Twist with a new bond-buying program, the value of its long-term Treasury purchases will decline by half. Long-term borrowing rates might rise as a result.

When the Fed pumps more money into the financial system and adds to its portfolio, it's called quantitative easing, or QE. Critics argue that QE risks escalating inflation later. The Fed's portfolio totals nearly $2.9 trillion — more than three times its size before the 2008 financial crisis.

The Fed has launched three rounds of QE since the financial crisis hit. In announcing QE3 in September, the Fed said it would keep buying mortgage bonds until the job market improved substantially. It also extended its plan to keep its benchmark short-term rate near zero through at least mid-2015. And it raised the possibility of taking other steps.

Skeptics note that rates on mortgages and many other loans are already at or near all-time lows. So any further declines in rates engineered by the Fed might offer little economic benefit.

But besides seeking to spur lending, the Fed's drive to cut rates has another goal: to induce investors to shift money out of low-yielding bonds and into stocks, which could lift stock prices. Stock gains boost wealth and typically lead individuals and businesses to spend and invest more. The economy would benefit.

Inside and outside the Fed, a debate has raged over whether the Fed's actions have helped support the economy over the past four years, whether they will ignite inflation later and whether they should be extended. At this week's meeting, some regional Fed bank presidents will likely express concern that more bond buying will further flood the financial system with money and eventually send prices soaring.

One such critic, Jeffrey Lacker, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, has cast a lone dissenting vote at all seven Fed policy meetings this year. Lacker has said he thinks the job market is being slowed by factors beyond the Fed's control. And he says further bond purchases risk worsening future inflation.

Others, like John Williams, president of the San Francisco Fed, have said they think the Fed's bond purchases must continue because the job market and other components of the economy are improving only gradually.

The Fed is also expected this week to resume discussions on how to signal future policy moves to the public more clearly. Since August 2011, the Fed has identified a target date to try to reassure markets that it doesn't plan to raise short-term rates soon.

Some Fed officials, however, oppose using a target period to signal the earliest when it might start raising rates. They've been urging that future interest-rate moves be linked to how the economy is faring as measured by unemployment and inflation.

Chicago Fed President Charles Evans, a proponent of this change, would set the unemployment target at 6.5 percent and the inflation target at 2.5 percent. If those targets were adopted, the Fed would say it didn't plan to raise rates until unemployment drops below 6.5 percent — as long as the Fed's inflation gauge is no more than 2.5 percent. The Fed's inflation measure over the past 12 months has risen just 1.7 percent, signaling that inflation pressures are well-contained.

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Mayan prophecy sparks dread, celebration worldwide

JACK CHANG
Associated Press

MEXICO CITY The clock is ticking down to Dec. 21, the supposed end of the Mayan calendar, and from China to California to Mexico, thousands are getting ready for what they think is going to be a fateful day.

The Maya didn't say much about what would happen next, after a 5,125-year cycle known as the Long Count comes to an end. So into that void have rushed occult writers, bloggers and New Age visionaries foreseeing all manner of monumental change, from doomsday to a new age of enlightenment.

The 2009 disaster flick "2012" helped spark doomsday rumors, with its visions of Los Angeles crashing into the sea and mammoth tsunami waves swallowing the Himalayas. Foreboding TV documentaries and alarmist websites followed, sparking panic in corners of the globe thousands of miles from the Mayan homeland of southern Mexico and Central America.

As the big day approaches, governments and scientists alike are mobilizing to avoid actual tragedy. Even the U.S. space agency NASA intervened earlier this month, posting a nearly hour-long YouTube video debunking apocalyptic points, one by one.

The Internet has helped feed the frenzy, spreading rumors that a mountain in the French Pyrenees is hiding an alien spaceship that will be the sole escape from the destruction. French authorities are blocking access to Bugarach peak from Dec. 19-23 except for the village's 200 residents "who want to live in peace," the local prefect said in a news release.

"I think this tells us more about ourselves, particularly in the Western world, than it does about the ancient Maya," said Geoffrey Braswell, an associate professor of anthropology and leading Maya scholar at the University of California, San Diego. "The idea that the world will end soon is a very strong belief in Western cultures. ... The Maya, we don't really know if they believed the world would ever end."

As the clock ticks down, scenarios have mounted about how the end will come.

Some believe a rogue planet called Nibiru will emerge from its hiding place behind the sun and smash into the Earth. Others say a super black hole at the center of the universe will suck in our planet and smash it to pieces. At least two men in China are predicting a world-ending flood. They're both building arks.

Lu Zhenghai has spent his life savings, some $160,000, building the 70-foot-by-50-foot vessel powered by three diesel engines, according to state media.

"I am afraid that when the end of the world comes, the flood will submerge my house," the 44-year-old ex-army man was quoted as saying.

China's most innovative ark builder, however, may be Yang Zongfu, a 32-year-old businessman in eastern China.

His vessel, Atlantis, a three-ton yellow steel ball 13 feet (four meters) in diameter, is designed to survive a volcano, tsunami, earthquake or nuclear meltdown, according to the state-run Liao Wang magazine.

Jose Manrique Esquivel, a descendent of the Maya, said his community in Mexico's Yucatan peninsula sees the date as a celebration of their survival despite centuries of genocide and oppression. He blamed profiteers looking to scam the gullible for stoking doomsday fears.

"For us, this Dec. 21 is the end of a great era and also the beginning of a new era. We renew our beliefs. We renew a host of things that surround us," Esquivel said.

In fact, anthropologists aren't even sure whether the end of the Mayan calendar falls on Dec. 21, or whether it's already happened or is still to come, Braswell said. The date is mentioned in only two known cases, including an etching that says nine gods will descend from heaven to Earth. The verb describing what the gods will do is illegible in the etching.

"It probably was a ritual of some sort, and even if we had the glyph we wouldn't understand what it is," Braswell said. "What we know for sure is there's no discussion of the end of the world on that date."

The mystery isn't only inspiring dread: Some are whipping out their yoga tights and meditation cushions and joining a global counter-movement promoting the date as the start of a new era of hope.

Thousands of New Age adherents are expected to fill ancient sites across Mexico in the days leading up to Dec. 21, while their spiritual brethren party in hotspots as diverse as Culver City, Calif., and Byron Bay, Australia.

One of the biggest movements is Birth 2012, which is using the Mayan date to launch what it hopes will be a global spiritual reset. Some 40 events around the world will mark the change.

"We've activated this campaign for three days of love," said movement co-founder Stephen Dinan.

In Mexico's Mayan heartland, nobody is preparing for the end of the world; instead, they're bracing for a tsunami of spiritual visitors of the terrestrial variety.

Hotels near the Mayan ruins at Chichen Itza have been sold out, with many rooms booked a year in advance. Volunteers at the Kinich Ahau center — dedicated to spreading the "authentic wisdom of the Maya" — were busy chopping resinous wood to mix with incense for a sacred fire ceremony to greet visitors from around the world. Mass tribal drumming, circles of energy and ritual dancing were also planned.

For Esquivel and other modern-day Maya, Dec. 21 is a chance to raise awareness about rescuing the planet, not prepare for its demise. People all over the world need to focus on the very real damage people have done to the Earth, he said, and sound the alarm about growing catastrophes, such as climate change.

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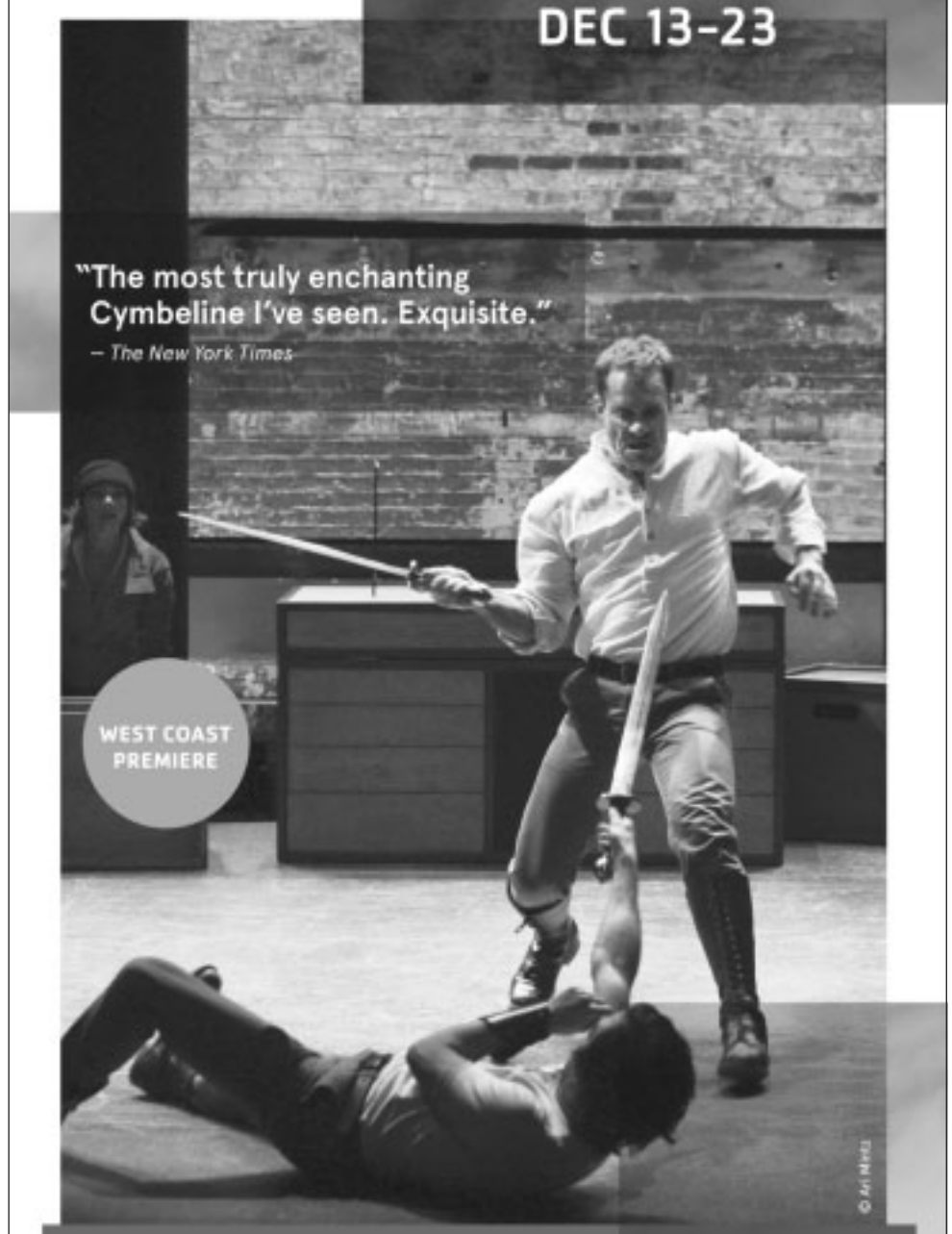


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Minimal WNW-NW and SW swells; Breezy west wind and stormy weather

FRIDAY – **FLAT** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high
Minimal WNW-NW and SW swells; Lighter winds due,
but morning funk and deep morning high tide

SATURDAY – **FLAT** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high
Minimal NW and SSW swells; Pleasant sunny weather and
favorable morning winds return, our luck with no swell running

Tides

Tide swings will gradually become more extreme this week, with deep 6-7' high tides in the mornings and drained negative low tides in the afternoons. So take note of your local tide times and what your spot likes best.

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 5, 2012**

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 -- 0
Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
Number of wet days -- 11
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 38 / 14
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: simplehuman, LAcarGUY, SIMA and Grousbeck Family Foundation

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 Lechusa and Las Alloe creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	C
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	C
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	C
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A	D
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A	A+
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 21672 Malibu Rd..	A+	D
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (broach location)- daily.	A	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	B
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	A
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19548 PCH stairs.	A+	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	B	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17208 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	F

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	F
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	F
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	F
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	F
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	A+
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	F
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	B
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	F
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	F
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	F	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	B	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A	D
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of CSAW jetty).	A	A
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	F	B
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A	D
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 is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life.

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

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

NCAA FOOTBALL

Alvarez to be paid $118,500 to coach during Rose Bowl

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MADISON, Wis. Wisconsin athletic director Barry Alvarez will earn $118,500 for returning to the sidelines to coach the Badgers in the Rose Bowl and a win against Stanford will mean a $50,000 bonus.

The executive committee of the university Board of Regents on Tuesday agreed to the terms following the surprise departure last week of head coach Bret Bielema to take the same job at Arkansas.

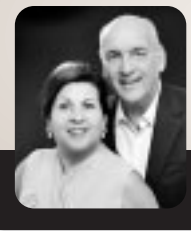
Alvarez was Wisconsin's coach from 1990 through 2005, a time when he won three Rose Bowl titles. The money for the coaching job will come out of Bielema's $1 million buyout to be paid by Arkansas.

Alvarez will receive $195,000 in December, which is 90 percent of Bielema's monthly coaching salary. He will also get $8,500, which is 10 percent of his athletic director salary. The total pay of $203,500 is a one-time $118,500 increase in his monthly salary.

"We weighed the factors involved, including the unique circumstances that developed less than a month before the game, the challenges of the job, the marketplace and his strength as a coach and concluded that this is a reasonable arrangement," said board President Brent Smith.

Interim UW-Madison Chancellor David Ward said the pay package was "fair and proportional."

"Coach Alvarez has a one-of-a-kind skill set that the university needs to be successful — both in the Rose Bowl and in attracting the best coaching candidates in the search for someone to lead the Badgers' football program going forward," Ward said.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

The Blue Lagoon (R) 1hr 44min
6:30 p.m.
Discussion following with director Randal Kleiser and actor Christopher Atkins. Blu-ray signing in the Aero lobby.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade
(888) 262-4386

Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2 (PG-13) 1hr 56min
1:15pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

Life of Pi (PG) 2hrs 06min
3:00pm, 6:15pm, 9:30pm

End of Watch (R) 1hr 49min
1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

Anna Karenina (R) 2hrs 10min
1:00pm, 4:05pm, 7:00pm, 10:10pm

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

Life of Pi 3D (PG) 2hrs 06min
11:15am, 2:05pm, 5:00pm, 7:50pm, 10:40pm

Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2 (PG-13) 1hr 56min
11:20am, 2:00pm, 4:55pm, 7:55pm

Skyfall (PG-13) 2hrs 23min
12:30pm, 4:05pm, 7:20pm, 10:35pm

Flight (R) 2hrs 19min
12:15pm, 3:45pm, 7:00pm, 10:15pm

Argo (R) 2hrs 00min
11:25am, 2:10pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:35pm

Rise of the Guardians 3D (PG) 1hr 37min
11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm

Lincoln (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
11:35am, 3:00pm, 6:30pm, 10:00pm

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

Grey (R) 1hr 57min
1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:50pm

Waiting For Lightning (PG-13) 1hr 36min
1:00pm, 3:15pm, 5:30pm, 7:45pm, 10:15pm

Hitchcock (PG-13) 1hr 38min
1:00pm, 3:20pm, 5:40pm, 8:00pm, 10:15pm

Flying Lessons (R) 1hr 43min
1:55pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 9:55pm

AMC Criterion 6
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

Skyfall (PG-13) 2hrs 23min
11:15am, 2:45pm, 6:15pm, 9:45pm

Rise of the Guardians (PG) 1hr 37min
11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:20pm, 7:55pm, 10:30pm

Playing for Keeps (PG-13) 1hr 35min
11:10am, 1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

Wreck-It Ralph (PG) 1hr 48min
11:20am, 2:15pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

Silver Linings Playbook (R) 2hrs 00min
11:10am, 2:10pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Killing Them Softly (R) 1hr 40min
11:30am, 1:55pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

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

Relax tonight, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Keep reaching out to others, especially if recent circumstances caused a problem or a stunned reaction. Focus on conversations, yet maintain an even pace. You'll cover a lot of ground if you let others open up. Detach if you have a strong reaction. Tonight: Take a risk.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ A partner continues to give you significant feedback. You might not like everything you hear, but at least now you know where someone is coming from. Share some special time with a friend who understands how to live life well. Tonight: Accept an invitation.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You could be more in touch with your feelings than in recent months. An unexpected change of plans might be hurtful, but don't take it personally. To your surprise, a meeting proves to be rather insightful. Tonight: Go with someone's suggestion.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ You'll accomplish a lot if you remain focused. The unexpected walks hand in hand with a boss or someone you need to answer to. Let it go. What you learn from this experience could be quite instrumental. Tonight: Get some exercise.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ News gives you reason to frolic and celebrate. You could gain a deeper insight into your life. Opportunities come forward out of the blue when you have less energy to give. This pattern happens when you let go of the reins of control. Tonight: Let the fun begin.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Sometimes you are the source of your own pressure. The unexpected occurs, which encourages a partner to reach out and express some of his or her concerns. Tonight: To the wee hours.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You could be up for more excitement or a change of pace. You might not need to look very far, either. An associate seems to have the right type of fire to light someone's fuse. Tonight: Relax.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You might be surprised by what an unexpected situation brings. An associate or a matter involving your daily life could take an interesting twist, which adds excitement, if nothing else. A discussion with a partner draws results. Tonight: Visit with a friend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You could be taken aback by someone's efforts to make the day more to his or her liking. You might not be sure how another person will react. Stay open and fluid with the moment. Tonight: Be spontaneous. Plan a get-together with friends and loved ones.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Reframe a situation in a different light. Don't allow your high physical energy to affect your thinking, as it might make you more nervous than need be. Take a midday walk to clear any tension. Tonight: Schedule some downtime for yourself.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ A meeting could punctuate your plans. If you are single, you could meet someone who seems to have a magical quality about him or her. Lighten up when dealing with people, and you are likely to have better conversations. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Deal with others in a manner that makes them feel comfortable. You might need to take the lead. Think through a situation with greater care. On the other hand, a holding pattern could create better results. Tonight: Buy a holiday gift or two on the way home.

Happy birthday

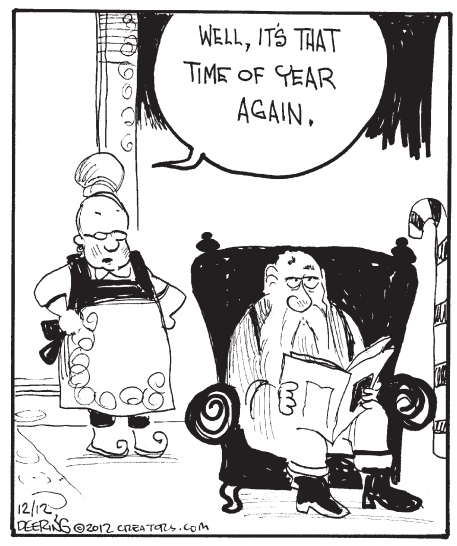
JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

This year you express your unique creativity, as an endless amount of unusual solutions and fun ideas seem to come from you. Drop the word "no" from your vocabulary. Because your birthday coincides with a New Moon, unusual charisma becomes the norm for you. You are the honey that bears seek! If you are single, many potential suitors surround you. Which one will you choose? If possible, don't decide on the first date. If you are attached, guard against being too me-oriented. A fellow SAGITTARIUS might take risks in a different way than you do.

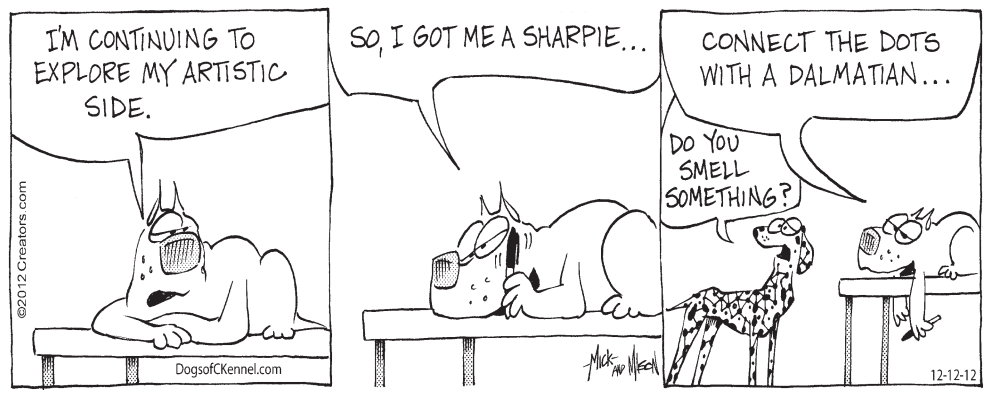
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



Strange Brew
By John Deering



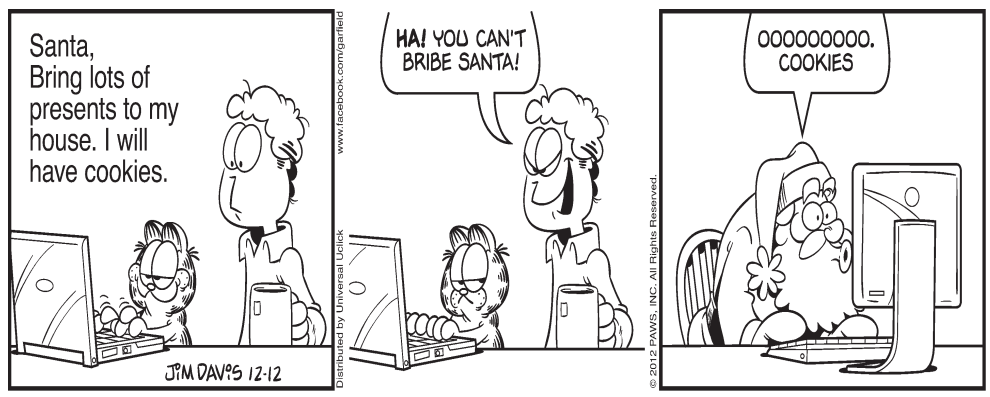
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Edge City
By Terry & Patty LaBan



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

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

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Fleet makeup
6 Rough guess
10 Radium discoverer
11 Crept away
12 Ham it up
13 Fare carriers
14 Ship of 1492
15 Show up
16 Chapel promise
17 December 24, e.g.
18 Court divider
19 Apple variety
22 Enjoy a novel
23 Social misfit
26 Oregon's largest city
29 Fuming
32 Bleachers cry
33 Ball holder
34 Kind of band or show
36 Slimming plan
37 Eyeballed
38 Therefore
39 "Likewise"
40 Worship site
41 Vast expanses
42 Feeds the pigs

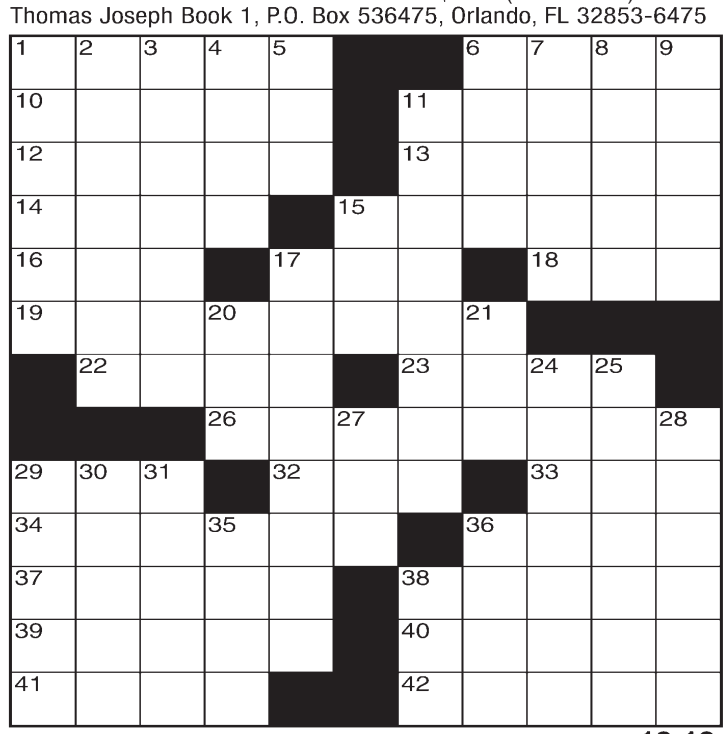
DOWN

1 Like vistas
2 Cigar holder
3 Magnetite, for one
4 Bread with a pocket
5 Take in
6 Christmas tree topper
7 Poison
8 Full of energy
9 Trouble
11 Might
15 One of Frank's wives
17 Pizarro's quest
20 Spigot
21 Singer Shannon
24 Corrode
25 Patella
27 Sought a seat
28 Hinders
29 States of mind
30 Rolling Stones song
31 River feature
35 Citi Field team
36 Secluded place
38 Possesses

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



12-12

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/7
7 43 44 51 56
Meganumber: 4
Jackpot: $27M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 12/8
17 24 30 33 45
Meganumber: 22
Jackpot: $19M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/11
1 10 24 33 34

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 12/11
MIDDAY: 2 4 7
EVENING: 1 1 0

SANTA ANITA
Draw Date: 12/11
1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 07 Eureka
3rd: 02 Lucky Star
RACE TIME: 1:49.27

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

■ "You have wrinkles," the inquiring customer was told, "and your left cheek is larger than your right," explained "Tata," the Bangkok-born woman who recently opened a salon in San Francisco to employ the supposedly traditional Thai art of face-slapping. Frown lines and droopy skin are curable with a 10-minute regimen of well- placed whacks across the cheek (and payment of the $350 fee), Tata told the Seattle Post-Intelligencer in October. Masochists are warned that Tata deals in therapy, not punishment. "If you want someone to hit you, go on Craigslist."

■ -- While the U.S. recently nearly elected a multimillionaire as president, Uruguay's chief executive, Jose Mujica, declared his personal wealth in 2010 as the equivalent of about $1,800 and gives away 90 percent of his $12,000 monthly presidential salary in order to remain true to his political roots with the leftist guerrilla group Tupamaros. He has rejected the government-provided mansion and instead lives with his wife at her family's farmhouse, where he helps work the land, according to a November BBC News profile from Montevideo. "I have to do (this)," he told a reporter, "because there are many Uruguayans who live with much less."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1979 - President of Pakistan, Zia-ul-Haq, confers Nishan-e-Imtiaz on Nobel laureate Dr Abdus Salam.

1979 - The unrecognised state of Zimbabwe Rhodesia returns to British control and resumes using the name Southern Rhodesia.

1983 - the Australian Labor government led by Prime Minister Bob Hawke and Treasurer Paul Keating floated the Australian dollar.

WORD UP!

cruciverbalist
\ kroo-suh-VUR-buh-list \ , noun;
1.
A designer or aficionado of crossword puzzles.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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Services

MEALS ON WHEELS WEST(Santa Monica, Pac.Pal, Malibu, Marina del Rey, Topanga)Urgently needed volunteers/drivers/assistants to deliver meals to the homebound in our community M-F from 10:30am to 1pm. Please help us feed the hungry.

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Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Petition of ARYA ALEXANDER KARAMOOZ for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner or Attorney: ARYA ALEXANDER KARAMOOZ filed a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: ARYA ALEXANDER KARAMOOZ to ARYA ALEXANDER. The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
Notice of Hearing:
Date: JANUARY 4, 2013 Time: 9:00am, Dept. A, Room 104
The address of the court is 1725 MAIN ST, SANTA MONICA, CA 90401
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.
Date: NOVEMBER 20, 2012
JOSEPH S. BIDERMAN, JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

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