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Santa Monica Daily Press
DECEMBER 15-16, 2012
Volume 12 Issue 30



Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

GET YOUR PUB CRAWL ON SATURDAY
SEE PAGE 2

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY ISSUE

City Hall tests airplane muffler to reduce noise at SMO

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMO Santa Monica city officials, Justice Aviation and residents are collaborating on a possible solution to one of Santa Monica Airport's most vexing problems — the constant drone of airplanes over the neighborhoods.

Justice Aviation, the largest flight school at SMO, has agreed to install the airplane equivalent of a muffler on one of its Cessna 172s to see if the device, still uncommon in the United States, will cut down on the noise generated as planes fly in the airspace around the airport.

Members of airport staff, a Justice Aviation pilot and two members of Community Against Santa Monica Airport Traffic, or CASMAT, gathered on Dec. 6 to take initial readings of the noise generated by the small airplane as it traveled roughly 10 times in a box around SMO, often called "the pattern."

Assuming the weather cooperates, the

SEE MUFFLER PAGE 8



YOU CAN RING MY BELL

Fabian Lewkowicz *FabianLewkowicz.com*

Santa Monica Kiwanian Margarita Rozenbaoum, 23, rings the bell at the Third Street Promenade during Salvation Army's Red Kettle Day on Friday. The Red Kettle campaign, the oldest annual charitable fundraiser of its kind in the United States, helps raise money for those who need it most in communities nationwide, providing toys for kids, coats for the homeless, food for the hungry and countless social service programs year-round.

'Chain Reaction' going back to Arts Commission

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

KEN EDWARDS CENTER The Arts Commission will once again wrestle Monday night with the fate of "Chain Reaction," a towering sculpture at the Civic Center that recently lost its place in Santa Monica's municipal art collection.

City officials are requesting that commissioners deny requests made by supporters of the sculpture to use scarce public arts funds to fix the 26-foot-tall piece, which building officials say could be a danger to the public, despite reports that it simply needs maintenance.

"Chain Reaction" is the only monumental sculpture designed by Paul Conrad, a three-time Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist with the Los Angeles Times.

The commission voted in February to remove the sculpture from Santa Monica's public art collection if supporters of the piece could not muster the money necessary to fix what building officials believed to be severe structural issues.

"We need to grapple with what our options are," said Jessica Cusick, cultural affairs manager with City Hall.

Initially, officials reported that the repairs could cost between $220,000 and $420,000, and that the exact figure would only be available after extensive — and expensive — tests were complete.

A more recent estimate by the man who originally built the piece has put the amount anywhere between $270,000 to repair the work to a maximum of $475,000 to rebuild

SEE ART PAGE 9

Tearful Obama calls for action after shooting

BY BEN FELLER
AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON A tearful President Barack Obama said Friday he grieved first as a father about the massacre at a Connecticut elementary school, declaring, "Our hearts are broken today." He called for "meaningful action" to prevent such shootings but did not say what it should be.

"The majority of those who died were children — beautiful, little kids between the ages of 5 and 10 years old," Obama said.

At that point he had to pause for several seconds to keep his composure, and he wiped his eyes.

SEE TRAGEDY PAGE 11

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012

Meet the masters
Pico Farmers' Market
Virginia Avenue Park
2200 Virginia Ave., 9:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.
Master gardeners provide free tips, solutions to problems, seeds and seedlings as well as their technical expertise based on the Master Gardener Volunteer Training Program, which provides intense gardening training emphasizing organic gardening and covers vegetables, fruits, flowers, shrubs, trees, soils, composting, pests and harvesting. For more information, visit smgov.net/portals/farmersmarket.

Open doors
Bergamot Station
2525 Michigan Ave., 12 p.m. — 5 p.m.
Celebrate the holidays at Bergamot Station Arts Center, home to the Santa Monica Museum of Art, and over 30 art galleries and creative spaces. Enjoy festive fare and drinks, performances from Pop Wagon, unique gifts, and fun for the whole family. Free parking is available in the Bergamot parking lot. For more information, visit bergamotstation.com.

Bottoms up
Rusty's Surf Ranch
255 Santa Monica Pier, 5 p.m.
The fourth annual SANTA Monica Pub Crawl features some of the city's top bars and restaurants in its quest to raise money for those in need during the holidays through a partnership with Westside Food Bank. The starting location will be at Rusty's Surf Ranch. For more information, call (323) 330-9559.

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.

Laugh with purpose
M.i.'s Westside Comedy Theater
1323-A Third Street Promenade, 8 p.m.
Westside Laugh Party is having a toy drive to make sure that children served by the Venice Family Clinic will have presents to open this year. Bring an unwrapped toy to the show and help make a difference. Oh, and don't forget about the comedy. For information, call (310) 451-0850.

By the fire
Miles Memorial Playhouse
1130 Lincoln Blvd., 8 p.m.
For the fourth year in a row the Miles presents the "Fireside at the Miles" series. Enjoy seven weekends and 16 separate events featuring contemporary music, storytelling, opera, jazz, dance, poetry, beat boxing, a capella singing and more. Performances take place beside the huge vintage fireplace with a cheery eco-log fire. For more information, call (310) 458-8634.

Sunday, Dec. 16, 2012

Skate the day away
ICE at Santa Monica
1324 Fifth St., 10 a.m. — 10 p.m.
Ice skating by the beach? The annual ICE at Santa Monica rink returns to give locals a taste of winter.
For more information, visit www.downtownsm.com/ice.

A gifted holiday
Santa Monica Pier
11 a.m. — 6 p.m.
This holiday season, the Santa Monica Pier will debut a unique craft-style fair called "GIFTED: A holiday market for uncommon goods." The two-day market comes at the perfect time to check that list twice and shop for one-of-a-kind items, plus enjoy all of the other attractions and amenities the pier has to offer. For more information, visit santamonicapier.org/gifted.

A different kind of Christmas carol
Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 Fourth St., 2 p.m. & 4 p.m.
This is the West Coast premiere of "Abuelita's Christmas Carol," Alex Garza's heart-warming tale that offers a new take on a classic holiday theme. Garza portrays a comic and touching array of characters who find what it means to live a truly "wonderful life." An English version takes place at 2 p.m. with a Spanish version scheduled for 4 p.m. For more information, call (310) 394-9779 ext.2.

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



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

OCEAN AVE

Serving up satisfaction



Photo courtesy Santa Monica CVB

NICE JOB: **Mickey Barnes (center), a server at The Lobster, is the man to see.**

The Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau awarded its second Thelma Parks Tourism Spirit Award to Mickey Barnes, server at The Lobster restaurant.

Barnes has been an employee at The Lobster for 11 years. His two favorite things about working at The Lobster are the customers he meets everyday and the coworkers he considers family.

"The secret to excellent customer service is to always take care of your guests like you would take care of your family ... and don't forget to have fun at your job," Barnes said.

Barnes "ran home to Santa Monica" as a finisher in the Los Angeles Marathon for the past three years and will run it again in March 2013. He is not the only award winner in his family. This proud father is the defensive coordinator for the Santa Monica Vikings Junior Pee Wee league (his 11-year-old son is the quarterback) and the team just won a national championships in Las Vegas last month.

The Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau created the Thelma Parks Tourism Spirit Awards in memory of Thelma Parks, who was an integral part of the Santa Monica tourist experience serving as a travel counselor for 23 years. The awards honor exceptional employees in the hospitality and tourism industry.

Award winners will be selected and honored quarterly, in partnership with the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, with one outstanding employee receiving the Thelma Parks Tourism Scholarship each May during the annual SMCVB Travel & Tourism Summit.

"The tourism industry supports 11,000 jobs in Santa Monica. It is a pleasure to learn more about one of our own and acknowledge the hard work Mickey puts toward delivering unforgettable experiences to visitors and residents at The Lobster in Santa Monica," said Misti Kerns, president and CEO of SMCVB.

Nomination forms for the Thelma Parks Tourism Spirit Award are distributed through the Official Santa Monica Visitors Guide and throughout the city at attractions, hotels, and restaurants. Visitors can also nominate an employee who gave them an excellent experience online at www.santamonica.com/spiritaward.

Businesses who would like to distribute nomination forms to their customers should contact SMCVB at (310) 319-6263.

– DAILY PRESS

CITYWIDE

Feeding the needy



Photo courtesy Meals on Wheels West

GIVING BACK

Help homebound neighbors have a healthy meal this holiday season by participating in Meals on Wheels West's "Virtual Food Drive."

Rather than dropping off food items, select from a variety of $4 meals at www.mealsonwheelswest.org

So far this year volunteers have delivered more than 75,000 meals to more than 300 people in need, according to officials with Meals on Wheels.

For more information visit the website or call (310) 394-5133.

– KEVIN HERRERA

Holiday shoppers may see big discounts soon

BY ANNE D'NNOCENZIO & MAE ANDERSON
AP Retail Writer

LONG BEACH, Calif. If shoppers don't show up in stores soon, more "70 percent off" sale signs will.

After a promising start to the holiday shopping season over the four-day Thanksgiving weekend, sales have slowed, according to an analysis of data done for The Associated Press by sales tracker ShopperTrak. Worries about weak U.S. job growth and other concerns are likely to blame for Americans spending less.

SEE **SHOPPING** PAGE 12



Photo by Paul Alvarez Jr. *news@smdp.com*

Samohi's Spencer Cramer goes up for a shot against Peninsula High School on Thursday. The Vikings took home the victory, 74-62, and improved their record to 6-3 overall.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Be more transparent

Editor:

It's important to note that the Emeritus College Executive Council meetings are not open to the public, their minutes are not posted nor do they pass along vital information to students. Minutes of the July meeting show that Ron Furuyama told them there would be no winter session. Not a word of this did the Executive Council pass along to the students. As late as November, students and teachers were unsure as to whether there would be a winter session.

With regard to the letter signed by "650 students" in support of the shutdown of the winter session, my class was never shown the letter nor given the opportunity to sign and I know that most of the students in my class would not have signed it ("In response to chatter," Letters to the Editor, Dec. 13).

As for expenditures from the Emeritus Fund, these should be detailed and transparent to the public.

I'm a big supporter of Emeritus College. I've been an Emeritus student for 24 years and feel strongly that it should continue and grow. It provides a unique and important service to the community that should never be taken for granted or undervalued.

Rene Grebler
Santa Monica

Focus on what's important

Editor:

A recent local cartoon made the point; why the ongoing discussion about stadium lights at Malibu High School rather than a focus on AP classes and college applications? This question presupposes that our community cannot abide by its prior promises, respect the rural environment in which we all live and have our students pursue academic excellence.

Rather than asking why the focus on the lights, the community at large should be asking why Palos Verdes Peninsula High, a school that rejected the installation of stadium lights at its campus, ranked 23 in the state rather than Malibu's 52. Somehow the folks in Palos Verdes, who care as much about their kids as our parents, figured out that athletic lights were, in the scheme of things, not critical to providing their students a world-class education.

And why are there so many other schools that all have great athletic programs, great academic records and do not have permanent athletic lights? There is a serious question of priorities, but not by those of us in the community who have suggested that the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District and Shark Fund work with the community, abide by their prior compromise and focus their priorities on insuring that Malibu High School college-bound students are actually college ready. There is clearly a way and a need for the school to balance its athletic program with other enriching programs. Palos Verdes Peninsula High betters Malibu High by 12.5 points on its college readiness score. Now that's the real scoreboard!

Cynthia Kesselman
Malibu, Calif.



Your column here

Matt Barber — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

An open letter to post-abortive women

I WRITE THESE WORDS CHIEFLY TO women and girls who have had an abortion. Still, it is my humble hope and honest prayer that anyone weighing this life-versus-death choice might also read them with an open mind and a hearing heart.

I share these truths in love. Some of you already know them. Others deny them.

Yet truths they remain.

It is through obedience to Christ and in the authority of his spirit that I write you this letter. It may be difficult to read, but I pray you will read it.

First, let us dispense with the oft-asserted notion that, lest one is a woman — more particularly, lest one has faced an unwanted pregnancy — one has nothing to say about abortion.

Abortion profoundly impacts us all. When you became pregnant, the child growing within you was, without exception, one of two sexes — male or female. Abortion affects men, women, boys and girls of every race, color and creed.

Before we were born we all, to varying degrees, lived under some threat that "choice" might kill us.

Aren't you glad your mother chose not to kill you?

I am.

Know this about your choice: Yes, you are still a mother. Yes, you have killed your child. And yes, there is forgiveness, love, redemption and healing available through Christ Jesus alone.

These are hard truths.

Your inner voice was right. You have indeed committed a sin most grave. Those "pro-choice" flowers you were sold, though alluring, were, as you suspected, too good to be true.

Instead, you purchased a bouquet of lies awash in the foul stench of death. You were told that for a few hundred dollars you could buy freedom, only to be bound by a horrible thing that, in this life, cannot be undone.

But with eternal life, it can be undone.

Your blood-covered hands can be washed clean by the blood-covered hands of Christ the Savior.

You need only ask, receive and believe.

Abortion kills God's children and hurts women and men alike. Your child has an earthly father, too, regardless of whether he took responsibility.

Abortion makes men fathers of dead sons and daughters.

I'm the father of five beautiful children, three of whom are with me and two of whom are in heaven. My wife and I lost our first child together in miscarriage; but long before that, my first child died at the hands of an abortionist.

As a teenager, I was not living as God intends. On a sunny fall day when I was 15 I heard a knock at our Gunnison, Colo., home. With a full house, it was I, by chance (or not), who answered the door.

There stood a girl — we'll call her Lisa — with tears streaming down her face. I hadn't seen her for months. She hadn't been in school. As a volley of muffled cheers came from the living room in celebration of a John Elway touchdown, I opened my mouth to speak.

Lisa interrupted me.

"My mom thought it was right for me to tell you," she said, "that I had an abortion and the kid was yours."

Her mom sat in the car behind her glaring at me. I'll never forget the expression on her face. It was a jarring blend of contempt, anger and pain.

Lisa turned and walked away. I said nothing. I wish I could say I felt shame, but, mostly, I was just relieved that my parents didn't know.

I never saw Lisa again. She moved away shortly thereafter. It was many years later that God showed me the magnitude of that day. I had sinned against Lisa. I had mistreated one of his precious daughters. From it, a child was conceived, and, due at least in part to my negligence and callous treatment of Lisa, that child died.

A sin that led to a precious life was compounded by sins that led to a tragic death.

I mourn the loss of my first child. I can't know for sure, but I've always envisioned a girl. Today, she'd be about 27. Perhaps I'd be a grandfather by now.

I've never been able to find Lisa, but I wish I could. I'd ask her to forgive me for the horrible way I treated her. If she didn't already know, I'd tell her of Christ's love for both of us and our child in heaven. I'd tell her that forgiveness, redemption and salvation are available to all who ask and believe upon Jesus.

Please know that I don't write this letter to hurt you.

Know that I don't judge you. How could I?

I hurt with you.

The enemy of the world is a liar. He is wicked beyond comprehension. You were lied to. Satan loves death. In the context of abortion, he deceptively calls it "choice."

But it's only death.

There is no freedom in death, except for those whose names are written in the Book of Life.

God is good beyond comprehension. He wants to write your name in the book of life.

Jesus promised: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

Of both you and your lost child God says this: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart. …" (Jeremiah 1:5)

Come to Jesus and he will comfort you. Come to Jesus and he will forgive you. Come to Jesus and he will use for good that which was intended for evil.

Even your abortion.

Come to know Christ, and one day, in that place where sin is dead and life eternal, the baby you never knew — that child who knows you, loves you and has already forgiven you — will rush to your arms and say to you: "Mommy, I've been waiting for you. Welcome home."

MATT BARBER (@jmattbarber on Twitter) is an attorney concentrating in constitutional law. He serves as vice president of Liberty Counsel Action.

YOUR OPINION MATTERS! SEND YOUR LETTERS TO • Santa Monica Daily Press • Attn. Editor: • 1640 5th Street, Suite 218 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • **editor@smdp.com**

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Ashley Archibald
ashley@smdp.com

CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Bill Bauer, David Pisarra, Meredith Carroll, Jack Neworth, Lloyd Garver, Sarah A. Spitz, Taylor Van Arsdale, Merv Hecht, Cynthia Citron, Michael Ryan, JoAnne Barge, Katrina Davy

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERN
Ray Solano
news@smdp.com

VICE PRESIDENT–BUSINESS OPERATIONS
Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

JUNIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Chelsea Fujitaki
chelsea@smdp.com
Justin Harris
justin@smdp.com

OPERATIONS COORDINATOR
Michele Emch
michele.e@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Darren Ouellette
production@smdp.com

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
Nathalyd Meza

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Osvaldo Paganini
ross@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
We have you covered
1640 5th Street, Suite 218
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913
smdp.com

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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.

This past week, Q-line asked:
What would you like to see Downtown look like and why?

Here are your responses:

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"I THINK IT WOULD BE MARVELOUS TO have a plan that incorporates the old post office. Maybe put some stores like Target and middle-income and low-income stores with a Spanish flair. That would give a little zip to this lovely town by the ocean."

"YOU NEED SOME GREEN SPACE. THE old Henshey's property would have been perfect for a central park Downtown. No more low-income, redistributionist housing, no new structures over two stories, no parking meters anywhere Downtown. All former two-lane streets to be reestablished for easier driving. Sand blasting of all asinine bike path markings, AKA utopian, progressive, egotist green crap. Stop building the pointless light rail terminus at Fourth and Colorado and have a Target store."

"GET RID OF THE SKID ROW BY THE SEA and all the breadlines that bring in more and more of this human refuse and send them back to Downtown L.A. or wherever they have been shipped from or somehow traveled from. This city, with its misguided charity, has become a Mecca for bums, drug addicts, alcoholics, loafers, crazies and criminals. No wonder the good citizens have left or are leaving in droves. Pretty soon you won't have to wonder about the beautification of Downtown. The bums don't care where they flop. That's step one. Secondly, make it citizen friendly and return the mall to the days of yore, clean, safe and stores that people need and want to shop in. Forget this high-end stuff. Whose city is it anyway?"

"IF WE WANT TO CREATE SUSTAINABLE communities, we need density and for people to move around via walking, bicycling and using public transportation. Downtown should contain all the necessary retail and business services of the city and be concentrated in medium/high-rise buildings."

"I WOULD LIKE DOWNTOWN TO BECOME more pedestrian oriented, something like Disneyland or the L.A. County Fair. There would be no public parking Downtown. Public parking would be along Lincoln Boulevard and along the freeway. There would be stores that sell large, heavy, or bulky items near the parking (Target, Trader Joe's, Centinela Feed). There would be transportation (quaint, brightly-colored mini-buses?) ferrying people from public parking to strategic stops Downtown. It would take time, and I would begin slowly, reducing parking and improving transportation. To start, I would take the roofs of parking structures with beautiful views and use them for something different than parking, maybe food trucks and picnic tables amidst community gardens. As the parking structures became more dilapidated, I would not replace them. Minimal parking for residents' personal cars and for deliveries to businesses could remain. I would narrow Ocean Avenue into a two-lane street. Ocean Avenue restaurants and cafes could expand onto the sidewalks and be protected by a planted buffer from the cars on the newly narrowed road. Traffic would be slowed, and drivers could enjoy the views of Palisades Park and the ocean, or watch people in the restaurants through the planted buffer on the other side of the road. I would immediately improve bus service to and from the edges of Downtown. Fifteen minutes is a long time to wait for a bus! I would route a bus along Lincoln Boulevard between Montana Avenue and Pico Boulevard. The big buses would be phased out from the Downtown and instead drop people off at stops from which they could take a minibus, which would be free, like the shuttles at LAX. The Downtown experience would become more pleasant."

"I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THEM RAZE Downtown completely. Tear down every building and dig up every street and sidewalk. Then salt the earth so nothing ever grows there again. It worked for the Romans at Carthage; no reason it can't work again."









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The Re-View

Merv Hecht
Send comments to editor@smdp.com



Photo by Merv Hecht

YUM: **The corn soup with the black bean falafel and Sumac oil at Upper West on Pico Boulevard.**

Once is never enough

THE WIKIPEDIA DEFINITION OF A BISTRO — "a small restaurant serving moderately-priced simple meals in a modest setting" — pretty much describes Upper West. It seats about 140 people, and it's not at all "fancy" or high priced. The feeling is sort of "industrial tech" with high ceilings and cement floors. In spite of the hard surfaces and a room full of customers, I didn't find it too loud.

When I think "bistro" I picture a lot of people during mealtimes. Boy is that ever true of Upper West. It seems fully packed most of the time. I rarely have seen an open spot at the bar.

A French artist's paintings of local scenes depicting Santa Monica and Venice decorate the walls, and I'm told the paintings are rotated with the seasons. But that's really the end of the French part of this bistro. The rest is much more American in spirit.

When I was last there I saw the movie "Frankenstein" being shown silently on the wall of a glass-enclosed room for those needing extra stimulation — perfect for the Halloween season. One of the owners, Fred, stopped by the table on a regular basis to make sure everything was OK. Our waiter, Kevin Broberg, seemed to know how to get the food out quickly. The chef, Nick Shipp, stopped by to get compliments.

Naturally the first thing I looked at was the wine list, and I was pleasantly surprised. There were 16 wines by the glass. I ended up with a Syrah by Adelaide wines in Paso Robles, Calif. and I loved every drop of both glasses that I drank.

Fred recommended the short ribs. My date (OK, it's one of my regular luncheon companions, a fellow foodie) recommended the corn soup. I looked longingly at some of the dishes on the bar menu, but the bar menu was not available until later in the afternoon.

Following my lunch companion's recommendation I ordered the corn soup. Pure corn flavors with a touch of chili oil (they say Sumac oil) made for a great start. Next came some lamb crepes, which were good, but a touch too sweet for my taste. Being particularly fond of Middle-Eastern food, I ordered the Tawook chicken, which turned out to be marinated in Lebanese spices and yogurt — just the kind of food I love. And the short ribs were just what one would expect.

I saw a lot of very good looking hamburgers going by, interspersed among many young techies from the Google-Yahoo-film industrial complex that has now arrived in Santa Monica.

To finish it off I had a taste of the bread pudding; warm, moist, and fruity with some caramel syrup on top. Yummy!

I've been there a couple of times, but it would take a lot more visits to get through the extensive menu. I like the diversity of the offerings. If you feel like meat you can order a typical pan-roasted filet mignon; there are also more unusual meat offerings, such as meatloaf and the lamb crepes. All the usual dishes are available like shrimp, salmon, white fish, etc., but there are lots of unusual dishes as well, including lobster gnocchi, vegetarian specialties and even macaroni and cheese. I've already mentioned the wine list, or diners can choose from a selection of a dozen beers on tap. And with a lot of the bar menu dishes, a beer is just right.

Variety is one of the best features of this restaurant. There is something for everyone, and enough both in the way of choices and in the way of unusual dishes that you can come back often and never feel bored. The quality of the preparations and the price range puts it just in the right niche. No wonder business is so good.

I would recommend the restaurant more highly, but it's already so busy that if you go you might take my table. Go on a Tuesday night when wine bottles are half price. Plan to spend about $20 at lunch, and $40 to $45 at dinner. I think you will be pleased if you go there, and, as they say, "once is not enough."

If you go

Upper West
3321 W. Pico Blvd.
(310) 586-1111
Santa Monica, Calif.
90405
www.theupperwest.com/

MERV HECHT, the food and wine critic for the Santa Monica Daily Press, is a wine buyer and consultant to a number of national and international food and wine companies. He can be reached at mervynhecht@yahoo.com.



The Better OPTION

Lori Salerno
Send comments to editor@smdp.com



Photo courtesy Google Images

WATCHING WEIGHT: **A healthier version of creamy spinach dip will help you manage your weight during the indulgent holiday season.**

Fighting the holiday urge to splurge

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS ARE IN FULL swing. There are office parties, Chanukah parties and Christmas celebrations, all culminating for the granddaddy of them all — New Year's Eve. How can you maintain a healthful lifestyle this time of year and still enjoy yourself without the gift of a double chin?

I've compiled a few strategies to help you survive the holiday excess without feeling deprived or guilty for allowing yourself to indulge now and then.

One way to prevent the extra weight gain this time of year is to think about what the holidays represent to you. This will clarify your values for the holidays and put food in perspective. When people truly think about what the holidays mean to them it's more about spending time with family and friends, giving and receiving, and family traditions than the actual food.

BALANCE INDULGENCES, PORTIONS

You don't need to deprive yourself during these festive times, just balance your indulgences with healthful options and portions. It's what you do the majority of the time that counts. Knowing that you have holiday plans and celebrations on certain days can help you balance the rest of the week. If you maintain your usual diet and exercise routine five out of the seven days, you may indulge at a party or celebration over the weekend.

But if you find yourself snacking on holiday treats from the office or downing the seasonal eggnog lattes in addition to holiday celebrations on three or more days, you will gain weight.

ALWAYS PLAN AHEAD

Never go to a party hungry. Before you go to a holiday party, eat a healthy snack to curb your appetite. Try half a cup of low-fat cottage cheese or yogurt and fruit or some veggies and low fat dip or hummus. This small effort can save you hundreds of unwanted calories by arming you with the protection to be more selective and mindful of your appetizer choices.

Make half your plate fruits and/or vegetables. Whether you are at a luncheon, dinner or a buffet celebration, build half your plate with salad and vegetables. This will ensure that half the calories you consume will most likely be lower in total fat and saturated fat. Survey the buffet before you start building your plate with the most healthful options first and then sample size portions of the richer foods.

WATCH THE DRINKS

Alcohol and holiday punches and nogs can be a major source of hidden calories. A single shot of liquor, about 2 ounces, is nearly 125 calories. A 5-ounce glass of wine or a 12-ounce glass of beer is about 160. Sweet mixed drinks can be 250 to 400 calories. Try to alternate between non-alcoholic, calorie-free drinks and lighter cocktails.

AVOID THE SAUCES, HEAVY DIPS

Steer clear of sauces and dips made from cream, half-and-half, or full fat sour cream. Use oil and vinegar, vinaigrettes or low-fat dressings and dips. Take the sauces or dressings on the side and use the fork-dip method to moderate the amount you use with your meal.

As you celebrate this time of year, remember the true meaning of the holidays. Approach each day with a positive mindset and try some new techniques that can translate into healthier choices and less regrets after the New Year.

LORI SALERNO, M.S., R.D., C.P.T. is a registered dietitian and certified personal trainer who provides medical nutrition therapy to groups and individuals in Santa Monica and recipe and menu analysis for restaurants nationwide. Contact her at www.eatwelldailynutrition.com.

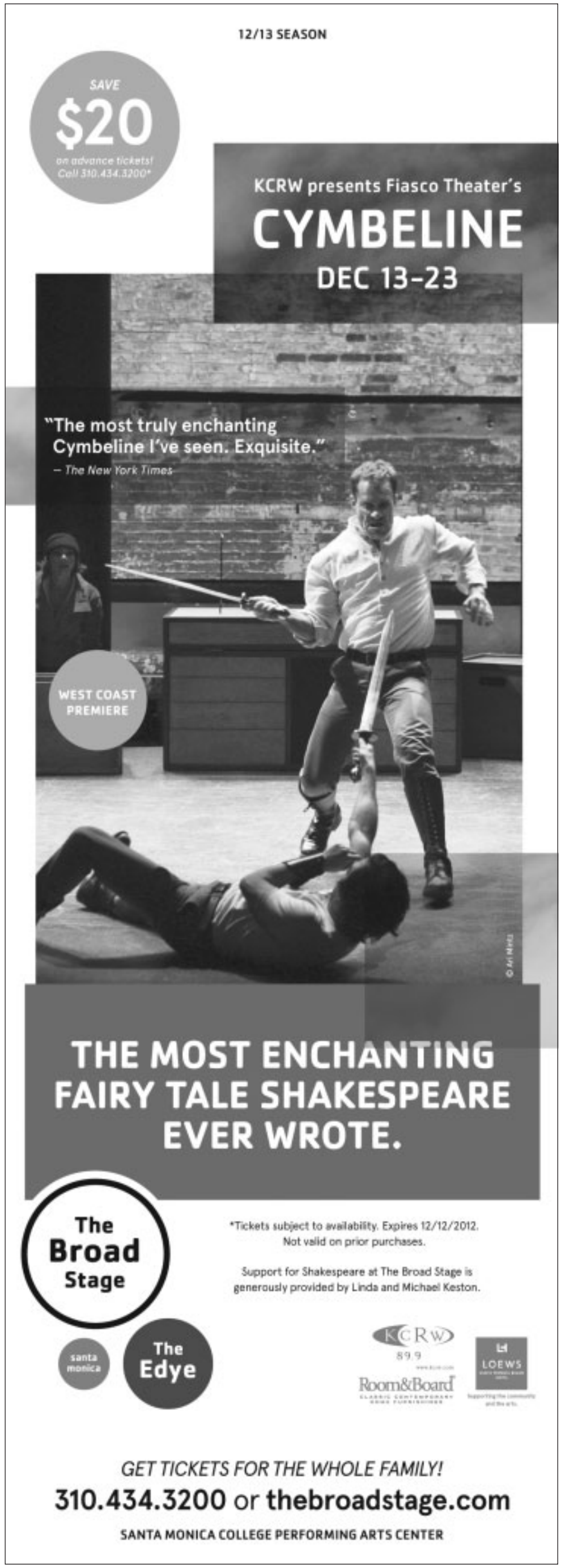
Low fat sour cream spinach dip

(4 Tablespoons): Calories 35; Fat 1g (2% of DV); Sat. Fat 0.5g (3% of DV); Cholesterol 5mg (2% of DV); Sodium 70mg (3%); Carbohydrates 4g (1% of DV); Fiber 1g (4% of DV); Sugar 2g; Protein 3 g.

1 cup Greek yogurt 0% fat
1/4 cup low fat cream cheese
1 cup chopped frozen spinach
1/3 cup chopped water chestnuts
1/3 cup chopped red bell pepper
1 packet Simply Organic French onion or ranch dip mix (available at Whole Foods)

Mix all ingredients together and chill in refrigerator for 30 minutes before serving.

For a quick, low-calorie snack, I like to halve and hollow out a Persian cucumber (spoon out the seeds) and fill each half with 1 tablespoon of dip and serve with a few whole-grain crackers. This is a tasty anytime snack that is loaded with flavor and very filling for only 150 calories. Enjoy!





MUFFLER

FROM PAGE 1

plane will complete the same maneuvers on Monday, this time with a muffler-like device by the German company Gomolzig, which was installed on the airplane this week.

Officials will then compare the two readings and decide whether or not the system, called QuietFlight, should be recommended to airplane owners that frequent SMO.

The idea of the muffler was first suggested in May on a post to the CASMAT website, said John Fairweather, founder of the organization.

"They've been doing this for 20 years or more in Europe," Fairweather said. "The United States is kind of behind in noise mitigation."

According to manufacturer Gomolzig's website, QuietFlight lowers the sound impact caused by airplane exhaust by reflecting the sound waves created by the plane, decreasing their intensity and converting the energy into heat on solid surfaces.

Gomolzig representatives came out to an "Open House" at the airport to give a presentation on the technology. City Hall then purchased a muffler, which was still being installed on Justice's plane on Thursday.

On Dec. 6, city officials, alongside Fairweather and Lloyd Saunders, also of CASMAT, gathered to take the initial readings. While city officials relied on noise monitors in line with the airport's runway, Fairweather took other readings to the side of the flight path using decibel monitors.

"I was basically in Sunset Park off to the side taking the noise measurements," Fairweather said.

The pilot tested various scenarios, including the noise abatement procedure, a route that turns over the Penmar Golf Course, a 270-degree departure and various forms of take offs and landings to get a full range of readings.

The group will replicate the test with the muffler on Monday, assuming the weather conditions are similar enough to the first test almost two weeks before.

Even a change in the humidity can have an impact on the accuracy of the test, Fairweather said, comparing it to the experience of sound in a fog where noises can appear louder.

Joe Justice, owner of Justice Aviation and the test plane, is restrained in his discussion of the muffler.

The cost of the device and installation is somewhere within the $4,000 to $5,000 range, he said, putting it beyond the means of many pilots or plane owners.

"It'll be interesting data, and maybe a few planes will be able to have it installed," Justice said.

Fairweather, on the other hand, sees even the willingness of City Hall to participate in the test as movement in a positive direction, particularly since City Hall has expressed a willingness to share the test results.

"This is a new era of openness and trying to work together," Fairweather said. "This is not a whole solution, but any improvement is better, right?"

The concept of putting mufflers on planes may sound somewhat obvious to almost anyone who's driven in a car, but it's hardly the only commonplace technology to have passed the aircraft industry by.

Smaller planes still use leaded fuel, something that was phased out of street vehicles since 1995. Satellite-driven air traffic management has also eluded aircraft, although cars have had global position systems devices (GPS) for years.

The Federal Aviation Administration is working on that with the implementation of NextGen, which will allow for aviation-specific versions of GPS.

ashley@smdp.com







TOO COSTLY? **The 'Chain Reaction' sculpture in the Civic Center has been granted landmark status by the Landmarks Commission. The City Council will decide the fate of the work in the New Year.**

ART
FROM PAGE 1

it entirely.

According to a staff report, only $8,590 has made it into the fund to rebuild "Chain Reaction."

Supporters cry foul, however, and say that City Hall has stood between them and fundraising success.

The required tests consumed most of the time that the City Council gave anti-nuclear activists and others to fund raise for the sculpture, said Dave Conrad, the artist's son.

"The fact remains that of the six months we were given, they took five months of it just to finish their studies," Conrad said.

They also believe that the cost of repairs is considerably less than that put forward by City Hall, possibly as little as half, and they received no word from City Hall that the piece would be taken off of the public art roll.

"I don't know when or how that happened, or who made that decision," Conrad said.

The team is seeking grants from arts institutions with the help of Abby Arnold, who is working with the Chez Jay restaurant, now a city landmark.

Further complicating the fate of the statute is a move by the Landmarks Commission in July to designate the piece as a local landmark.

That puts an additional layer of public process between City Hall and any attempt to remove the sculpture, but it also makes it the first landmarked piece of art in Santa Monica history.

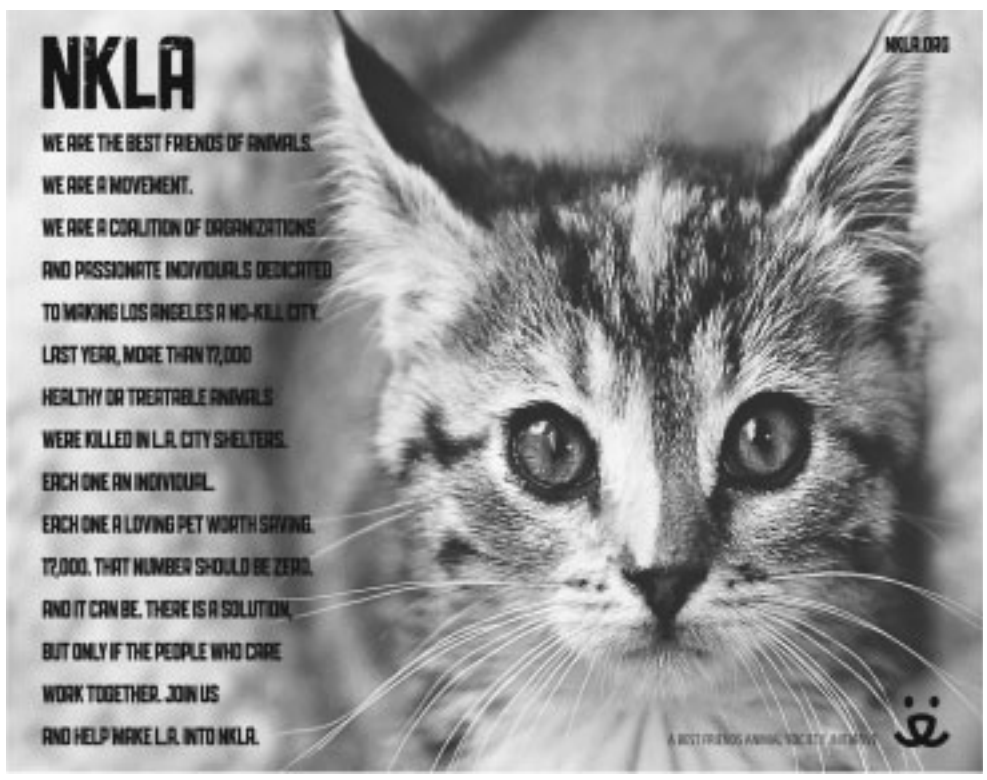
Officials aren't quite sure what that means yet, because although it is no longer a piece of public artwork, the landmark status requires that City Hall maintain and repair the sculpture.

Conrad, however, is quite definite on what he believes City Hall should do.

"The community and the Conrad family has offered their help and their money to restore the 'Chain Reaction' sculpture, a Santa Monica landmark. For the city to ignore that effort and deaccession that great piece of art is reprehensible," Conrad said.

The City Council will consider the matter early in 2013.

ashley@smdp.com



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Voter turnout reaches 72 percent

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. California's Secretary of State says more than half the voters who cast ballots in the November election voted by mail — the highest rate yet for a general election.

Secretary of State Debra Bowen certified the results on Friday. She said 13.2 million California voters cast ballots, about 6.8 million of them by mail. Voter turnout was 72 percent.

For the first time, voters were able to register online, and about 590,000 people did so.

The results showed Gov. Jerry Brown's initiative to raise sales and income taxes, Proposition 30, passed by a wide margin — 55.4 percent to 44.6 percent.

Bowen also certified the results of Assembly District 36, where Democrat Steve Fox edged Republican Rom Smith by just 145 votes.

UC suspends new logo after widespread protest

BY CHRISTINA HOAG
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES The University of California on Friday suspended a new, modern looking logo after receiving widespread criticism about the contemporary design replacing the venerable institutional seal.

University Senior Vice President for External Relations Daniel Dooley said in a statement that although he believed the new logo would eventually gain acceptance, he wanted to respect the "significant negative response from students, alumni and other members of our community."

Some 50,000 people signed an online petition calling for the university to scrap the new logo, which features a yellow, fading "C" inside a blue, shield-shaped "U."

Critics called it cheap, corporate-looking and unworthy of a prestigious university. Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, who is a member of the university's board of regents, termed it "a disaster."

On Friday, Newsom took to Twitter to praise the university's aboutface. "Power of the people!...I applaud UC for listening and pulling logo," he tweeted.

Dooley said many people misconstrued the new monogram as totally replacing the traditional "Let there be light" seal.

The new logo, which was introduced about a year ago, was meant to distinguish systemwide documents from those of individual campuses, while leaving the seal on diplomas, acceptance letters and similar documents.

The details on the seal were hard to reproduce on websites, smartphones and tablet computers, officials said.

The new logo was designed by the university's presidential office and won praise from outside design experts, Dooley said.

Dooley called the controversy over the image "a major distraction" for the university's communications office. He said the office would look at the issue at some time in the future.

Regulators approve free cellphones for the poor

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. Impoverished Californians will soon get free cellphones.

The state Public Utilities Commission has approved a federal cellphone giveaway program designed to help the homeless and other impoverished people connect with family, friends and potential employers.

Assurance Wireless, an arm of Sprint, will organize cellphone distribution. The program should be in place next year.

The Sacramento Bee reported that nearly 5 million California residents with annual incomes below $15,000 and those who receive Supplemental Security Income, Medicaid, food stamps and other aid will be eligible for the federal "Lifeline" program.

Access to cellphones will help people look for housing, jobs and stay in touch with families, said Joan Burke of Loaves & Fishes, a Sacramento-area homeless services group.

"We often have families coming to Loaves & Fishes or calling us, because they know their relative is out here but they don't have a way to contact them," she told the Bee. "So this is about the best Christmas news we could ever have."

Qualified recipients can expect the program to be worked out and in place early next year, and logistics are still being worked out.

The state has helped poor people with their telephone bills for decades, but the program has only covered landline phones until now. The new program is funded by telephone companies that can recoup part of the money through charges to customers.

California is joining 36 other states with the Lifeline program, which at the end of June had 17.6 million people as clients.

The Federal Communications Commission has been overseeing the program since 2005, and has made rules changes to alleviate fraud and abuse, agency spokesman Mark Wigfield said.

The FCC said efforts to prevent households from getting duplicate benefits saved $33 million last year.

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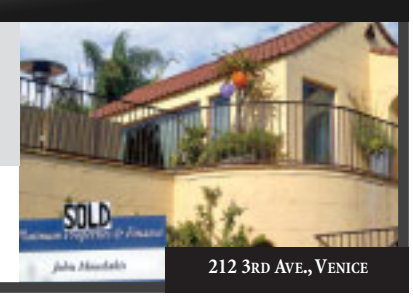


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TRAGEDY
FROM PAGE 1

The scene in the White House briefing room was one of the most emotional moments of Obama's presidency. Near him, two senior aides cried and held hands as they listened to the president.

Twenty-seven people, including 20 children, were killed when a gunman opened fire inside the school. The shooter blasted his way through the building as young students cowered helplessly. The dead included the shooter.

The story jolted parents and other people across the nation, and the White House was no different.

Obama began his comments with no greeting. He ended them with words of Scripture, walking away in silence.

He recited the future milestones lost, and had to pause again to gather his words.

"They had their entire lives ahead of them — birthdays, graduations, weddings, kids of their own," the president said of those who were killed.

He ordered that U.S. flags be flown at half-staff on public grounds through Tuesday. The White House also canceled a trip Obama was planning to take Wednesday to Portland, Maine. Notably, House Speaker John Boehner, with whom Obama is locked in tense budget negotiations, announced that Republicans would not offer their usual Saturday radio address "so that President Obama can speak for the entire nation at this time of mourning."

The tragedy, like previous ones have, reignited calls from gun control activists for laws restricting access to weapons.

A crowd of about 200 people gathered outside the White House Friday evening for a candlelight vigil, many of them drawn together through social media sites. Speakers urged Obama to push for gun control and said the Connecticut shootings were just the latest in an epidemic of gun violence.

The Rev. Michael McBride of Oakland, Calif., in Washington as part of a religious-based effort to speak out against gun violence, called on Obama to take a stand for gun control before his State of the Union address or during it.

"Platitudes and condolences do not help. We need action," McBride said.

The president himself signaled a desire for action, but he was not specific.

"As a country, we have been through this too many times," Obama said. "We're going to have to come together and take meaningful action to prevent more tragedies like this, regardless of the politics."

As the president received briefings about the shooting, his spokesman, Jay Carney, responded to questions about gun control and Obama's campaign promises on the matter by saying "I don't think today is that day" for such a discussion.

Others, however, said it was.

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, an advocate of greater limits on guns, responded directly to the president's remarks: "Calling for 'meaningful action' is not enough. We need immediate action. We have heard all the rhetoric before."

During Obama's time in office, mass shootings have shaken communities in Wisconsin, Texas and Colorado.

Obama has called for keeping assault weapons off the streets and the White House has said he still wants Congress to reinstitute a federal ban on military-style assault weapons. But reflecting the difficult politics of gun control, Obama has not pushed for stricter laws, calling for better enforcement of existing laws instead.

The latest attack comes less than two weeks before Christmas. It appeared to be the nation's second-deadliest school shooting, exceeded only by the Virginia Tech massacre in 2007.

Obama spoke from the "James S. Brady Press Briefing Room," named in 2000 in honor of the former White House press secretary, James Brady, who was shot and disabled in the assassination attempt on Ronald Reagan in 1981. Brady and his wife, Sarah, have become activists for gun control.

The president and his wife, Michelle, have two daughters.

"Michelle and I will do what I know every parent in America will do, which is hug our children a little tighter," he said. "But there are families in Connecticut who cannot do that tonight, and they need all us of right now."

The president pledged support to Connecticut Gov. Dannel P. Malloy.

Said Obama: "He will have every single resource that he needs to investigate this heinous crime."

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS
CITY OF SANTA MONICA
PLANNING COMMISSION

One seat available for a term ending June 30, 2015.
Applicants must reside in Santa Monica.

Applications due by noon, Tuesday, January 15, 2013.
Appointment to be made by City Council, January 22, 2013.

The Mission Statement of the Planning Commission is to promote the health, safety and general welfare by encouraging the most appropriate use of land; provide adequate open spaces for light and air; prevent undue concentrations of population; lessen congestion on streets; facilitate adequate provisions for community utilities and facilities such as transportation, water, sewage, schools, parks and other public requirements; and, designate, regulate and restrict the location and use of buildings, structures and land for residents, commerce, trade, industry and other purposes.

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The State Political Reform Act requires Commission members to disclose their interest and income which may be materially affected by their official action by filing a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) with the City Clerk's office upon assuming office, and annually thereafter.

Applications and information on Board/Commission duties & disclosure requirements are available from the City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 1685 Main St., Rm. 102 (submit applications at this same location), by phone at (310) 458-8211 or on-line at http://www.smgov.net/departments/clerk/boards/vacancies.aspx. All current applications on file will be considered.

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SURF REPORT



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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **60.8°**

SATURDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high
Traces at best; onshore wind and stormy weather linger in the AM, potentially cleaning up in PM

SUNDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high
Traces at best

MONDAY – **FLAT** – SURF: occ. 2 ft
Traces at best; favorable weather/wind

TUESDAY – **FLAT** – SURF: occ. 2 ft
Traces at best; Watching for a new/better WNW swell to build in late

Tides

Expect big tidal swings through the weekend, with deep 6-7'+ high tides in the mornings and drained negative low tides in the afternoons. Take note of your local tide times and what your spot likes best. Most spots will only have short windows of good tide.

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 12, 2012**

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

QUICK 5T ATS (for the last 30 days)
Number of sewage spills -- 1
Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
Number of wet days -- 12
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 18 / 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.	C	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisos creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	C	B
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	B	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	B
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	B	B
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	C	B
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	F	A+
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	B	C
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (beach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	F	C
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	B	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 Los Tunos County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	B
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	B	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	D	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17208 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	C

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	D
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	D
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	B	C
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	F
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	F
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	F	B
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	F	B
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	F
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	B	B
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	D	A+
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	F
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	D	C
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	F
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	B	F
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	F	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	D
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A	B
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of CSAW jetty).	A	B
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 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

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.

SHOPPING

FROM PAGE 3

That puts pressure on J.C. Penney, Macy's and other stores, which had been offering fewer discounts this season than they did last year, to step up promotions to lure shoppers like Ron Antonette from Long Beach, Calif.

Antonette so far has spent about half of what he planned to spend during this holiday season on gifts such as Legos, a Wii U game console and Apple's iPad Mini tablet computer for his two young children. Antonette stopped shopping after spending $1,000 over fears that Congress and the White House won't reach a budget deal by January. A stalemate would trigger tax increases and spending cuts known as the "fiscal cliff."

"I basically stopped moving forward in buying," said Antonette, 44, who runs a small public relations business and worries that he might not be able to take mortgage deductions on his house next year. "I feel like we're in financial limbo."

Antonette isn't the only shopper who feels that way. Major stores don't discuss sales during the holiday shopping season, but Wal-Mart CEO Mike Duke said during a speech in New York City on Tuesday that a recent poll of shoppers of the world's largest retailer found that an overwhelming majority are aware of the threat of higher taxes. And some said it would lead them to cut back their holiday buying, he said.

Overall, holiday sales are up 2.2 percent to $659 billion from Nov. 1 through last Saturday, according ShopperTrak, a Chicago-based firm that tracks spending at 40,000 stores across the country. That's slightly below the 2.7 percent increase over the Thanksgiving weekend when shoppers spent $22 billion.

The modest increase means sales for rest of the season will be crucial for stores, which make as much as 40 percent of their annual revenue in November and December. With only about a week and a half left until Christmas, stores have a ways to go in order to reach ShopperTrak's forecast of a 3.3 percent rise in sales during the two-month stretch compared with the same period last year.

It's like the ghost of Christmas past has returned for stores. In order to salvage the season, they may be forced to offer the kind of heavy discounts that helped boost sales last year, but that also ate away at their profits. That's something stores have tried to resist all season: Promotions are down 5 percent so far this season compared with last year, according to BMO Capital, which tracks promotions at about two-thirds of mall stores.

To be sure, there still are plenty of 30, 40 and 50 percent off sale signs in store windows. But stores also have been doing more creative things with pricing to get shoppers to think they're getting a better deal than they really are. Think: Offering jeans for $9 instead of $9.99, hoping round numbers will appeal more to shoppers, or selling two shirts for $20 instead of giving shoppers 20 percent off.

"The retailing nation is trying to get off the discounting habit," said Paco Underhill, founder of Envirosell, which studies consumer behavior. "It's just like heroin — the more you do it the more you need to do it."

The fact that stores are struggling to find the right balance between pricing and profits during the holiday season is no surprise. They've been doing that since the dawn of department stores in the 1800s. Perhaps the biggest change occurred in 1975, when the Consumer Goods Pricing Act repealed state fair trade laws, allowing stores to sell items at whatever price they want instead of what manufacturers dictate.

Prices like "$19.99" instead of "$20" sprang up because as Baba Shiv, a marketing professor at Stanford University who focuses on neuroeconomics, puts it: "When you see something for $9.99, the brain categorizes that as being $9 rather than $10," he said. "Those things are still effective."

But at a time when shoppers are more price sensitive, some stores have gotten rid of the ubiquitous "99 cents" in prices in favor of flat prices. In fact, Kmart played up flat prices in its advertising and in-store deals on Black Friday with signs that read: "Experience our $5, $10, $20 Freak Out Pricing."

"The effort was around being able to communicate clearly to our customer in gift denominations they commonly think within," said Tom Aiello, Kmart's spokesman. "Nothing against the ".99."

Last weekend, tables at Forever 21 in New York's Times Square had clothes with prices that ended with "50 cents" -- for example, "$10.50 and up" or "$17.50 and up." Steve Martin, a 27-year-old resident of Scranton, Pa. who was shopping there, said people aren't fooled by fractional prices.

"I think most people are rounder-uppers," said Martin, who's looking for a job.

But if the price is right, shoppers will scoop up items. Twenty-somethings Malia and Kyra Bennett were out at Lloyd Center Mall in Portland, Ore., recently when they spotted workout shirts at H&M for $5 that they had to buy. "We didn't come to buy those, but they are only $5," Malia Bennett said.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Saturday, Dec. 15
Zarafa (NR) 1hr 18min
4:00 pm
Free popcorn and soday for children under 12.

The Nightmare Before Christmas in 3D (PG) 1hr 16min
7:30pm

Sunday, Dec. 16
A Conversation with Sally Field
5:00pm

The Rabbi's Cat (NR) 1hr 29min
The Painting (NR) 1hr 16min
8:00pm
In French with English subtitles

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

Looper (R) 1hr 58min
2:15pm, 7:35pm

Wreck-It Ralph (PG) 1hr 48min
11:50am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

Killing Them Softly (R) 1hr 40min
11:55am, 4:55pm, 10:20pm

Rise of the Guardians 3D (PG) 1hr 37min
2:35pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:15pm

Anna Karenina (R) 2hrs 10min
11:45am, 1:00pm, 4:15pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm

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

Life of Pi 3D (PG) 2hrs 06min
11:00am, 2:00pm, 5:05pm, 8:15pm, 11:15pm

Skyfall (PG-13) 2hrs 23min
11:55am, 3:25pm, 7:00pm, 10:20pm

Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey in 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 46min
12:15pm, 4:10pm, 8:00pm, 11:40pm

Flight (R) 2hrs 19min
12:30pm, 3:50pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm

Argo (R) 2hrs 00min
10:55am, 1:55pm, 4:50pm, 7:50pm, 10:55pm

Lincoln (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
11:45am, 3:15pm, 6:45pm, 10:15pm

Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey in HFR 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 46min
10:45am, 2:30pm, 6:30pm, 10:30pm

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

Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2 (PG-13) 1hr 56min
11:20am, 2:15pm, 5:15pm, 8:10pm, 10:55pm

Skyfall (PG-13) 2hrs 23min
11:05am, 2:40pm, 6:15pm, 9:40pm

Rise of the Guardians (PG) 1hr 37min
11:00am, 1:30pm, 4:05pm, 6:40pm, 9:00pm

Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13) 1hr 46min
11:30am, 3:15pm, 7:10pm, 11:00pm

Playing for Keeps (PG-13) 1hr 35min
11:10am, 1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

Silver Linings Playbook (R) 2hrs 00min
11:10am, 2:00pm, 5:00pm, 8:00pm, 11:00pm

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

Get some R and R, Pisces

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Avoid being commander in chief of your immediate surroundings. Kick back and start enjoying yourself more. Festivities surround the holidays. Do not forget a friend at a distance. Plan to call or visit this person sometime soon. Tonight: Where your friends are.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Touch base with loved ones early on. Perhaps without realizing your role, you might have become a major force in a project. Whether you are bringing the family together or decorating for the holidays, you make a difference. Tonight: A must appearance.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Handle a serious matter first in order to free up some time for holiday errands. Buy a Christmas music CD if you don't already have one. Some of you might even decide to go to a Christmas concert or show. Tonight: Let your mind wander.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Make calls in the morning. In the afternoon, make time for a special person in your life. The two of you might decide to go see a movie or attend a holiday party. Spending quality time together puts both of you in the holiday spirit. Tonight: Share some eggnog.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You have so much energy that you could bowl someone over without realizing it. Think positively, but don't expect others to manifest that same vitality. Tonight: Just do not be alone.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Recognize your limitations. How you handle a personal matter could change as a result. This morning, the energy around you could be high. For some of you, this intensity is reflected in an important relationship. Tonight: If you are tired, say so.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Clear the air with a family member. Make sure your home is as you'd like it to be for the holidays. You can get a lot done if you stay focused. Allow more creativity to come out with a loved one. Enjoy the moment. Tonight: Play the night away.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You could be looking at a situation far differently right now. With your energy, you could complete your holiday shopping or decorating in no time. Consider inviting a family member over for some holiday fun. Tonight: You don't need to go far.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You need to follow through on what is important to you. Someone is observing you and sees your priorities. This knowledge could affect a certain bond. Return calls, before it is too late in the day. Tonight: Join a friend after doing some errands.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You have a way about you that attracts many people. You could feel tired and pushed to the max by midafternoon. Change your pace, but remain active if you can. A gift bought today might be a little excessive. Tonight: Your treat.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Move past an immediate issue. You might feel as if you could do something if someone would let you just try. Your softer side emerges when talking to a loved one. Tonight: Meet up with friends.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Your ability to bounce back makes quite a difference in how you handle a swift change. You will manage to revise your reschedule and make everything fit in. Your clarity is obvious when discussing a problem. Tonight: Get some R and R.

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 often overwhelm others with your energy. In hindsight, even you could be taken aback by your liveliness. The upside is that you will be able to accomplish a lot. You naturally will find the right path and the right advisers. If you are single, you could encounter someone very intense. Together, you'll experience tremendous passion. If you are attached, your relationship goes up a notch in intensity. Be accepting and respectful of your differences. AQUARIUS adds action and excitement to your life.

Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



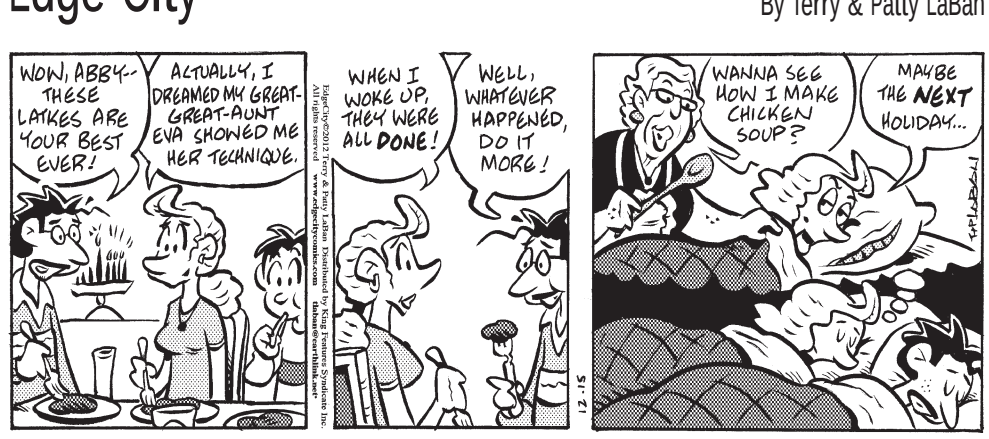
Strange Brew
By John Deering



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 ★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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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 "The Last Frontier"
7 Green shade
11 Varied
12 Great serves
13 Incense
14 Fedora material
15 Düsseldorf denials
16 Madame Curie
17 "Blast it!"
18 Bust makeup
19 Give off
21 Descartes conclusion
22 Dame in the movies
25 Chess piece
26 "Apollo 13" org.
27 Floors
29 Biting remark
33 Less common
34 Energy type
35 Delineate
36 Washington city
37 Like cupcakes
38 Brought to mind
39 Zilch
40 Common dice rolls

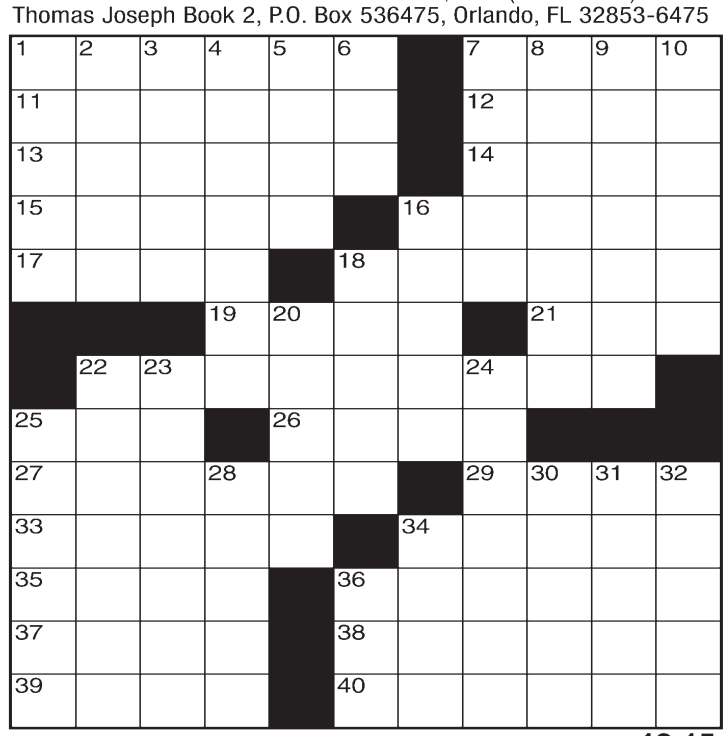
DOWN

1 Make better
2 Antisocial sort
3 Parts of hearts
4 Biased
5 Gunpowder holders
6 Ensign's OK
7 "Aladdin" villain
8 Biting
9 Bible shearer
10 Prize
16 Board victories
18 He had gilt feelings
20 One with a pick
22 Reggae's birthplace
23 Clean, to a cop
24 "Lolita" author
25 Game fish
28 Prisoner's place
30 Similar
31 Oriental noodles
32 Small nails
34 Be thrifty
36 Agreeable answer

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



12-15



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In 2011 only 75 worldwide shark attacks on humans were reported, with only 12 fatal, yet researchers writing recently in the journal Conservation Biology found that about 60 percent of all media reporting about sharks emphasized just the serious dangers that human swimmers face. By contrast, only about 7 percent of the reports were focused on shark biology or ecology, though the sorry state of shark survival would seem more important, in that an estimated 26 million to 73 million sharks are killed annually from the harvesting of their fins.

■ Recurring Themes: (1) In November, Jacory Walker, 19, pleaded guilty to one count of bank robbery in Waxahachie, Texas, and was sentenced to 37 months in prison. He had made the mistake of asking a teller at the 1st Convenience Bank to access his account (giving the teller his Social Security number), and only then, when realizing he had no money left, deciding to rob the place. (2) Almost No Longer Weird: Demarco Myles, 19, was arrested in Washington, D.C., for rape after he, as rapists sometimes fatuously do, decided that his second victim might have had eyes for him and left her his name and phone number, anticipating a follow-up rendezvous.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1967 – The Silver Bridge collapses, killing 46 people.
1970 – Soviet spacecraft Venera 7 successfully land on Venus. It is the first successful soft landing on another planet
1970 – South Korean ferry Namyong Ho capsizes off Korean Strait killing 308.
1973 – John Paul Getty III, grandson of American billionaire J. Paul Getty, is found alive near Naples, Italy, after being kidnapped by an Italian gang on July 10, 1973.

WORD UP!

apopemptic
\ ap-uh-PEMP-tik \ , adjective;
1. Pertaining to leave-taking or departing; valedictory.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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Notices

SUMMONS FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE AND TEMPORARY INJUNCTION
Case# 12DR996
Division: 7
District Court, Douglas, Colorado, 4000 Justice Way #2009, Castle Rock, CO 80104
In Re: the Marriage of:
Petitioner: MARIA ESTHER FERGUSON
Respondent: ALLAN NOLAN FERGUSON
Attorney for Petitioner: SARAH ELIZABETH BANDY, Atty. Reg. No. 41711
Address: Flinders, Bandy Attorney's at Law, 6595 S. Dayton St. Suite 1000, Greenwood Village, CO 80111

To the Respondent named above, this Summons serves as a notice to aapear in this case.
If you were served in the State of Colorado, you must file your Response with the clerk of this Court within 21 days after this Summons is served on you to participate in this action.
If you were served outstid the State of Colorado or you were served by publication, you must file your Response with the clerk of this Court within 35 days after this Summons is served on you to participate in this action.
Your response must be accompanied with the $95 filing fee.
After 90 days from the date of service or publication, the Court may enter a Decree affecting your marital status, distribution of property and debts, issues involving children such a child support, allocation of parental responsibilities (decision-making and parenting time), maintenance, attorney fees, and costs to the extent the Court has jurisdiction.
If you fail to file a Response in this case, any or all of the matters above, or any related matters which come before this Court, may be decided without further notice to you.
This is an action to obtain a Decree of: Dissolution of Marriage or Legal Separation as more fully described in the attached Petition, and if you have children, for orders regarding the children of the marriage.Notice: §14-10-107, C.R.S. provides that upon the filing of a Petition for Dissolution of Marriage or Legal Separation by the Petitioner and Co-Petitioner, or upon personal service of the Petition and Summons on the Respondent, or upon waiver and acceptance of service by the Respondent, an automatic temporary injunction shall be in effect against both parties until the Final Decree is entered, or the Petition is dismissed, or until further Order of the Court. Either party may apply to the Court for

Notices

further temporary orders, an expanded temporary injunction, or modification or revocation under §14-10-108, C.R.S.

A request for genetic tests shall not prejudice the requesting party in matters concerning allocation of parental responsibilities pursuant to §14-10-124(1.5), C.R.S. If genetic tests are not obtained prior to a legal establishment of paternity and submitted into evidence prior to the entry of the final decree of dissolution or legal separation, the genetic tests may not be allowed into evidence at a later date. Automatic Temporary Injunction - By Order of Colorado Law, You and Your Spouse are:
1. Restrained from transferring, encumbering, concealing or in any way disposing of, without the consent of the other party or an Order of the Court, any marital property, except in the usual course of business or for the necessities of life. Each party is required to notify the other party of any proposed extraordinary expenditures and to account to the Court for all extraordinary expenditures made after the injunction is in effect;2. Enjoined from molesting or disturbing the peace of the other party;3. Restrained from removing the minor children of the parties, if any, from the State without the consent of the other party or an Order of the Court; and4. Restrained without at least 14 days advance notification and the written consent of the other party or an Order of the Court, from canceling, modifying, terminating, or allowing to lapse for nonpayment of premiums, any policy of health insurance, homeowner's or renter's insurance, or automobile insurance that provides coverage to either of the parties or the minor children or any policy of life insurance that names either of the parties or the minor children as a beneficiary.
SIGNED: FRANK MOSCHETTI, DISTRICT COURT MAGISTRATE

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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2012219131 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 11/02/2012 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as THE BULLSEYE COMPANY. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: SHARON BISCAYA 1900 BELMONT LANE REDONDO BEACH CA 90278. This Business is being conducted by: Husband and Wife. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:SHARON BISCAYA. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/02/2012. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/01/2012, 12/08/2012, 12/15/2012, 12/22/2012.

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING CONDITIONS: REGULAR RATE: $7.50 a day. Ads over 15 words add 30¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. PREMIUMS: First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. TYPOS: Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. DEADLINES: 3:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 2:30 p.m. PAYMENT: All private party ads must be pre-paid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. CORRESPONDENCE: To place your ad call our offices 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310) 458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406. OTHER RATES: For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310) 458-7737.

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