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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2010
Volume 10 Issue 28

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

DODGERS SIGN CATCHER
SEE PAGE 12

THE WEIRD WEATHER ISSUE

UFO turns out to be skydivers

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

SM BAY Those strange bright lights residents saw in the night sky earlier this month turned out not to be UFOs after all, but rather two daredevils from the Red Bull Air Force who decided to jump out of an airplane with night flares.

Jon DeVore and Sean MacCormac performed two night skydive demonstrations over Santa Monica on Dec. 1 and Dec. 8 around 5:30 p.m., landing on the beach near the Jonathan Club on Pacific Coast Highway, said Maddy Stephens with Red Bull, the energy drink manufacturer with headquarters in Santa Monica. (Video of one of the jumps can be seen on YouTube at

SEE UFO PAGE 11



LOW VISIBILITY

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

A blanket of fog makes driving more difficult as cars move up and down Wilshire Boulevard on Monday night. The fog hung around Tuesday as cold weather moved in. Temperatures today are expected to be in the 50s with the possibility of showers in the morning.

School board launches search for next super

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS With Superintendent Tim Cuneo retiring in June, members of the school board moved forward with selecting his replacement on Monday by interviewing representatives from three executive search firms that are vying to help the board make its pick.

While no formal action was taken, members indicated they were strongly leaning toward Leadership Associates — a firm that employs Mike Escalante, a former Santa Monica High School vice principal and former superintendent of the Glendale Unified School District.

School board member Oscar de la Torre said Escalante's involvement in the search would be a benefit for the district because of his familiarity with local expectations.

"He understands that the community

SEE SEARCH PAGE 8

Business leaders bash plan to raise rents for restaurants

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

THIRD STREET PROMENADE Restaurant owners and Downtown business leaders on Tuesday slammed a City Hall proposal to raise rents for those who offer outdoor dining on public property.

The proposal, which still has to be debated and approved by the City Council, includes increases that would nearly triple rents for some restaurants, a substantial hike that many business owners said would force restaurants to close or stop offering outdoor dining to patrons.

Under the proposal, restaurants on Ocean Avenue with fully-enclosed patios leased from City Hall would see their rents jump from $1.90 a square foot to $5.83. Increases are more modest for restaurants without barriers to the public and located on streets away from Downtown, including Pico Boulevard, where a restaurant could pay $1.75 per square foot for space without a barrier instead of the current rent of 87 cents under the proposal.

The City Council in July questioned whether or not rents should be increased for those offering outdoor dining, especially those whose dining areas are fully enclosed. The idea is that locations with more pedestrian traffic are more valuable and restaurants should be charged more for using the public right of way for outdoor

SEE RENT PAGE 10

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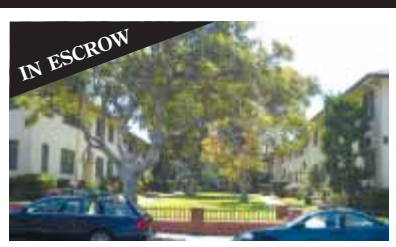
St. Monica Catholic High School

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
SOCCER				
Dec 16	Var	St. Michael's Prep	St. Michael's Prep	3:00pm
Dec 17	JV/Var	Grace Brethren	Grace Brethren	3:15pm
Dec 20	Var	Community Charter	Airport Park	3:00pm
BASKETBALL				
Dec 14	F/JV/Var	CSHM	SMCHS	4/5:30/7pm
Dec 17	JV/Var	New Roads	SMCHS	5:30/7pm

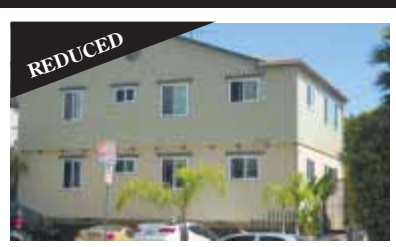
Santa Monica High School

Date	Team	Opponent	Location	Time
SOCCER				
Dec 16	Var	Peninsula	Peninsula	3:00pm
Dec 16	F/Soph	Peninsula	Peninsula	3:00pm
Dec 16	JV	Peninsula	Peninsula	4:30pm
Dec 18	Var	South Tournament	South Tournament	TBA
WATER POLO				
Dec 16	Var	Louisville (scrimmage)		3:00pm
Dec 16	JV	Louisville (scrimmage)		4:00pm
BASKETBALL				
Dec 17	Var	NIKE TOC	Phoenix, AZ	TBA

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2010

Holiday art sale
SMC Performing Arts Center
1310 11th St., 11 a.m. — 9 p.m.
This is a once-a-year chance to buy unique works of art including prints, ceramics, jewelry and more. This event takes place at the Art Gallery.

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

Super fresh
Downtown Santa Monica
Arizona Avenue and Second Street
8:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.
Get the freshest fruit and produce available at the weekly Farmers' Market. A variety of prepared foods will also be available.

Thursday, Dec. 16, 2010

Riding with Santa
Pacific Park
Santa Monica Pier, daily
Here comes Santa Claus, here comes Santa Claus, riding Pacific Park's coaster at Pacific Park on the Santa Monica Pier. The roller coaster ridin' Santa likeness will celebrate the holidays while riding in the last car of the West Coaster roller coaster. Guests have the opportunity to take photos with Santa while the train is in the station or ride-along as the coaster races 55-feet above the Santa Monica Bay.

Skate in the sunshine
1324 Fifth St.
12 p.m. — 10 p.m.
It's that time of year again. ICE at Santa Monica is back. Skate to your hearts desire — or at least until the rink closes for the night — everyday until Feb. 25. Admission and skate rental is $10.
For more information, call (310) 393-8355.

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

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HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL

Samohi player makes CIF-SS first team

BY PATRICK HOURIHAN
Special to the Daily Press

SAMOHI The results are in for the 2010 All-California Interscholastic Federation Southern Section 1st team selections for girls' volleyball, and one junior from Santa Monica High School was chosen to represent Division 3-AA.

Sarah Krenik, outside hitter for the Vikings, was only one of three juniors to be selected for the All-CIF-SS 1st team and was the only player chosen from the Ocean League.

Krenik was also selected as the Most Valuable Player in the Ocean League for the 2010 season.

Head Coach Liane Sato was pleased with how well her team did this season, and looks forward to dominating the Ocean League again next year with veterans like Krenik on the court leading the Vikings.

Sato guided her team to a perfect 8-0 record in Ocean League play this season en route to the Vikings earning the 2010 league title. They ended the regular season in good shape, being ranked No. 6 in Div. 3-AA's season ending polls, the only team from the Ocean League to make the top 10 rankings.

However, Samohi's season ended in mid-November after the team qualified for the CIF-SS Div. 3-AAA playoffs. They lost their second round single elimination game to Lancaster High School on Thursday, Nov. 14 after sweeping San Gorgonio High School in the first round earlier that week.

news@smdp.com

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Send letters to **editor@smdp.com**



WINNING WAYS Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*
Santa Monica High School's Julia Glanz protects the ball from a Notre Dame defender on Monday at John Adams Middle School. Samohi won the game, 2-1.

Ed board takes stand against health cuts

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS The school board is pushing back against a line-item veto by Gov. Schwarzenegger that education activists say could greatly harm mental health services for some special education students in school districts here and across California.

The veto stands to eliminate funding the state normally provides for the mental health services required by students who receive individualized education plans to cope with disabilities.

The school board on Monday passed a resolution calling for the funding, which pays for students' mental health services under a state law known as AB 3632, to be restored.

"It has potentially very grave consequences so we're hoping to alert our friends in Sacramento and in local government to the problem and hope that folks who care about our schools will join us in advocating for the reinstatement of this funding," said Ben Allen, the school board's vice chair.

It's unclear how many Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District students may be affected by the veto, according to Claudia Landis, chair of the district's Special Education Advisory Committee, but experts say 20,000 kids statewide benefit from services funded under AB 3632.

Landis said it's been clear for some time that the state's contribution to mental health services is under fire, but Schwarzenegger's veto adds a measure of urgency to efforts already underway to find solutions.

Her committee, she said, is working with the district's Financial Oversight Committee to look for new ways to deliver mental health services at lower cost.

"Not only does it have a financial impact, it really has a human impact," Landis said of the veto. "For kids that don't have medical insurance, this [program] may be the only access to mental health services they have."

nickt@smdp.com

Report: TV chef admitted to murder plot

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES A former TV chef known as the "calorie commando" told police he tried to hire homeless men to kill his wife to relieve her misery about being unable to have children.

The details were released Tuesday in a probation report on Juan-Carlos Cruz, who was sentenced Monday to nine years in prison.

Cruz said he and his wife Jennifer Campbell spent more than $200,000 on

SEE **PLOT** PAGE 9

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Respecting the process

Editor:

The board of the Wilshire/Montana Neighborhood Coalition supports the idea and the ideals of the LUCE. We support the community process that brought forth goals such as neighborhood conservation and sustainability.

We also like the building heights in the draft LUCE.

We were – and are – far less happy with the last-minute blizzard of height and density increases brought forth by developers. These changes, largely adopted by the Planning Commission and the City Council over objections from residents, undermine our faith in Santa Monica's community process.

We hope City Hall will take these concerns seriously when designing community process and dealing with responses to the process.

We recall that the Planning Commission and City Council said they could use zoning to provide us with lower-scale development than the maximum allowed in the LUCE. We hope to see this restraint in the zoning process. We also look forward to inclusion of true community benefits in future developments.

Valerie Griffin
Chair, Wilshire/Montana Neighborhood Coalition

It wasn't Jerry's fault

Editor:

The news that Jerry Rubin was asked to resign by the cap-on-development faction of Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights comes as no surprise ("Rubin asked to resign from SMRR," Dec. 13, 2010, page 1). SMRR is an organization fractured by division on the issue of development, with the pro-development members dominating the council. Of course that SMRR faction would support Rubin as he draws votes away from candidates like [Ted] Winterer. To be fair, Rubin doesn't deserve all the credit; it was that insidious, last-minute mailer that torpedoed Winterer's candidacy.

I remember one year Rubin dropped out of the race when he was told he would be a spoiler, but his name remained on the ballot. This year he was again first on the ballot, but was not allowed to use his middle name, so some voters still confuse him with a certain deceased yippie.

Rubin did resign from the Treesavers under a cloud. He loves to hear his own voice and would not tolerate dissent. I often wonder how he supports himself; selling buttons and bumper stickers on the boardwalk in Venice and the Third Street Promenade must be lucrative, and he never seems to get cold.

I consider Rubin to be representative of that part of SMRR that must be purged; the cronyism and corruption that has been feeding off the public till for years. They are responsible for turning this city into a haven for tourists, while fostering dependency among the homeless, creating traffic chaos and over development, etc. That is the faction that tried to deny Winterer the SMRR endorsement. They should welcome [Bob] Holbrook into their ranks and change their name to SMDR.

I left SMRR years ago when I realized they no longer cared about renters. If Santa Monica voters weren't so apathetic they would realize what was going on and throw the bums out. Winterer should lead a recall of all the pro-development council members, but like Al Gore, he's just too nice a guy.

Jon Mann
Santa Monica



Your column here

Jon Coupal — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Betraying the voters

WE'VE SEEN THIS BEFORE. AN OSTENSIBLY conservative legislator sells out California taxpayers by voting for a massive tax increase and everyone is left dumbfounded wondering how could this possibly happen. Later, maybe months or even years, the official gets a cushy, high paying appointment on some worthless board or commission. For those who believe that these deals aren't cut way at the time of the offending vote, we've got some swampland in Florida to sell you.

Let's review. As part of the budget deal of 2009, the California Legislature slammed taxpayers with the largest tax increase ever enacted by any statehouse in the history of America — $12 billion. Huge increases in the state's income tax, sales tax and the car tax hit ordinary California citizens at the worst possible time. But, in order to enact this tax increase, three Republican votes were needed in both the California Assembly and Senate. Since virtually all Republicans had signed a "no-tax" pledge, taxpayer activists thought there was a sufficient cushion to prevent the tax increase from going forward.

But the deal went through with exactly three Republican votes in each house — the bare minimum to get the job done. In the Senate, the votes came from Abel Maldonado (no surprise there as he openly sold out for placing the Open Primary measure on the ballot), Dave Cogdill (big surprise as he was a staunch conservative) and Roy Ashburn (also a surprise given the conservative bent of his district). In the Assembly, the Republican votes came from Roger Niello of Sacramento (but Niello had never signed the pledge), Assemblyman Mike Villines (huge surprise) and Anthony Adams, who had run for office as a staunch fiscal conservative and had signed the no-tax pledge.

The tax increases approved by the Legislature were imposed immediately and had a devastating effect on California's economy. Moreover, hanging over the heads of California taxpayers was another $16 billion in tax increases — basically extending the already imposed tax increases — for an additional length of time. But the extension of these tax increases was put before the voters in May of 2009 and, by now, California voters had had enough. Proposition 1A was defeated by a 2-1 margin.

The track record of those who betray taxpayers is not good. Both Villines and Maldonado ran for statewide office and lost. Niello ran for the California Senate but was bludgeoned by his main opponent, Ted Gaines, who used Niello's anti-taxpayer vote to great advantage in a very conservative district. Roy Ashburn termed out and his political career is over. Anthony Adams was the target of a recall effort that almost qualified and was vilified by talk radio throughout Southern California. Although not termed out, he chose not to run for reelection realizing that, except for close relatives, he wouldn't be getting any votes. (And even the close relatives were in doubt).

Regrettably, it appears that at least some of the votes for the budget deal were purchased with promises of appointments to the myriad of worthless boards and commissions for which California is so famous. In the case of Anthony Adams, who has no experience in the field of corrections, he received one of the juiciest plums of all: A spot on the California Board of Parole Hearings, which pays over $111,000 per year. Along with benefits, including medical and retirement, the value of this payoff is well in excess of the salary alone. Villines, too, got an appointment to a lesser board (paying "only" $40,000 annually).

For taxpayers, such betrayals are very painful. But there are several actions citizens can take to minimize the risks of this happening in the future. First, voters should base their support more on actions than promises. Although not foolproof, voting for candidates with a proven track record of opposing tax increases helps. Second, for all the criticism of "pledges," we now know they can be very helpful. Any candidate unwilling to sign a "no new tax" pledge should be immediately suspect. Third, any legislator who violates his promise to his constituency must not get a free pass. Activists from taxpayer groups, conservative organizations and the Tea Party movement must play the role of enforcers to ensure that anyone who supports tax hikes pays with the price of their very political careers. For those who believe this is distasteful, get over it. This isn't personal. It's business.

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.



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Hiding in the Open

David Alsabery
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Monkey see, monkey do

WAIT A SECOND. SOMETHING DOES NOT make any sense. How can President George Bush and President Barrack Obama come up with the same strategy as presidents?

You see, as a Republican, I can say that watching President Dubbya spend a trillion dollars on wars, expanding the size of the debt and government while using the Patriot Act against honest Americans was embarrassing. Watching President Obama follow the same game plan is downright suspicious.

For some very strange reason President Hope and Change decided to keep Guantanamo Bay open, continued the same Bush tax plan and continued the same wars that keep our troops in harm's way after promising to bring them home within 16 months. President Barry even found ways to make sure his buddies at Goldman Sachs did not loose money in the financial collapse, you know the company that hired President Bill Clinton's son-in-law. We, of course, cannot forget the fact that he had secret meetings with health care executives after chiding Bush, Bill and Hillary for doing that very same thing the last time.

If you're thinking what I'm thinking, then maybe you're wondering how he came up with the same plans as George Bush came up with? If you're a Democrat who believes George Bush was an idiot, then you must be having this sick feeling that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. I have another solution that will blow your mind.

Just imagine for a second that you could find a person who has no actual governing experience — not even in a little state like Alaska. When they were elected to lower office, they did not show up 46 percent of the time and voted with their party 96 percent of the time. You have a person who has not really held any high-level management jobs, or had to make payroll. You might be able to control that person, as long as you let them run around and be president. Think banana republics in Latin America or Africa. If you and your powerful buddies got together and wielded your massive influence and power from behind the scenes, your presidents could actually change every four years, but policy would remain the same. The voters would not revolt because they voted for that person.

You see, the Democrats had control of both houses of Congress, and could pass any legislation they wanted for the first two years Obama was in office. So how is it that all the hopes and changes that were promised didn't happen? I believe President Obama is a good man at heart. Unfortunately, I don't think Bush or Obama have what it takes to stand up to the forces they have faced.

You don't have to jump to the theory that aliens are controlling their minds. Often the answer is much more benign than that. A number of years ago I learned that the executive secretary of a company often has more power than other executives with titles. The secretary and the deputy secretary in cabinet positions change when presidents change. What does not change are the people next in command. Those people have a funny way of ending up working for large companies when they retire with full pensions. They get jobs as very well-paid consultants if they don't go on to seek higher office.

But you don't have to stray very from the top to understand the power of this effect. Bill Clinton went on to make some amazing cash as a consultant. It would not surprise me if George Bush and some of his friends did not go on to make some fantastic money as well. Have you noticed that no president or any of his buddies have been busted for inappropriate income. Let's face it, speaking engagements are one thing, but that's not where the real large money comes from.

Now I am not saying that Bill Clinton's son-in-law is not going to make an amazing amount of money in his life, all on his own merits, but what a message that would send to the Obamas who are raising two bright and wonderful little girls. The favor bank of the world works a little different than passing envelopes full of cash. Often, how you treat people leaving office tells the person coming into office that they will get gold at the end of the ride, as long as they don't kill the golden goose.

You see, it's not against the law for a large corporation to pay multi-million dollar fees after a person leaves office. We know from the fact that the IRS ignored Democratic Congressman Charles Rangel for 17 years that no one is watching out for bribes. Companies can legally hire the family of bureaucrats and politicians at much higher rates than the market normally pays after they leave office. That's just the way of the world. People with power and money got that money and keep that money because they understand how this works.

Its no fluke that Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Gen. Petraeus are both from the previous administration that President Obama was elected to change. If the parties are starting to blur, it is not your imagination. Presidents come and go, but the real people that run our country never leave.

DAVID ALSABERY can be reached at alsabery@gmail.com.

The Q Line

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The right pick?

The City Council last week selected Richard Bloom as Santa Monica's next mayor.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Did they get it right? If not, who should have been selected?

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



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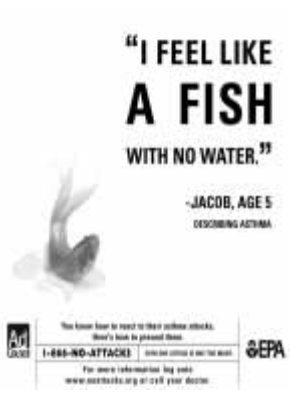


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Board opts to keep L.A. red-light cameras

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES The civilian board that oversees the Los Angeles police department agreed unanimously on Tuesday to keep a red-light camera program despite its low ticket-collection rate.

The five members of the Police Commission found that even though 77 percent of citations issued last year have gone uncollected, the 4-year-old program was effective in reducing traffic collisions at the 32 city intersections where the cameras are installed.

"This program should not be viewed as a profit generator," Commission President John Mack said. "The point is public safety, the point is to save people's lives."

A September audit questioned the effectiveness of the program, finding that since the program began in April 2006, about 56,000 citations worth more than $7 million in potential revenue for the city remain tied up in court.

Police blame Los Angeles County Superior Court for not aggressively going after drivers who were cited for running a red light or making right turns on a red light. Department officials said they urged the court to notify the state Department of Motor Vehicles to place a hold on the drivers licenses of violators who fail to pay their tickets, but the court has refused to intervene.

Deputy Police Chief Michel Moore said court officials felt that such a hold, which would prevent drivers from renewing their licenses until they resolve their tickets, would be "arbitrary and too harsh."

"They do not want to inconvenience the motorist that may not be the actual violator, that may simply be the registered owner and somebody else was driving the vehicle," Moore said.

He said he was hopeful that the court will reconsider.

"But at the end of the day, the department's concern is not in the cost neutrality or the profit that might be gained by this system, but rather the cost effectiveness in terms of improving traffic safety," he said.

A call to a court spokesperson was not immediately returned Tuesday.

It costs about $3.9 million each year to run the cameras and hire officers to review video of red-light violations and issue citations.

Police said red-light related traffic collisions at the 32 intersections have dropped by 63 percent, and that no one died since the cameras came on at those intersections, which saw a total of five deaths in the two years before the surveillance began.

Judge won't dismiss Spector legal fee dispute

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES A jury should decide whether imprisoned record producer Phil Spector should be refunded $1 million he paid to his former criminal defense attorney after his 2003 arrest, a judge ruled Tuesday.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Malcolm Mackey rejected a bid by Robert Shapiro's lawyers to have Spector's claims dismissed, saying it would be up to jurors to decide whether the fee was nonrefundable.

The producer and Shapiro, who was a member of O.J. Simpson's defense team, have been sparring over the money for years, with Spector contending Shapiro took advantage of him while he was facing charges for shooting a woman at his mansion. Shapiro has countered that it was clear that the fee was nonrefundable.

Shapiro did the equivalent of $186,000 hours of work on the case, his attorney said, but that didn't matter because the agreement he signed with Spector guaranteed him the $1 million.

Mackey pointedly questioned Shapiro's attorney Tuesday, asking whether the "Wall of Sound" producer received enough of Shapiro's services to warrant the fee.

"You think a million dollars worth of services was done here?" Mackey asked attorney Joel Klevens.

"Absolutely," the attorney responded, noting that Shapiro secured Spector's release on bail and that he remained free until his 2009 conviction.

Klevens also said Shapiro retained a group of experts "that no one else could have assembled." He noted that Spector used 10 attorneys to handle his case between his arrest and his second trial, which ended with the producer being convicted of second-degree murder in the death of Lana Clarkson.

Renowned for his work with musicians such as The Beatles, The Righteous Brothers and The Ronettes, Spector is now serving 19 years to life in state prison. He is appealing his conviction.

His attorney, Michael Dempsey, said he would like to have his client testify if the case goes to trial in March, but said that would be difficult.

"We think he'll pay much better to the jury than Shapiro," Dempsey said.

Klevens faulted Spector for hiring and firing so many attorneys, and said during the hearing that the record producer might not have been convicted if he "had not been a little bit looney."

Klevens declined to comment on Tuesday's ruling.



STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Feds: Child porn ring nets multiple arrests

Federal authorities in California say they have broken up an international child pornography ring that spanned three continents and resulted in at least 16 arrests.

Indictments were returned last year in Los Angeles for some of the people facing child pornography charges. Investigators say suspects have been charged in Romania, France and Brazil, while others have been convicted in Norway and the United Kingdom.

More details are expected to be announced at a press conference Tuesday afternoon.

Court documents show those charged belonged to a members-only message board known as "Lost Boy" where child pornography could be viewed.

Federal prosecutors say that in order to join the board, each member had to post explicit images. The site also stored a private library of child pornography for members to access.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Regulator to PacifiCare: Keep $120M for fines

The California insurance commissioner has ordered a health insurer to keep $120 million in profits in California in case the money is needed to pay fines.

In an administrative order issued Monday, Commissioner Steve Poizner says PacifiCare Life and Health Insurance should not send its dividends to its parent company, Minnetonka, Minn.-based UnitedHealth Group.

Poizner says the insurer faces nearly $1 billion in fines for nearly 1 million alleged violations under the Unfair Practices Act.

Similar informal warnings have been issued to insurers in the past, but Poizner's order marks the first time a formal order to keep dividends has been issued.

A call to the insurer was not immediately returned.

AP

COMMERCE

L.A. sheriff: Trio probably never heard train

Three men killed by an Amtrak train probably never heard it coming because they were walking beside a moving freight train, Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies said Tuesday.

"They were walking on the train tracks. There was a freight going east," Sgt. Michael Thomas said. "They probably didn't hear the oncoming Amtrak train and got run over."

The westbound Amtrak train, with 122 passengers and a crew of three, started to pass the freight train Monday night. The conductor saw the men and braked, but couldn't stop the train before it hit the men.

The names of the dead have been withheld until relatives can be notified, said Ed Winter, a spokesman for the Los Angeles County coroner's office. The victims were male Hispanics, possibly in their 20s, he said.

Homicide detectives did not find any evidence of foul play during their preliminary investigation, Thomas said.

The bodies of two men were found close to the tracks. The remains of the third were found nearby, Thomas said.

Investigators were trying to determine if the third man was thrown from the tracks, dragged or even crawled away.

Amtrak spokeswoman Vernae Graham said the authorized track speed in the area is 79 mph and that the train was probably going full speed because it was 17 miles west of Fullerton, its last stop.

Thomas said it was also possible the three men were not walking together at the time. One may have been walking ahead of the others, he said.

Graham said it takes three football fields for a train going 79 mph to stop and people repeatedly ignore danger warnings. People also walk along the tracks using cell phones and music players that block the noise of oncoming trains, she said.

No one on the train was injured, said Graham. The passengers, headed from San Diego to Los Angeles, were delayed more than five hours, she said.

All rail traffic was halted in the area. Graham said three other passenger trains were delayed from 2? hours to 4? hours.

Commerce is about eight miles south of downtown Los Angeles.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Brown warns educators of CA budget woes

Gov.-elect Jerry Brown has warned California educational leaders to have their seatbelts fastened when he unveils his 2011-12 state budget proposal next month.

During an education budget briefing Tuesday for some 200 school officials at UCLA, Brown gave no specifics but said the state's fiscal crisis is worse than he thought.

School district superintendents implored Brown to avoid further cuts in education spending and urged him instead to spread out the cuts more evenly across state agencies.

The state's K-12 education budget has been slashed by $7 billion over the last three years.

Some administrators urged legislation that would allow parcel taxes to be approved with a 51 percent vote instead of the current 55 percent threshold. Others asked for more flexibility in how school districts can spend state monies.

AP

LOS ANGELES

George Clinton sues Black Eyed Peas over 'Shut Up'

Funk pioneer George Clinton wants a federal judge to force the Black Eyed Peas to shut up when it comes to sampling his music.

Clinton sued the Grammy-winning pop group in Los Angeles on Friday, claiming it used elements of his 1979 song "(Not Just) Knee Deep" in remixes of their song "Shut Up."

The song first appeared on the group's 2003 album "Elephunk," and it released "Shut Up Remix" the same year. It also was used in another remix included on the deluxe edition of the Peas' 2009 release, "The E.N.D.," according to the complaint.

Clinton says he never granted permission for the use of his music, and he is seeking copyright infringement damages and an injunction to block further sales of the remixes.

His lawsuit also names as defendants will.i.am and Fergie, the two highest-profile members of Black Eyed Peas. He is also suing the group's label, Universal Music Group.

A representative for attorney Ken Hertz, who represents the Black Eyed Peas, says he doesn't comment on client issues.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CITY HALL
Counting on volunteers

City Hall is looking for more than 200 volunteers to help with the 2011 Homeless Count, an annual street-by-street count of homeless people living on the streets of Santa Monica.

Data from previous counts showed that there was a 25 percent reduction in homelessness from 2007 to 2010.

No experience is required. Training will be provided. Teams of two and three people will survey Santa Monica's streets and count homeless individuals. Security will be provided.

For more information contact Dina Aubrey at (310) 458-8701 or dina.aubrey@smgov.net. To learn more about City Hall's efforts to address homelessness, go to www.homelessness-action.smgov.net. Those interested in volunteering can fill out a survey at www.smgov.net/homelesscountvolunteer.aspx.

DAILY PRESS

SMMUSD HDQTRS
Accepting applications

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's Financial Oversight Committee currently has four vacancies that need to be filled and you could be a candidate. The school district is looking for volunteers with business and/or financial expertise to serve.

Application forms are available through the superintendent's office or via the district's web site at smmusd.org/fiscal/financialDAC.html. The deadline for applications is Friday, Jan. 14, 2011. They can be mailed to the district office (1651 16th St., Santa Monica, Calif., 90404), faxed to (310) 581-1138, or scanned and e-mailed to swahrenbrock@smmusd.org.

Financial Oversight Committee meetings are currently scheduled once a month at the district headquarters at 7 p.m.

DP

SEARCH
FROM PAGE 1

expects engagement and ample opportunity for public input on this decision," de la Torre said.

The board is set to formally hire a firm at its next meeting on Jan. 13.

Ben Allen, the board's newly appointed vice chair, agreed that Escalante's roots in the district were an important aspect of his firm's pitch.

"I think having that local experience was a positive factor," Allen said.

Leadership Associates' fee is $28,500. The other two finalists for the contract with the district were Dave Long & Associates and Proact Search, an Illinois-based firm that was the only out-of-state finalist.

Allen said California's unique education financing laws made going with an in-state firm more attractive to members of the board.

"We want to look really broadly, but I think we also want to have a firm that knows the California superintendent landscape really well," he said.

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PLOT
FROM PAGE 3

failed fertility treatments over 10 years and were deep in debt as a result.

"His wife was brokenhearted and lamenting over the treatments. The defendant then said that this was a 'merciful' way to end her suffering," the report states.

Cruz told authorities he considered killing himself and his wife on Mother's Day because it was the most difficult holiday for her but instead decided to hire someone to slash her throat. His plan involved going to a book-signing and party for his latest cookbook, "The Love Diet," then returning home to find his wife dead.

The couple never considered adopting because, "There were other adopted children in the extended family and ... they were not treated the same as biological children," the report states.

Cruz, 48, pleaded no contest in a plea agreement to a charge of solicitation of murder, and prosecutors dropped a more serious count of attempted murder.

The agreement called for a nine-year prison sentence, but defense attorney Shawn Chapman Holley said Cruz was expected to serve half of the term because no serious, violent felony was committed.

Campbell did not make a victim impact statement at the sentencing, and she and Holley later declined to speak with reporters.

Santa Monica police were tipped to the plan by the homeless men approached by Cruz.

They said Cruz gave them 10, $100 bills that had been cut in half and said he would provide the other halves after the killing. Police found the remaining half-bills in Cruz's wallet, the report states.

Police detectives placed Cruz under surveillance and later videotaped him arranging the murder with the men and driving one of them to his Westwood condo to show him how to get in, prosecutors said.

Cruz was concerned that his dogs not be harmed and gave the men treats to keep the animals quiet. Cruz first discussed having his wife's throat slashed with a box cutter, the report said, but also suggested strangling her with her pantyhose

He was quoted as telling the men: "If it ends up bloody, that's fine ... But I prefer not to have a mess."

The El Salvador-born Cruz told detectives he got the idea for his wife's death from a mystery novel but came up with the idea to cut the bills himself.

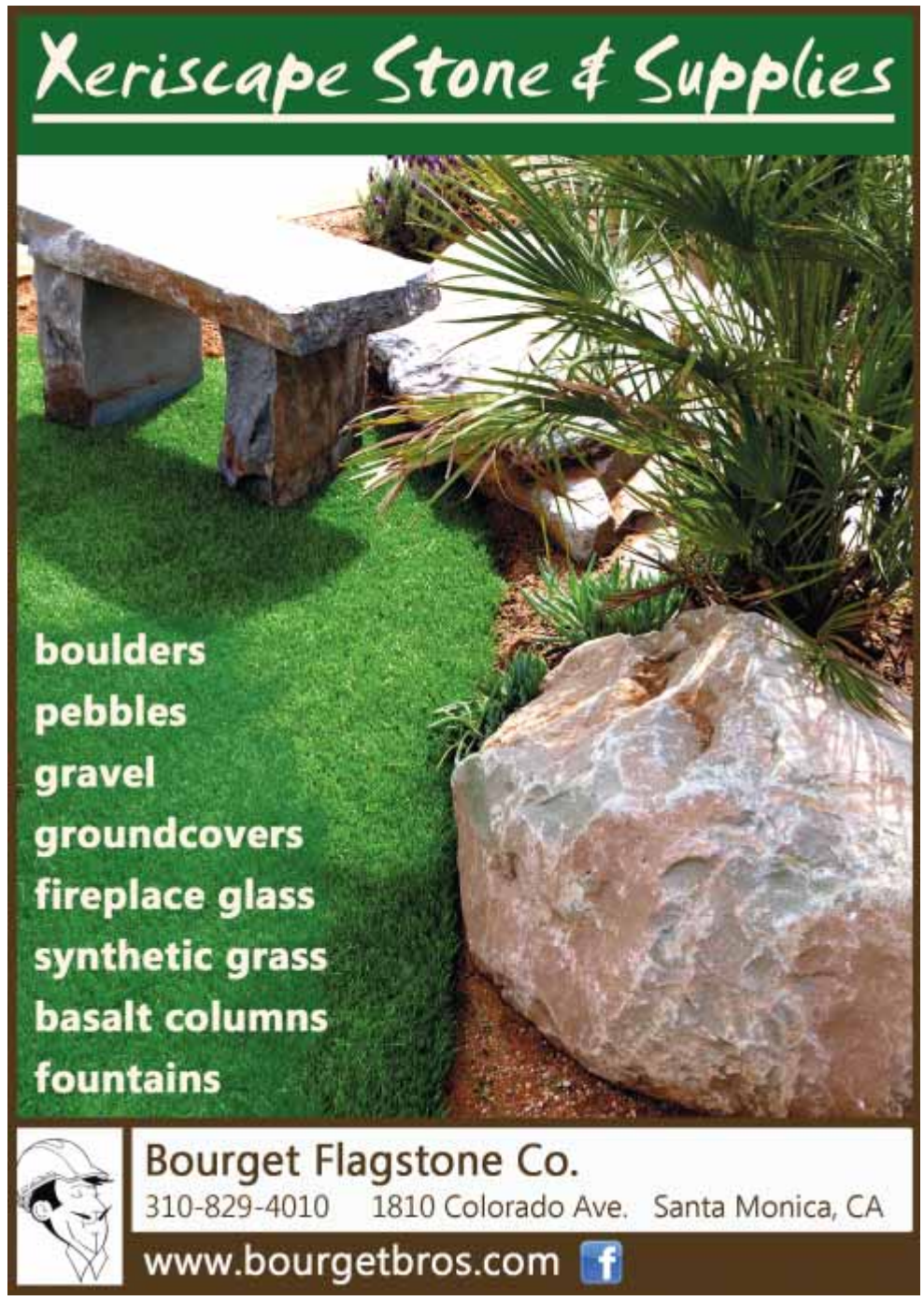
A former pastry chef at the Hotel Bel-Air, Cruz's weight loss led to a new career on the Discovery Health Network's "Body Challenge 3."

That led to "Calorie Commando" on the Food Network. The show, which focused on remaking favorite recipes in low-calorie versions, ended in 2006.

Cruz then published "The Calorie Countdown Cookbook." The subsequent "Love Diet" book was published after his arrest and featured aphrodisiac recipes.

Friends described Cruz and his lawyer wife as a devoted couple. After his arrest, he told police, "Even though I was planning on whacking her, I'm very devoted," according to the probation report.

He gave her a wink and a smile at his sentencing.





RENT
FROM PAGE 1

dining. Restaurants should also pay higher rents the more they enclose outdoor dining, as the enclosures essentially turn a public space — the sidewalk — into a private one.

Restaurant operators along the Third Street Promenade, one of the most expensive places to operate, said a sluggish economy and competition from Santa Monica Place eateries have hurt their bottom lines, some saying receipts are down anywhere from 9 to 20 percent.

A consultant conducted a survey of surrounding rents for restaurants and developed the preliminary pricing scheme, said Miriam Mack, City Hall's economic development manager. Mack said the average outdoor dining license is issued for five years. Those renewing or applying for a new license would be subject to the new rents if they are approved by the council.

Restaurateurs, along with members of the Bayside District Corp. board, pleaded with city staff to postpone their presentation on the rent increases to the council to give the economy more time to recover. Some suggested recalculating the proposed rent increases, creating a more affordable fee scale, with increases tied to the Consumer Price Index, which helps measure inflation.

Jeff Decker, who owns The Yard on Broadway near Second Street, said outdoor dining needs to be protected because it "does enhance the [pedestrian] experience."

"We maintain the sidewalk as if it was the inside of our restaurant," Decker said, demonstrating how outdoor dining is beneficial to City Hall and the community.

West Hooker, co-owner of Locanda del Lago on Arizona Avenue in Downtown, said restaurants who offer outdoor dining are "adding something to the area," by activating the street. Restaurants add flowers and furnishings, among other touches, to create a vibe. He asked city staff to lower the rents, keeping in mind that restaurants can't use their outdoor dining areas 365 days a year because of the weather or other conditions.

Barbara Bryan, a member of Bayside and co-owner of the Interactive Cafe on Broadway, said City Hall must decide if it wants to nurture small businesses or just make money, creating a situation where high rents equal high turnover.

Patricia Hoffman, co-chair of Santa Monica's leading political party — Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights — who sits on the Bayside board as a representative of the community, spoke in favor of increasing the rents, particularly for those restaurants that use full enclosures.

However, Hoffman agreed the time is not right to introduce the new rents given the struggling economy.

City Hall currently manages 48 outdoor dining licenses, which generates approximately $318,000 annually, said Donna Rickman in the Economic Development Division.

The proposed rents are expected to go before the council during budget discussions early next year, with adoption expected in June. Council members have yet to weigh in on the rents, however, there is speculation that with City Hall facing budget deficits in the coming years, generating more revenue will be a top priority.

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UFO
FROM PAGE 1

www.youtube.com/user/jondevore.)

One Santa Monica resident, Jeremy Corbell, filmed both jumps and posted the footage on YouTube, drawing considerable interest from other Westsiders who too saw the bright lights. Corbell told the Daily Press last week that he thought the bright lights falling to the earth were debris. He had no idea they were skydivers.

San Antonio Spurs star Manu Ginobili also saw one of the jumps while his team was in town getting ready to play the Los Angeles Clippers. He posted footage on his blog, prompting TMZ.com to post a short story on its website last week. Ginobili thought the lights were from an experimental jet aircraft.

DeVore, manager of the Red Bull Air Force, said on his blog that he had no idea people thought he and his partner may have been alien aircraft.

"As soon as I saw the videos on the news I busted up laughing," DeVore wrote on redbullairforce.com, which also includes footage of one of the jumps. "It was us jumping with our night flares."

Stephens said Red Bull had no intention of fooling the public.

"We had no idea they'd be spotted as UFOs," she said, "but glad we're able to help solve the mystery!"

Case closed.

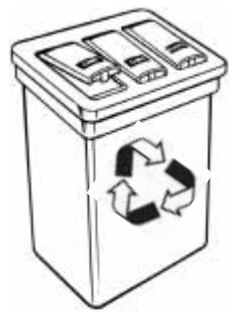
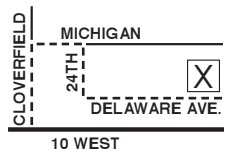
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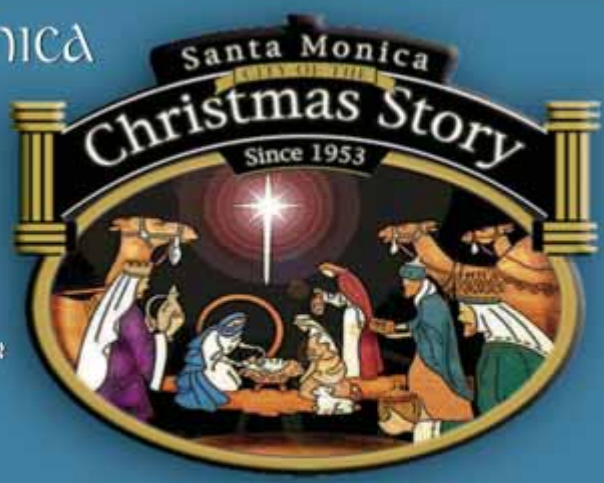


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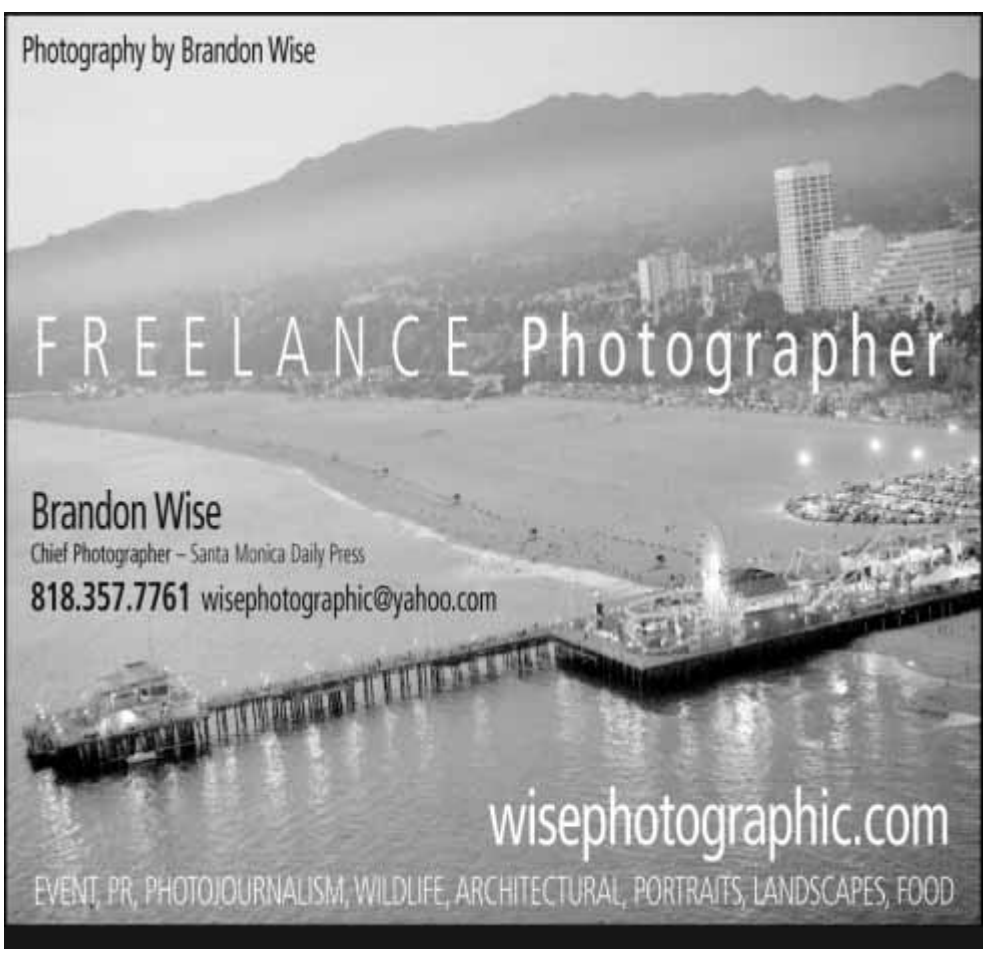
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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

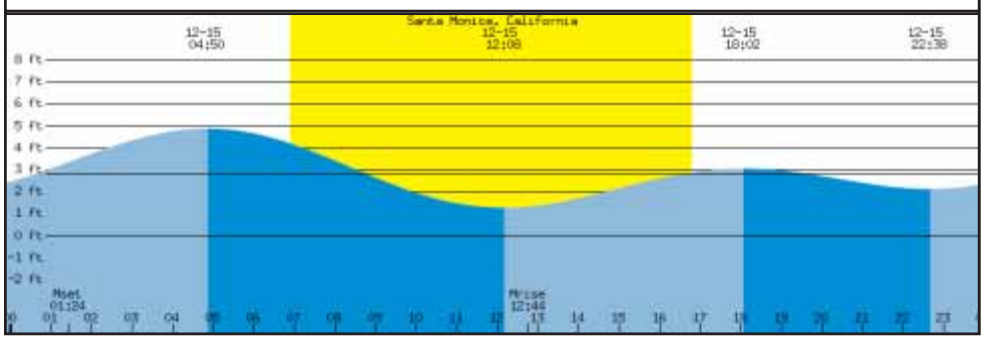
Swell Forecast

Looks weaker as the wind swell backs off. Most all breaks are looking at waist high waves.

Long Range Synopsis

Should see another burst of wind swell, increasing west facing breaks into chest high surf, with periods running 11 seconds.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **December 8, 2010**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 11
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 42 / 22
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 5 / 17

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alina creeks.	A+	F
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A	B
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	A
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	C
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach.	F	A
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A+	A
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	F
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	B
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	D
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	B
Pena Creek at Los Tunos County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	A+
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	F	D
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	A+

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

LEGEND

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

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

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

Heal the Bay

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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.

MLB

Navarro gets $1 million deal with Dodgers

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Free-agent catcher Dioner Navarro agreed Tuesday to a $1 million, one-year contract with the Dodgers, bringing him back for a second stint in Los Angeles.

Navarro played for the Dodgers for parts of two seasons before being traded to Tampa Bay in June 2006.

The switch-hitting Navarro batted .194 with a home run and seven RBI in 48 games last season. The Rays didn't offer him a contract for 2011.

Navarro made the All-Star team in 2008 when he hit a career-high .295. He caught every inning of 16 postseason games that year that ended with the Rays losing to Philadelphia in the World Series.

Last week, the Dodgers re-signed catcher Rod Barajas to a one-year deal a day after deciding not to offer a contract to catcher Russell Martin.

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* Some restrictions apply
310-478-3001 ext. 100 www.californiarecycles.com

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

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

BID #3020 – FURNISH AND DELIVER ONE (1) NEW AND UNUSED HYDROSTATIC DRIVE-HIGH PRESSURE JETTER VACUUM UNIT FOR THE WATER RESOURCES DIVISION.

Please refer to the bid packet for further details.
The bid packet can be downloaded at:
http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/QuickSearch.cfm
Submission Deadline is January 11, 2011 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Request for bid forms and specifications may be obtained from the City of Santa Monica, 1717 4th St., Suite 250, Santa Monica, California, by calling (310) 458-2211, or by e-mailing your request to kimberlie.nimori@smgov.net. Bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica.

Vendors interested in doing business with the City of Santa Monica are encouraged to register online at http://www.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS:
BIKE TRANSIT CENTER OPERATOR

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

INVITATION #121010: RFP BIKE TRANSIT CENTER OPERATOR.

Submission deadline is January 24, 2011 at 5:00 PM PT.

The bid packet can be downloaded at:
http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/QuickSearch.cfm

Vendors interested in doing business with the City of Santa Monica are encouraged to register online at http://www.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/

Further information about the Request for Proposals for a Bike Transit Center Operator may be obtained by calling (310) 458-2241 or by e-mailing your request to annette.colfax@smgov.net.

DO YOU HAVE COMMUNITY NEWS?
Submit news releases to editor@smdp.com or by fax at (310) 576-9913
smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office **(310) 458-7737**

MOVIE TIMES

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

Moscow, Belgium (NR) 1hr 42min
7:30pm
A Belgian beer reception will follow the screening.
Call theater for more information.

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

Morning Glory (PG-13) 1hr 42min
2:20pm, 7:15pm

Unstoppable (PG-13) 1hr 38min
12:30pm, 2:55pm, 5:15pm, 7:30pm, 9:55pm

Due Date (R) 1hr 35min
12:00pm, 4:55pm, 9:45pm

Social Network (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
3:45pm, 6:45pm

Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader in Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 52min
1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:50pm

Warrior's Way (NR) 1hr 40min
12:15pm, 10:00pm

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

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
11:40am, 3:10pm, 6:30pm, 9:50pm

Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 40min
11:20am, 2:00pm, 4:35pm, 7:15pm, 9:45pm

Burlesque (PG-13) 1hr 40min
1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader in Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 52min
11:30am, 12:30pm, 2:20pm, 3:20pm, 5:10pm, 6:15pm, 7:55pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm

Black Swan (R) 1hr 50min
10:45am, 11:30am, 1:15pm, 2:05pm, 3:50pm, 4:45pm, 6:45pm, 7:45pm, 9:30pm, 10:30pm

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

Night Catches Us (R) 1hr 30min
1:00pm, 3:20pm, 5:40pm, 8:00pm, 10:15pm

All That I Love (Wszystko co kocham) (NR) 1hr 30min
1:00pm, 7:40pm, 9:55pm

Inside Job (PG-13) 1hr 48min
1:30pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:40pm

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

Beats of Freedom (Zew wolnosci) (NR) 1hr 13min
3:10pm, 5:20pm

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

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
12:40pm, 4:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm

Love and Other Drugs (R) 1hr 53min
1:25pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Megamind 3D (PG) 1hr 36min
12:30pm, 3:05pm, 5:30pm, 8:00pm

Next Three Days (PG-13) 2hrs 02min
noon, 10:20pm

Tangled (PG) 1hr 40min
1:10pm, 3:40pm, 6:10pm, 8:40pm

Tourist (PG-13) 1hr 43min
1:15pm, 2:45pm, 4:15pm, 5:15pm, 6:45pm, 7:45pm, 9:30pm, 10:15pm

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

Chill, Scorpio

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Don't let a sense of negativity or redundancy over an issue or situation aggravate you. Take a deep breath, with the knowledge that there is something better ahead. Creativity often stems from frustration like this. Tonight: Detach from your daily life.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★ The less said the better, considering the mood you are in. In fact, if you can take a personal day or decide to exit from one day of your life, the time is now. Consider yourself on sabbatical. Tonight: Greet a loved one with a big smile.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You attempt to home in on the basics yet are continuously distracted by an idea or a loved one. Make this diversion OK, and you will find that you have an easier time concentrating. Watch a key loved one or associate take that extra step. Tonight: Getting into some Santa chores.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Take a stand, understanding that something better lies ahead. Your ability to deal with a domestic matter and work matter (or community matter) at the same time might not be up to par. Leave one before going to the other. Prioritize in order to get results. Tonight: Understand that all the nurturing in the world cannot change some issues.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Keep reaching out for others, and don't stand on ceremony. Everyone is a bit uptight right now. Why would you be any different? If you can get past tension, you could be instrumental in eliminating it for you and for others. Tonight: Detach rather than react.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Relate on a one-on-one level, opening up doors if possible. What you think is creative or a great project could get shut down. Relax. This, too, will pass. Use care with spending. A mistake or risk could be a problem. Tonight: Snuggle in, even if it is with the cat!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Do you realize the kibosh you are putting on others' ideas and plans? Let go of negativity and try to loosen up. Then communication will become more fulfilling and worthwhile. Establish limits. Tonight: Go with a suggestion.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ You might be tired or a little depressed. Not realizing this drain, you could go out and wonder why others react so strangely. Know when to leave an uncomfortable situation. Focus on your to-do list only. Tonight: Put your feet up. Chill.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You generally can count on your ingenuity, but perhaps not at the moment. You could be overthinking a situation, trying to figure out the best way. Friends, associates and others in general don't seem to be helpful. Tonight: Let off steam.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Realize your limitations and why issues involving boundaries are happening. A parent, elder or boss could be in a bad mood. Don't you think it has gone on a little too long? Perhaps you could be as much at fault here. Tonight: Do some serious soul searching.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Keep conversations moving. If you aren't able to get enough information or detach sufficiently in order to see the big picture, relax. A friend could be instrumental in helping you. For some, a meeting allows negativity to clear up. Tonight: Favorite spot, favorite people.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Understand that a partner feels frightened and uptight. All your efforts lead to nowhere. Know when and how to let go. You also might decide to take the lead with spending or a risk. You appear to be more flexible. Tonight: Treat yourself too!

Happy birthday

This year, letting go may be the key to your success. Don't stand on ceremony any longer, and give up any vindictiveness, if possible. Greater creativity and energy will result. If you are single, a major love affair could define your next year. Look to meeting this person probably in the first half of 2011. If you are attached, the two of you could be welcoming a new addition to your family. Of course, this might be a new pet, so don't fret! Romance seems to be in the air spring 2011. Artists and creative sorts bloom this year, possibly creating their life's masterpiece. ARIES can be provocative and fun at the same time.

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



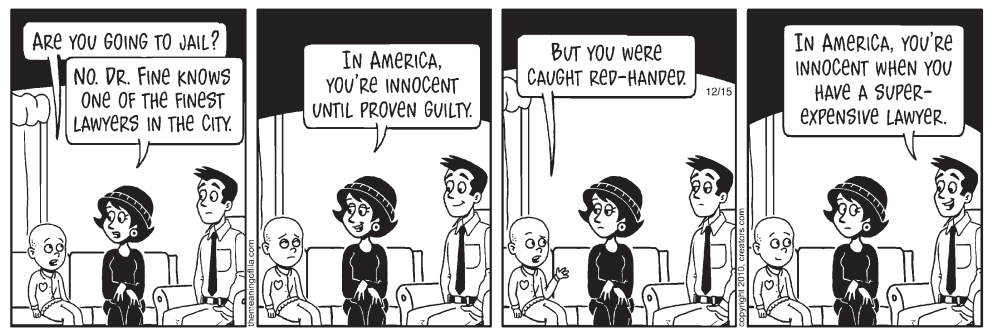
Garfield

By Jim Davis



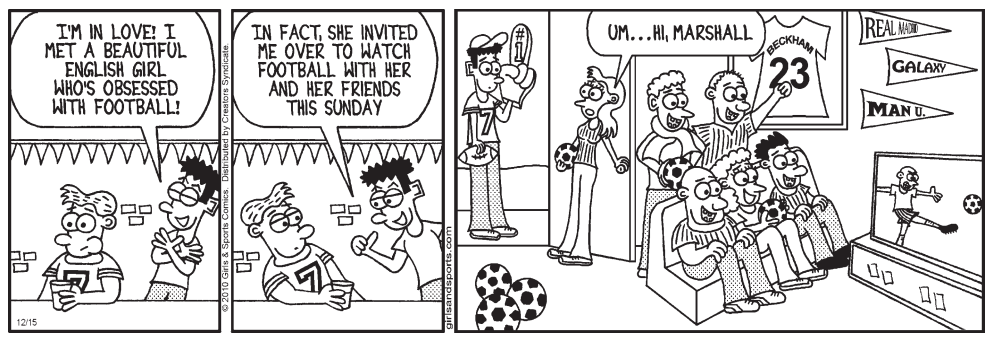
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



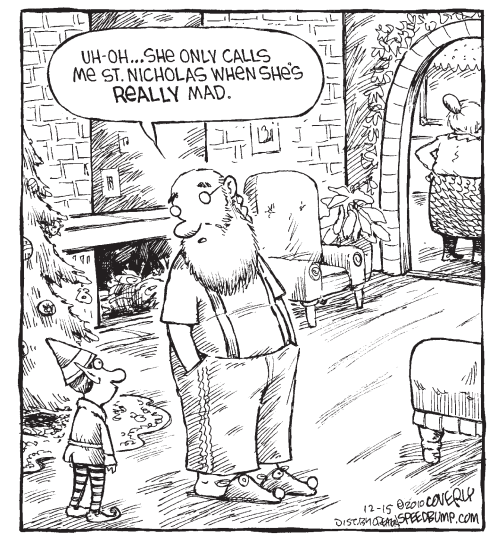
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

"Seniors!
Do You Know
The Jealously
Guarded Secrets
Banks Hide
From You That
Could Cost You
Thousands?"

A nationally known financial expert says many seniors who have savings accounts make these mistakes, costing themselves and their families thousands of dollars! They risk their retirement security, increasing the chance they could outlive their money. This is true whether they handle retirement savings themselves, or with help from a professional! Are you needlessly losing thousands of dollars? Find out NOW, by getting this eye opening FREE report that reveals retirement savings secrets that banks and insurance companies don't want you to know!
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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Was vocal
6 Office helper
10 (to a printer
11 Ring figure
12 Sleeping
13 Houston player
14 Author Sheehy
15 In phone limbo
16 Sept. follower
17 Sept. preceder
18 Guitarist Paul
19 Irving Wallace novel
22 Rock's Clapton
23 Killer whale
26 Speculate
29 Print measures
32 Block up
33 Smidgen
34 Plan in detail
36 Scrabble piece
37 Entry form
38 Sleepy sort
39 Select group
40 Ryan of film
41 Nevada city
42 Keyed up

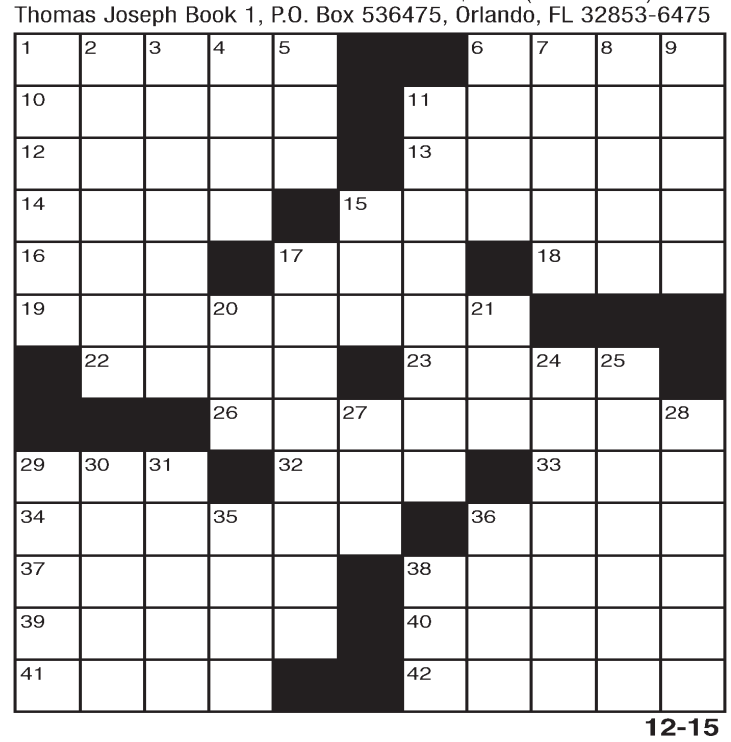
DOWN

1 Faucet
2 Flair
3 Satellite
4 Boat bottom
5 Wrap up
6 Comedy Central's Daniel
7 Praise
8 Singer Haggard
9 Eggs on
11 Words from Ralph Kramden
15 Yves' yes
17 Franz Ferdinand's title
20 Peach center
21 Blunder
24 Passport holder
25 Flowery shrubs
27 Put away
28 Channel swimmer Gertrude
29 Glowing cinder
30 "Atlantic City" director
31 Iberian nation
35 Aware of
36 Way of speaking
38 URL part

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

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



12-15

ARITHMO™

CrossMath + × − ÷

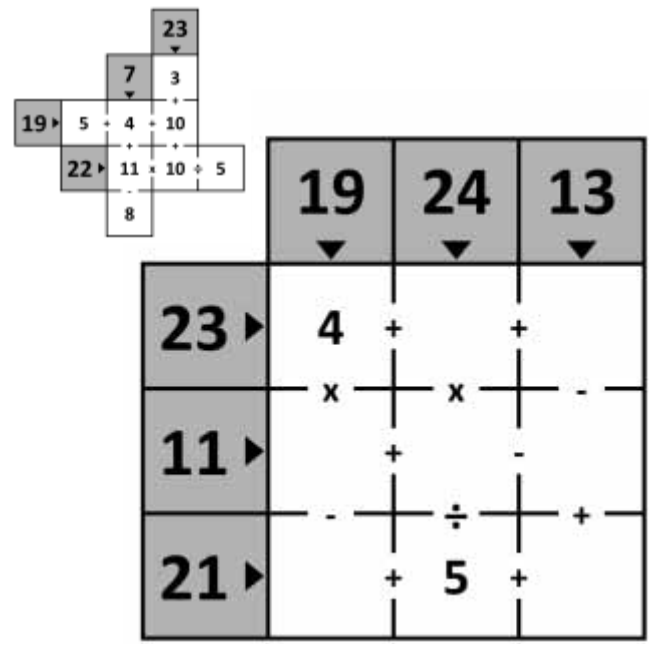
- Fill the grid with the set of given numbers (1 to 12) to satisfy the Equa demands (7 to 24) in the shaded boxes. The Equa demands represent the sum of the digits that you will insert into the empty squares.
- Each horizontal row has one Equa demand to satisfy; each vertical column also has one demand to satisfy. Each empty square in the grid dictates the math operation (addition +, subtraction -, multiplication X, and division ÷) that must be performed to meet the demands.
- You must follow the given math operations for each square and you must make sure all the numbers satisfy the demands in the shaded boxes when connected in adjacent threes and calculated together from left to right, and top to bottom.
- The numbers you insert into the grid must satisfy the Equa demands both horizontally and vertically.

For more games, go to www.arithmo.com

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

5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12

Solution for Task 521



DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 23 27 33 44 46 — Meganumber: 36 — Jackpot: $104M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 3 4 22 32 44 — Meganumber: 8 — Jackpot: $12M

Fantasy 5: 4 6 9 33 38

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 5 2 1 — EVENING: 6 0 4

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 05 California Classic — 2nd: 08 Gorgeous George — 3rd: 01 Gold Rush — RACE TIME: 1:41.45

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

■ In November, the California Supreme Court ruled unanimously that some illegal immigrants are entitled to enroll in the state's universities at the in-state residents' rate (saving as much as $23,000 a year) even though U.S. citizens at the same schools may have to pay higher fees as non-California residents. Though federal law prevents special benefits to illegal immigrants, California's law grants anyone who has attended the state's high schools for at least three years, and graduated, to pay resident rates -- irrespective of their parents' legal residency.

■ Chadwick St.-OHarra, 59, and Steve Righetti, 59, filed lawsuits in small claims court in San Rafael, Calif., in November against the Seafood Peddler restaurant for "injuries." Cutting into the escargot at dinner in June, both men were squirted in the face by streams of hot garlic butter. Still, the men finished the meal and admitted that only later did they grow to resent the restaurant staff's insufficient remorse. Said St.-OHarra, "It was the friggin' rudeness" that provoked them to sue.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1914 World War I: The Serbian Army recaptures Belgrade from the invading Austro-Hungarian Army.

1914 A gas explosion at Mitsubishi Hojyo coal mine, Ky✣sh✣, Japan, kills 687.

1917 World War I: An armistice is reached between the new Bolshevik government and the Central Powers.

1939 Gone with the Wind receives its première at Loew's Grand Theatre in Atlanta, Georgia, USA.

1941 Holocaust: German troops execute over 15,000 Jews at Drobitsky Yar, a ravine southeast of the city of Kharkiv, Ukraine.

1941 The American Federation of Labor adopts a no-strike policy in war industries.

1942 The Battle of Mount Austen, the Galloping Horse, and the Sea Horse begins during the Guadalcanal campaign.

WORD UP!

brazen
\ BREY-zuhn \ , adjective;
1. Shameless or impudent.
2. Made of brass.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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