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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2012
Volume 12 Issue 34



Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

ANOTHER CITY ADDS FLUORIDE
SEE PAGE 8

THE MORE STORMS ON THE WAY ISSUE

City Attorney halts tenant harassment investigation

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

FOURTH STREET Santa Monica's City Attorney's Office has put on ice an investigation into tenant harassment claims at a local apartment building until the owner, property manager and tenants can meet with a mediator, according to a document released to the Daily Press.

If, however, nothing comes out of the mediation by Jan. 31, the investigation will resume and with a lot of help from tenants who have approached both the Daily Press and the City Attorney's Office with their concerns in recent months.

According to a letter from Deputy City Attorney Eda Suh to the property owner and manager, the City Attorney's Office has received 12 individual complaints from tenants at the property at 3111 Fourth St. and three complaint packets collectively signed by 25 of the tenants living at the building.

Those complaints have covered what tenants describe as "unreasonably restrictive new policies," as well as a failure to supervise construction going on to upgrade and remodel vacant units.

More complaints are on the way, with another batch turned in this week, said Lizette Alvarado, a 15-year tenant of the property who described the situation at the building as "absolute mayhem."

"I feel like the only power I have is to get

SEE TENANTS PAGE 9

Woman struck while walking in crosswalk

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

COLORADO AVE A woman was in stable condition Wednesday after being transported to a local trauma center with severe injuries she sustained when she was struck by a car while crossing Colorado Avenue, police said.

Santa Monica police received a call around 10:50 a.m. about the collision, which took place on the 300 block of Colorado Avenue, said SMPD Sgt. Richard Lewis.

The woman who was hit was lawfully walking in a crosswalk connecting Sears with Santa Monica Place when the driver, who was traveling east on Colorado in the number one lane, allegedly ran a red light and struck the victim, Lewis said.

The driver, a woman in her 40s, immediately stopped and waited for police to arrive. She is cooperating with the investigation, Lewis said.

Police shut down a portion of Colorado Avenue from Second to Fourth streets for roughly four hours so investigators could gather evidence and interview witnesses. Streets were reopened around 3 p.m.

Several people gathered at the scene shortly after the crash. In the street were pieces of the victim's clothing and blood.

The investigation continues and anyone with information is urged to contact the SMPD at (310) 458-8599.

kevinh@smdp.com



Kevin Herrera *kevinh@smdp.com*

CLOSER LOOK: **Santa Monica police investigate the scene of a car-on-pedestrian accident on Colorado Avenue on Wednesday.**

Court to hear Boston gangster's bid to oust judge

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON A federal appeals court has agreed to hear Boston gangster James "Whitey" Bulger's request to remove the judge scheduled to preside over his murder trial.

Bulger's lawyers want U.S. District Judge Richard Stearns to recuse himself because he was a federal prosecutor when Bulger claims he was given immunity for crimes he committed while leader of the notorious Winter Hill Gang and an FBI informant on the Mafia.

Stearns says there's no need for him to step down.

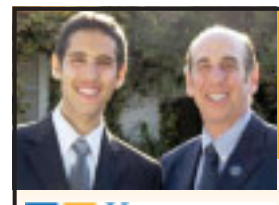
The 83-year-old Bulger claims former federal prosecutor Jeremiah O'Sullivan gave him immunity. O'Sullivan denied that before Congress in 2002.

The 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals will hear arguments Jan. 8.

Bulger fled Boston in 1994 and remained a fugitive until last year, when he was captured in Santa Monica, Calif., with his girlfriend. He denies participating in 19 murders.

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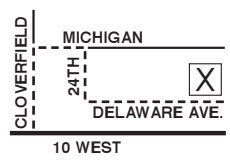
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, Dec. 20, 2012

In the bag
Santa Monica City Hall
1685 Main St., 9 a.m. — 5 p.m.
Environmental nonprofit Heal the Bay returns with its Day Without a Bag to raise awareness about the waste generated by single-use plastic bags. Visit City Hall's help desk to pick up a free reusable bag. For more information, visit healthebay.org.

Shine on
YWCA Santa Monica/Westside
2019 14th St.,
7:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.
Shine is a monthly storytelling series highlighting true stories of positive change told by professional and amateur storytellers. December's theme is family. Cost: $5-$10 donation. For more information, call (310) 452-2321.

Friday, Dec. 21, 2012

Inside the library
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
12:30 p.m.
Docent led tours are offered the third Friday of each month. Docents are able to adapt the tour to focus on various aspects of the environmentally-friendly facility. For more information, visit smpl.org.

New spin on classic
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.

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.

Saturday, Dec. 22, 2012

Glide on ice
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.

Lots of blocks
Montana Library
1704 Montana Ave.,
3 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.
Kids ages 4 and up are invited to build something amazing with Lego blocks during this regular event. For more information, visit smpl.org.

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

CITYWIDE

Pub crawl brings in $20K for charity

An estimated 5,000 crawlers filled the streets with merry and good cheer last Saturday for the fourth annual SANTA Monica Pub Crawl, and helped raise a record high $20,000 (enough for 100,000 pounds of food) for people in need for the holidays, said organizer Kim Koury.

"Thank you to everyone for your support and to my Spin PR team for all of your hard work!" wrote Koury on her Facebook page on Wednesday. "I couldn't have done it without you."

Those who were unable to make it to the pub crawl can still donate to the Westside Food Bank by visiting www.westsidefoodbankca.org.

Last year the crawl raised over $17,000 for the food bank.

– KEVIN HERRERA

CITYWIDE

Winds rip through city

Tuesday's storm brought little rain but plenty of wind as Santa Monicans awoke to find their streets littered with palm fronds and other debris.

Winds gusts reached 31 mph in Santa Monica, and as fast as 48 mph in the Malibu Hills, according to the National Weather Service.

Thousands of Southern California Edison and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power customers lost power as gusty winds buffeted the region on the heels of a cold front out of the Gulf of Alaska.

No power outages were reported in Santa Monica.

The storm dropped just under half of an inch of rain at the Santa Monica Airport.

A new storm, also from the Gulf of Alaska, is expected to hit by the weekend, with rain forecast for Sunday and Monday, according to the National Weather Service.

– KH

JAMS

Principal recognized by music group


MAYORAL

The California Music Educators Assn. has selected John Adams Middle School Principal Eva Mayoral as the 2013 Outstanding Administrator of the Year.

The association is a statewide organization that is comprised of private and public school music teachers in grade school and at the collegiate level.

Each year the association selects key individuals in the state to honor and recognize their steadfast commitment and contribution to the musical arts.

Mayoral's philosophy regarding music education revolves around the core notion that music is vital to educating the whole child, Angela Woo, chair of the Department of Visual and Performing Arts at JAMS, said in an e-mail to the school community.

"Music is recognized as a vibrant component of the JAMS curriculum as it gives our students a sense of belonging during their awkward adolescent years," Woo wrote. "Ms. Mayoral understands that, for many of our students, being in our music program not only gives them a feeling of security, but they have a defined purpose for attending school."

Mayoral will be recognized at the 2013 California All-State Music Educators Conference in Fresno, Calif. in February.

The instrumental and vocal music program at JAMS has nearly 600 students enrolled and features four concert bands, four string orchestras, six choirs, an instrumental conversion class and an after-school jazz band.

– KH



COOL TOYS Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

Students at Will Rogers Elementary School gaze Wednesday at toys donated by the Santa Monica College Police Officers' Association as part of their first annual toy drive. Select students from throughout the school were picked to receive the toys for the holidays.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ROUNDUP

Crossroads, New Roads meet for hoops bragging rights

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

XRDS Crossroads and New Roads will meet Thursday in boys' basketball in a battle for Santa Monica.

It is a rematch of a game that Crossroads ran away with, 87-35.

Crossroads has stumbled since then with a three-game losing streak, the most recent coming against Malibu on Monday.

"We haven't been playing well chemistry wise," Crossroads head coach Kevin Jackson said. "I'm pretty sure we can handle New Roads again, but I anticipate a dog fight."

Crossroads enters the game 5-5, while New Roads sits at just 1-8.

Despite routing New Roads last time out, Jackson said that his team's recent struggles give him reason to pause.

The game will be Crossroads' last until Jan. 7, 2013.

Thursday's game begins at 7 p.m. at Crossroads.

CROSSROADS, NEW ROADS, PART II

Crosstown rivals New Roads

SEE **ROUNDUP** PAGE 9

State completes network of undersea sanctuaries

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. California's 848-square-mile marine reserve, the largest network of undersea sanctuaries in the continental United States, was officially completed Wednesday with the opening of the last link of protected areas off the state's far north coast.

California's patchwork of marine protected areas now stretches from the Oregon state line to the Mexican border and encompasses 16 percent of state waters. Nine percent is off-limits to fishing.

State Fish and Game Commissioner Michael Sutton said the 1999 Marine Life Protection Act directed the agency to establish the network of protected waters.

Modeled after strategies used on land, it sets up parks and refuges to conserve wildlife and help depleted fish stocks rebound.

"If you protect wildlife habitat and you don't kill too many, wildlife tends to do well," Sutton told The Los Angeles Times. "We've done that on land with the waterfowl population. Now, we've done it in the ocean for fish."

The network's final segment, a 137-square-mile protected zone, was part of a deal reached among Native American tribes, conservation groups and fishermen to preserve tribal traditions while protecting marine life.

California's ocean conservation efforts join those of other states and countries, where the efforts have paid off. The Phoenix

SEE **NETWORK** PAGE 9

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Promoting family fun, not guns

Editor:

I was recently made aware of a letter to the editor in your newspaper dated Dec. 17, 2012 titled "Putting money where their mouth is."

As the owner of Puzzle Zoo, a family-run business since 1993, I would like an opportunity to address Mr. Stephansen's and Mrs. Freeman's concerns.

First and foremost, my family and the entire Puzzle Zoo staff would like to extend our deepest condolences to the families affected by the tragic events in Newtown, Conn. Words fall short of expressing our sorrow over the tragic loss of those families and the entire Newtown community.

As business owner of a toy store, but more importantly as a father myself, it is never my intention to be insensitive, have lack of empathy, or profit when it comes to current events such as the tragedy in Connecticut. In regards to the "rubber band gun" display, it has been up for more than six months. As soon as I was aware of the situation in Newtown I instructed my staff to take down the display and remove all toy guns completely from the sales floors of all our many locations.

Unfortunately, this being the busiest time of the year, my staff was unable to follow through on my instructions in a timely manner. For that I take full responsibility. As of Monday, all rubber band gun displays had been removed from all our stores. Puzzle Zoo is proud to offer many varieties of toys, puzzles and games, not just gun toys.

My goal for Puzzle Zoo has always been to promote family fun, education, creativity, memories and imagination beyond one's limitations. The success we've seen has been because of customers just like Mr. Stephansen and Mrs. Freeman. We regret that we have lost their business due to this unfortunate atrocity; yet we appreciate their heartfelt position on guns and safety for all children.

Jay C. Demircift
President, Puzzle Zoo





Life Matters

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

Play Santa or the Grinch?

DEAR LIFE MATTERS,

I am unsure of how to handle the holidays and gift giving at work. I joined my current company in June so I have only spent a few months getting to know my co-workers and have not yet experienced the holiday season with this new group. I have heard from others that some people in the office bring in gifts for others and today I received my first gift from one of my colleagues. I was surprised as I do not know this person as well as others in the office, but now I am worried about whether or not I should return the favor with a gift and how many other people in the office might exchange gifts. What should I do?

Thank you,
Worried Gifter

DEAR WORRIED GIFTER,

The holiday season is meant to be a time of celebration and joy, but having uncertainty about how to handle gift giving can definitely get in the way. Holidays are experienced differently at everyone office so unfortunately there is probably not a one-size-fits-all approach. Some companies have formal policies about how to handle the festive season and other times the hidden cliques within the office become more apparent during the season of giving. While there is not one full-proof way to handle this dilemma, I hope that the suggestions below might give you an idea of how to celebrate the holidays with your new team.

Start by asking a trusted colleague for advice. Find someone who you think might be more neutral on the gift giving topic and find out what their strategy is. Ask questions to find out the history and politics of gift giving in the office and how they personally navigate this time of year. While each person may have a different way of handling gift giving, determining what others do and how they view gifts might help you assess the situation.

Consider sharing a few ideas about how the office can come together to celebrate and share gifts in a more organized way. For instance, a structured gift exchange like themed giving (i.e. all team members bring an outdoor activity item under $10) or a white elephant exchange (bring something nice that you no longer use at home). These activities can help bring the group together and the exchange can be more like a game than who is giving what. If your office mates are more giving-focused, consider suggesting a charity-focused gift exchange.

This could be a process where each person picks a name out of a hat and gives a small donation in honor of that person to a charity they care about. Alternatively, you could explore purchasing a toy that you believe that person might have enjoyed as a child and after the celebration donate the items to a charity toy drive.

If it is not the right time or place to make suggestions about new gifting ideas, consider a gift that everyone in the office can enjoy. Perhaps bringing in a gift basket filled with treats along with a note from you wishing each person a happy new year would be an easy way to show your colleagues that you appreciate them without having to go out and purchase a gift for each team member. If you'd like to make your approach more personal consider writing an individual note to each team member and handing them out in person while letting them know that there is a gift for everyone in the lunch room.

Finally, if you do feel obligated to provide an individual gift, but you are unsure how to plan, consider purchasing gift cards to a retailer that you frequent. Have the cards ready to go in your desk drawer in the event that you receive an unexpected gift. If at the end of the season you still have gift cards left you can use them during the year for your regular shopping trips.

Good luck and have a wonderful holiday season!

KATRINA DAVY is a Santa Monica-based professional career counselor who holds degrees from Cornell and Columbia universities. Visit her at www.kdcareer.com. Got something on your mind? Send your questions to newshrink@gmail.com. All questions will be kept anonymous; let us help you with your life matters!



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)
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Culture Watch

Sarah A. Spitz

Send comments to editor@smdp.com



Photo courtesy Daniel Galindo

GOOD TIME: **Linda Miller, Pete Colburn and Melissa Denton star in 'Bob's Holiday Office Party.'**

Irreverent spirits abound

MOVE OVER DUNDER MIFFLIN, THERE'S another office in town … well, in a fictional small Iowa town, anyway.

Bob Finhead's insurance office serves as the heartbeat of this dysfunctional little burg. Around Christmas for the past 17 years, members of the community gather here for holiday spirits — especially the bottled kind — and a night of debauchery that could rival any rock band's hotel-room-destruction fantasy.

"Bob's Holiday Office Party" is a madcap production that's achieved cult status, with at least one audience member (publicly recognized the night I attended) having seen all 17 years of this crazy play's staged incarnations.

A few of the original actors who opened the play return to this production, joining two new fans who co-produced this year's staged bash. They're developing "Bob's Holiday Office Party" into a feature length film/TV production.

This whacked out holiday classic began life as an improvised romp that's now more scripted. It features Bob (Rob Elk, co-writer and originator), the insurance man/party host who's dreaming of moving to the big city — Des Moines — to try his hand at being an inventor. Some of his crazier Rube Goldberg creations appear in cameo roles on stage.

Sheriff Joe (Joe Keyes, also co-writer and originator) is the bawdy lawman who's taking the night — and eventually some of his clothes — off; he's an AA sponsor who downs more liquor than all the party's participants combined.

An assortment of feisty female farmer twins; the gay mayor (everyone but the mayor knows it) whose lusty wife is Bob's paramour; the dorky, sober Elwin who takes advantage of Bob's wishful thinking by getting him to sign over his business; the town stoner; the town floozy — they're all here making a whole lot of politically incorrect trouble.

This play sells out every year. But so many of the returning audience members are laughing so hard at the jokes, at times both crude and lewd, that it became difficult to hear some of the lines.

But if you're looking for a deranged antidote to "It's a Wonderful Life," take a short hike down the pike to Pico Playhouse, 10508 W. Pico Blvd. in Rancho Park. Final performances are tonight through Saturday; tickets available at (800) 838-3006 or www.bobsofficeparty.com.

SPEAKING OF IMPROV

There's a local hub for comedy and improvisation right here in Santa Monica.

After a popular debut in November, "Improv Diary…(Uh)" returns to Mission IMPROVable's Westside Comedy Theater in Santa Monica for a three-performance run.

"Improv Diary…(Uh)" is a live improv

SEE WATCH PAGE 6

The Q Line

Right choice for mayor

Councilmember Pam O'Connor was selected to serve a fourth term as mayor by her peers on the City Council last week. Longtime member Kevin McKeown was again passed over for the post despite being a favorite among the electorate.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Should the council have given McKeown a chance to be the mayor or was the right decision made?

Contact **qline@smdp.com** before **Friday at 5 p.m.** and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. You can also call **310-573-8354**.

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Katherine Heigl starts pet products line

ALICIA RANCILIO
Associated Press

NEW YORK Bedtime at Katherine Heigl's house can take a while. As a mom of two daughters and seven other kids of the four-legged variety, she likes to give each one special attention.

The Emmy Award winner says first she tucks in her girls, 4-year-old Naleigh and baby Adalaide, who turns 1 in April. Then she takes her seven dogs through their own nighttime ritual.

"I literally put each one to bed and every one of them gets hugged and kissed before they go to bed," she laughed in a recent interview. "It sounds absurd because there are some nights where you're like, 'I'm exhausted!' but there's never a night where I don't want that time with them."

The actress has channeled her love of animals to ending animal abuse. She's launching a line of pet products called Just One where portions of the proceeds go to help programs that foster, train, neuter and rescue animals.

Merchandise ranging from pet collars to apparel and accessories for people is available on the product's website.

"It's been an interesting and long process developing this and it feels so rewarding and exciting that it's coming to fruition," said the 33-year-old actress in a recent interview.

Recently she even helped fund two transport flights to send animals from Los Angeles kill shelters to North Shore Animal League on Long Island, New York, which is known as the world's largest no-kill shelter.

Heigl says she understands not everyone can afford to help the way she can but says, "If every person does one small thing to help one pet that could be the solution to the whole problem."

Heigl says she bought her first three dogs — miniature schnauzers — because "I just didn't know any better." Since then, she's been turning to rescues. "One dog I rescued from Rhode Island while filming '27 Dresses.' I love older dogs. I think people don't realize how much easier they are than puppies. I think they just sense or know that they have you to thank."

WATCH
FROM PAGE 5

comedy show created and produced by Kerri Fernsworth Feazell. Every week, three different people will read from their actual diaries and a team of five improvisers will create brand new improvised scenes on the spot based on those diary entries.

Should be a hoot — make sure you're 21 and over, though. And what a bargain: tickets are just $5 at the door! Three shows only at 8 p.m. on Dec. 26, Jan. 2 and Jan. 9.

Westside Comedy Theatre offers comic relief every night of the week at 1223-A Third St., in Santa Monica For more information, visit www.westsidecomedy.com

MAYAN BLAST OFF

If you've been following the predictions of the Mayan calendar, tomorrow may be the end of the world. But maybe not. Just in case, Stefan Haves Presents "Atomic Holiday Liftoff — The End of the Year (World?) Party."

Cirque du Soleil's Haves produces this event, featuring West Coast clowns, comics, acrobatic and aerial performers and a different death-defying, laughter-inducing cast each night. A few regulars join in, too: pancake juggler Scot Nery, aerialist Eric Newton, and sword swallower Brett Loudermilk, among others, are backed by original live music from composer Philip Giffin and singer Karen Blake.

The audience will be surrounded by a three-ring circus that includes a full bar, food trucks, a "black light chill space" dubbed the "Ultra Lounge" and after-show DJs.

Even if the world's still here, the fun itself is short-lived: "Mayan Atomic Blast Off" runs through Dec. 23 at Fais Do-Do, 5727 W. Adams Blvd. in Los Angeles; it's PG rated from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. but adults only after 10 p.m. More info and tickets here: www.atomicholidays.com.

WALL HANGINGS

In Paris, certain small museums are actually the "ateliers" (studios) of the artists whose work was created in them. Some are crammed side by side, floor to ceiling in a dazzling and often overwhelming array of art.

I am reminded of these ateliers when I look at The Small Works Group Show at Ruth Bachofner Gallery at Bergamot Station.

This is a beautifully hung show of small works that are individually eye-catching, but grouped together along the walls of the gallery, they look even more decorative and appealing than a Christmas tree.

Among the distinguished group of 50 artists are emerging talents and some who've already established names for themselves, but I'd like to call your attention to one of the veteran artists featured.

Venice-based Jean Edelstein first came to my attention in a video featuring her painting on a large glass panel, which we could watch from the back side as she splashed deftly painted strokes on the see-through surface. She's been a dynamic force on the local scene, but an aspect of her work that I was unfamiliar with prior to this show are her books.

She's done numerous accordion-fold, black and white and color sketches of landscapes, orchids, Huntington Gardens and performances … impressions that only a skilled artist can capture quickly and definitively. For this show, she's contributed a book she calls "Here Now" concert, Book #148. Check out her work at www.jeanedelstein.com.

While you're at the gallery, revel in the simple beauty of works on paper by Seiko Tachibana. These meditative pieces allow both abstract and biological forms to combine and connect, creating imaginative new patterns that feel completely organic.

Both Seiko Tachibana and the Small Works Group Show are on view at Ruth Bachofner Gallery through Jan. 5 at Bergamot Station. More info here: www.ruthbachofnergallery.com

SARAH A. SPITZ is a former freelance arts producer for NPR and former staff producer at public radio station KCRW-Santa Monica. She reviews theatre for LAOpeningNights.com.

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HOME ENTERTAINMENT

DVD holiday shoppers' guide

BY RANDY O. WILLIAMS
Special to the Daily Press

'BRAVE,' ULTIMATE COLLECTOR'S EDITION

The top animated film of the year, set in the Scottish Highlands, follows the journey of a headstrong, young adventurer, Merida. Defying tradition and age-old customs in carving her own path, Merida confronts challenges head-on, forcing her to discover the true meaning of bravery. The five-disc combo pack includes a bevy of extras like theatrical shorts, the film's art and design work, 3D, Blu-ray versions, deleted shots and extended scenes. (Disney-Pixar)

'TROUBLE WITH THE CURVE'

Gus Lobel (Clint Eastwood) has been one of the best scouts in baseball for decades, but father time and young guns in the Atlanta Braves front office are teaming up to bench him for good. Amy Adams and John Goodman co-star. Special features include: "Rising Through the Ranks" and "For the Love of the Game." (Warner Bros)

'ARBITRAGE'

Richard Gere is the featured player as a hedge-fund magnate whose fortunes turn when a deadly error threatens to destroy his financial empire and family. Susan Sarandon and Tim Roth co-star. Deleted scenes, filmmaker commentary and a making-of segment are included. (Lionsgate)

'TED'

"Family Guy" creator Seth MacFarlane directs Mark Wahlberg as John Bennett, a grown man whose cherished teddy bear comes to life as the result of a childhood wish. It creates some chaotic situations, particularly in regards to John's romantic life with longtime girlfriend Lori (Mila Kunis). Deleted scenes, a gag reel, alternate takes and a "Teddy Bear Scuffle" are included in the two-disc set. (Universal)

'THE OTHER DREAM TEAM'

The incredible story of the 1992 Lithuanian basketball team, whose athletes struggled under Soviet rule, became symbols of Lithuania's independence movement, and — with help from the Grateful Dead — triumphed at the Barcelona Olympics. (Lionsgate)

'MEN IN BLACK 3' BLU-RAY 3D/DVD COMBO

The black-suited duo of Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones are back and use a brand new collection of gadgets to fight off retro aliens. Josh Brolin and Emma Thompson are also featured in this Barry Sonnenfeld film. Extras: Gag reel, "Partners in Time: The Making of MIB 3," "Back in Time" music video by Pitbull, "Spot the Alien" game, "Keeping It Surreal: The FX of MIB 3," and "The Case Of Boris the Animal: The 3D Models of MIB 3." (Sony)

'THE DARK KNIGHT RISES,' BLU-RAY/DVD COMBO

In time for the holidays comes Christopher Nolan's final chapter to his popular brooding Batman film trilogy. Set eight years after the events of "The Dark Knight," The film finds Bruce Wayne broken in spirit and body from his moral and physical battle with the Joker. All-star cast includes: Christian Bale, Anne Hathaway, Tom Hardy, Marion Cotillard, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Michael Caine, Gary Oldman and Morgan Freeman. Extras: "The Journey of Bruce Wayne," "The Batmobile Documentary," "Ending the Knight" documentary, trailers and an art gallery. (Warner)

'THE BOURNE LEGACY,' BLU-RAY/DVD COMBO

In a clever expansion of the original Bourne universe (featuring Matt Damon), Jeremy Renner takes center stage as Aaron Cross, an agent who must use his genetically-engineered skills to survive the ultimate game of cat-and-mouse and finish what Jason Bourne started. Loads of extras. (Universal)

'TOTAL RECALL,' BLU-RAY/DVD/ULTRAVIOLET

For a bit of escapism, factory worker Douglas Quaid (Colin Farrell) uses Rekall, a company that can turn dreams into real memories. But when the procedure goes horribly wrong, Quaid becomes a hunted man. Finding himself on the run from the police — controlled by Chancellor Cohaagen (Bryan Cranston), the leader of the free world — Quaid teams up with a rebel fighter (Jessica Biel) to find the head of the underground resistance (Bill Nighy) and stop Cohaagen. A game demo, gag reel, design processes and science fiction vs. science fact segment are part of the three-disc package. (Sony)

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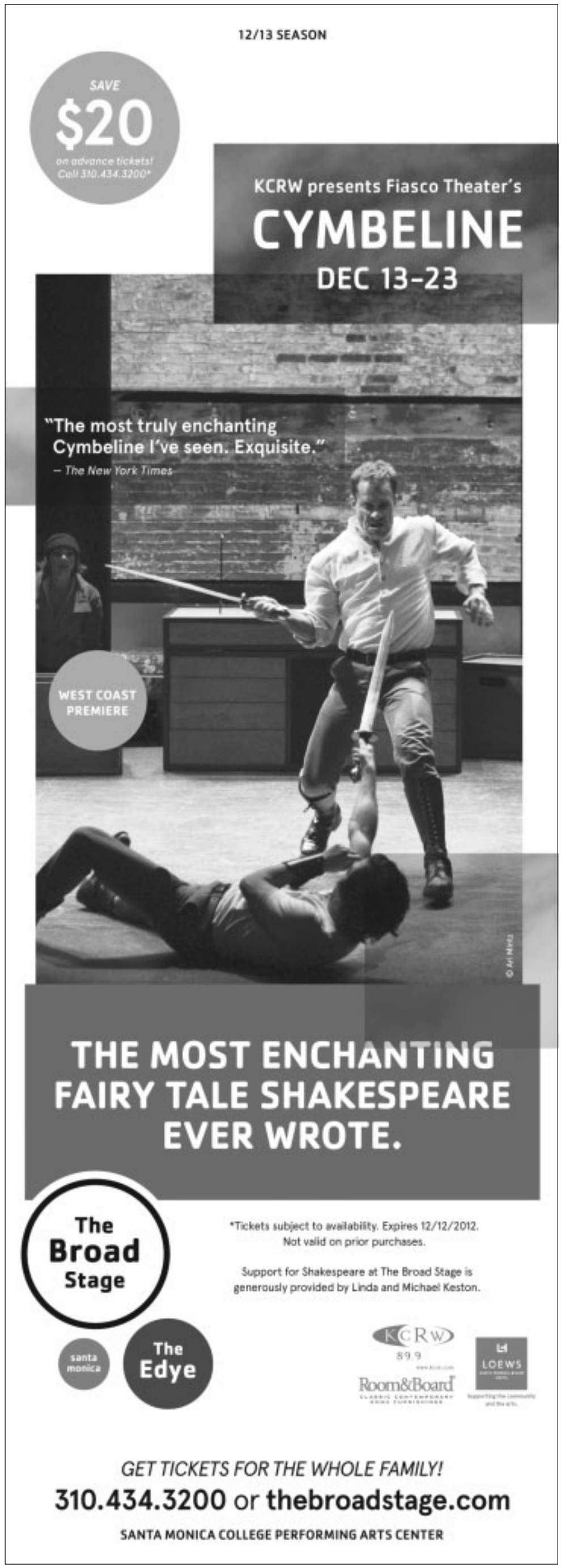
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‘Scan and match’ music service launched by Google

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Google is turning on a “scan and match” service for Google Music users to store copies of their songs online, offering for free what Apple charges $25 a year for.

The service, which launched Tuesday, cuts uploading time for those who want to save their music libraries online. It scans a user’s computer and gives them online access to the songs it finds, as long as they match the songs on its servers. Otherwise, it will upload songs to a user’s online locker.

The service is similar to Apple Inc.’s iTunes Match, which includes online storage for 25,000 songs. Google Inc. allows storage for 20,000 songs and allows users to re-download the songs only at the same quality as they were at previously. Apple upgrades songs to iTunes quality.

Amazon runs a similar matching and uploading service called Cloud Player. It costs $25 a year for 250,000 songs. A free version is limited to 250 songs.

Google is still a fledgling entrant into music sales since debuting its store in November 2011, though it expects to benefit from the hundreds of millions of devices that use its Android operating system on mobile devices.

According to the NPD Group, Apple accounted for 64 percent of U.S. music sales online, followed by Amazon at 16 percent. Google has no more than 5 percent, according to NPD. Other services make up the rest.

Google had sold songs at a discount at the start, but that is less so the case now. For example, it was selling the top-ranked Bruno Mars song “Locked Out of Heaven” for $1.29 on Wednesday, the same as iTunes, and above the 99 cents on Amazon. But its album price was lower at $10.49 versus $10.99 at both iTunes and Amazon.

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San Jose water district adding fluoride to water

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN JOSE, Calif. The nation’s largest city without fluoridated drinking water will finally add tooth decay-fighting fluoride to its water, ending years of debate over how San Jose should treat its tap water.

Even so, residents of San Jose will only get a diluted amount of fluoride in their water for the next two years, because funding approved unanimously by the Santa Clara Valley Water District on Tuesday will not cover the cost of retrofitting all the wells necessary to provide the optimal level of fluoride.

While San Francisco began fluoridating water in the 1950s, the diversity of water sources and the complexity of San Jose’s water system held up the process in California’s third-largest city.

In recent years, critics of fluoridation have packed public meetings arguing that the chemical isn’t safe, and that too much flouride can pit teeth, aggravate thyroid problems and cause other ailments, all claims health officials refute.

Public health advocates see the move as a major advance for residents.

The county’s health officer, Dr. Marty Fenstersheib, said the decision would go a long way toward addressing poor dental health among children in the county, which he called a pervasive problem.

One-third of the county’s children have at least one cavity by the time they start school, and some even need root canals on their baby teeth, Fenstersheib said.

“When we talk to school nurses, they say kids come to school all the time with terrible dental issues and aren’t ready to learn,” Fenstersheib said."They can’t concentrate.”

The San Jose Mercury News (http://bit.ly/UC2hgi) reported it will take about two years to finish details and retrofit water plants to bring the additive to the city’s taps.

The water district will pay for the $6.6 million needed to retrofit its three main plants through a public-private partnership, but its largest customer, San Jose Water Co., will need to come up with an additional $18 million to retrofit dozens of its wells.

Flouridating water has been found to decrease children’s cavities by as much as 40 percent, according to The Health Trust, the nation’s largest provider of children’s dental services.

“This is a great day for the children of Santa Clara County,” said Frederick J. Ferrer, CEO of the trust, which is contributing $1 million to the fluoridation project.

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Hollywood


NETWORK
FROM PAGE 3

Islands, Northern Mariana Island and Northwestern Hawaiian Islands all have established similar protected areas.

Not everyone was happy about the idea in California, most of all fishermen.

During public meetings throughout the state, fishermen protested and argued that closing fishing was not the right remedy and that pollution from coastal development and urban runoff were more to blame for declining fish stocks.

In the end, after myriad discussions, the reserves survived due to the science that showed the idea worked in other places.

Fish and Game Commission member Richard Rogers, a recreational fisherman, called the marine protected areas "the single most important thing I've done in life, other than marrying my wife and raising my five kids."

ROUNDUP
FROM PAGE 3

and Crossroads boys' soccer will follow basketball's suit and clash on Thursday.

Ranked No. 5 in the most recent CIF-SS Division 5 poll, Crossroads comes into the game 7-1-1 this year. New Roads is 2-2.

Crossroads is the defending CIF-SS champion.

The game will be played at Crossroads at 7 p.m.

NO. 1 ST. MONICA TRAVELS TO FLINTRIDGE SACRED HEART

Sitting at 9-1 overall and atop the CIF-Southern Section Division 4A rankings, St. Monica girls' basketball travels to Flintridge Sacred Heart on Thursday.

Sacred Heart enters the game 7-3 overall.

St. Monica is riding a six game winning streak.

The game begins at 7 p.m.

daniela@smdp.com

TENANTS
FROM PAGE 1

(other tenants') complaints to the city attorneys and go to the owners," Alvarado said.

Neither the owner of the building, M West Holdings, nor the property manager, Scott Properties Group LLC, responded to requests for comment for the article.

M West Holdings bought the property in July.

Many of the tenants' complaints stem from a document called the "House Rules and Regulations," which was allegedly handed out to tenants in September.

That document stated that tenants were unable to store items on their decks and patios, that they were legally prohibited from smoking in their apartments and that the company could impose changes in the terms of the lease, according to the letter.

"As far as we are aware, none of the complaining tenants have signed the House Rules and therefore the new house rules are not enforceable as to the complaining tenants," Suh wrote in the letter.

Tenants also allege that the property manager began making their lives difficult by putting in place new policies with which they could not easily comply.

According to the letter and conversations with tenants, they were asked to pick up new keys from an off-site property management office, and were told that replacements for the new keys would cost $250.

Many tenants lack transportation or are disabled, tenants say.

Methods by which rent could be paid also changed, as well as the dates.

Ben Parker, an eight-year resident at the building, used to pay his rent on the fifth of each month. He went on a trip to Santa Barbara and came back in July, after M West Holdings bought the property, to find that the date had changed. Rent was now due on the first of each month.

What really bothered Parker, however, was the construction.

Vacant apartments were being remodeled, he said, turning the building into a construction zone from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

As an aspiring screenwriter, Parker had difficulty working at home during the day.

"It's a terrible working environment," he said. "I write almost solely at night, or go to the library or somewhere else."

Tenants also called the South Coast Air Quality Management District to raise concerns about asbestos, although officials reported that they did not see anything wrong in the inspections.

Inspectors did bring samples back for testing, said Sam Atwood, spokesperson for the AQMD.

In the letter, Suh advised that the City Attorney's Office would put further investigation into the complaints on hold until all parties — M West Holdings, Scott Properties and the complaining tenants — agree to mediate in good faith.

"All aspects of the mediation, including the final signing of the letter agreement, must be completed no later than Jan. 31, 2013," Suh wrote. "If the parties are not able to successfully mediate the issues by that date, our office's tenant harassment investigation will resume."

The parties have until Dec. 26 to accept the offer for mediation.

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Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, 90401, not later than 2:30 p.m. on January 30, 2013, to be publicly opened and read aloud after 3:00 p.m. on said date in City Hall Council Chambers. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Bids.

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Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website Planet Bids at: http://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=15167# .
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Reported sexual assaults spike at military academies

LOLITA C. BALDOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Reported sexual assaults at the nation's three military academies jumped by 23 percent overall this year, but the data signaled a continued reluctance by victims to seek criminal investigations.

According to a report obtained by The Associated Press, the number of assaults rose from 65 in the 2011 academic year to 80 in 2012. However, nearly half the assaults involved victims who sought confidential medical or other care and did not trigger an investigation. There were 41 assaults reported in 2010.

Reported sexual assaults have climbed steadily since the 2009 academic year. The Defense Department has urged the academies to take steps to encourage cadets and midshipmen at the Army, Navy and Air Force academies to report sexual harassment and assaults in order to get care to everyone and hold aggressors accountable. The number of assaults reported by the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., and the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colo., increased, while reports at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., declined.

In addition to the sexual assault report, the military also is releasing the results of its biannual anonymous survey of academy students, which showed that 12 percent of the women said they experienced "unwanted sexual contact" and 51 percent said they were sexually harassed. Of the men, 2 percent experienced unwanted contact and 10 percent said they were sexually harassed.

Officials are concerned whenever the number of reported sexual assaults goes down while the anonymous survey suggests that unwanted sexual contact goes up or stays the same. That's because military officials want victims to feel comfortable going to their superiors to report incidents.

The report divides the assaults into two categories, restricted and unrestricted. Unrestricted reports rose slightly from 38 last year to 42 this year, and those are provided to either law enforcement or military commanders for an investigation. Restricted reports jumped from 27 last year to 38 this year, and in those cases victims sought medical care and advocacy services but did not seek an official investigation.

According to the report, all three academies are now meeting department policies and requirements for training and the appointment of sexual assault response coordinators.

The report is expected to be made public later this week.

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Armored backpacks and a rush on guns after school shooting

BRADY MCCOMBS
BRIAN SKOLOFF
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY The reaction to the Connecticut school shooting can be seen in gun stores and self-defense retailers across the nation: Anxious parents are fueling sales of armored backpacks for children while firearms enthusiasts are stocking up on assault rifles in anticipation of tighter gun control measures.

A spike in gun sales is common after a mass shooting, but the Connecticut tragedy has generated record sales in many states. Colorado set a single-day record for gun background check requests the day after the Connecticut mass shootings, and some online retailers are removing assault rifles from websites in part because of diminishing supplies.

Nevada saw more requests for background checks in the days after the shooting than any other weekend this year. Some gun shop owners are even holding back on sales, anticipating only more interest and value after President Barack Obama on Wednesday tasked his administration with creating concrete proposals to reduce gun violence.

Robert Akers, a Rapid City, S.D., gun seller specializing in assault-style rifles, said he has about 50 of the weapons in stock but he's not actively trying to sell them and has even turned off his phone.

"It's a madhouse," said Akers, owner of Rapid Fire Firearms. "Any time they have one of these shootings or an election, it gets that way. I don't even want to sell them right now because I won't be able to replace them for probably six months. ... The price is only going to go up higher."

At least three companies that make armored backpacks designed to shield children caught in a shootings also are reporting a large spike in sales and interest.

The body armor inserts fit into the back panel of a child's backpack, and they sell for about $150 to $300, depending on the company.

The armor is designed to stop bullets from handguns, not assault rifles like the one used by the Connecticut shooter. The manufacturers and some parents say that while they don't guarantee children won't be killed, they could still be used as shields.

"Just like a seatbelt increases your odds of surviving in a car crash, these increase your odds of surviving being shot," said Kerry Clark, president of Texas-based Backpackshield.com.

Ken Larson, 41, of Denver, Colo., already had an armored backpack for himself and convinced his wife to buy one for their 1-year-old after the Connecticut shooting on Friday, when a gunman stormed Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown and massacred 20 first-graders and six adults.

"It's a no brainer. My son's life is invaluable," Larson said. "If I can get him a backpack for $200 that makes him safer, I don't even have to think about that. Where is my credit card?"

Though Larson knows the backpack won't guarantee his son's safety when he starts school, he says it's a worthy precaution.

"Kids already carry backpacks. When there is a shooting, you run for your life," he said. "Having it right there and on when he runs for his life gives him more safety."

Elmar Uy, vice president of operations at Bullet Blocker, a Massachusetts-based company that has sold the backpack armor since 2007, says the company's sales have tripled since last week.

At Amendment II in Salt Lake City, sales of children's backpacks and armored inserts are up 300 percent.

"The incident last week highlights the need to protect our children," said co-owner Derek Williams. "We didn't get in this business to do this. But the fact that is that our armor can help children just as it can help soldiers."

Amendment II was founded about two years ago using a new lightweight nanotechnology to make body armor products for soldiers and law enforcement less cumbersome. They began making the backpack inserts about six months ago, and also sell child-sized bulletproof vests. While the backpack sales still represent a minor part of the business, they now sell two varieties online — one featuring Disney princesses and the other a scene from the movie Avengers.

Clark, president of Backpackshield.com, began making youth backpacks after the mass shooting at Virginia Tech in 2007.

"I don't do it for the money, but to save the lives of kids," Clark said. "We've got to do something more than just hide in the corner of the classroom."

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Chief Photographer – Santa Monica Daily Press
wisephotographic@yahoo.com



Metro Briefs
WESTSIDE/CENTRAL

Holiday Eve Free Fares
To help you enjoy the holidays safely, all Metro buses and trains will offer free service on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Specifically, no fare will be charged from 9pm on Monday, December 24 until 2am Tuesday, December 25 and from 9pm on Monday, December 31 until 2am on Tuesday, January 1. Have a safe holiday. Go Metro.

Go Metro To The Rose Parade
To really enjoy this year's Tournament of Roses Parade on January 1, use the Metro Gold Line and skip the traffic and parking hassles. All Metro Rail lines will run overnight on December 31 to help you make your connections. Plan your trip at *metro.net*.

Works Begins On Metro Division 13
Construction is underway on Metro's new Division 13 at the intersection of Vignes Street and Cesar E. Chavez Avenue adjacent to Union Station in Downtown LA. The new bus operating division will be home to some 200 buses and 350 bus operators when completed in 2014.

Metro Ridership Increases
Rising gas prices, an improving economy and new service on the Metro Expo and Orange lines have all contributed to boosting Metro's ridership numbers. Riders on Metro Rail soared by 23% while bus ridership increased nearly 5% in October 2012 as compared to October 2011.

Lane Closures Loom In Sepulveda Pass
Individual lane closures for resurfacing and striping could be on the schedule for early next year on the I-405 Freeway in the Sepulveda Pass as part of the freeway improvements project. Check *metro.net/405* for the latest information on closures and construction schedules.

Metro
If you'd like to know more, visit *metro.net*.

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TIME TO GET IT DONE

SURF REPORT



RIPCURL LIVE THE SEARCH
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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **58.1°**

THURSDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high
BIGGEST EARLY; Fading short to mid period WNW-NW swell;
Good weather and light offshore AM wind

FRIDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high
BIGGEST LATE with larger surf at good exposures; New dose of WNW-NW swell quickly builds in and peaks late; STAY POSTED, STILL PENDING DEVELOPMENT

SATURDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** thigh to waist high
Holding WNW-NW swell; Good wind/weather conditions may continue;
STAY POSTED, STILL PENDING DEVELOPMENT

SUNDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high
WNW swell slowly shifting more westerly; STAY POSTED, STILL PENDING DEVELOPMENT; Long period forerunner traces of a new SW swell starts to slowly creep in

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 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 -- 12
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 19 / 14
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: simplehuman LAcurGUY SIMA and Groubeck 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 Alisa 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+
Pearce State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pearce Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	B	C
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (bmach 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 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas 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 17300 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	C
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 CMW 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.

MLB

Hamilton, Angels finalize $125M deal

BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

ANAHEIM, Calif. Feeling "a little upset" that Texas didn't move quickly enough to re-sign him, free-agent outfielder Josh Hamilton donned a Los Angeles Angels jersey on Saturday after finalizing a $125 million, five-year contract that he called a new chapter in his life.

"I started off with the Devil Rays and now I'm an Angel," said the five-time All-Star who was drafted by Tampa Bay before making his major league debut with Cincinnati in 2007.

Hamilton, the 2010 AL MVP, joins a batting order that already includes Albert Pujols and AL Rookie of the Year Mike Trout. The 31-year-old Hamilton hit a career-high 43 home runs last season and batted .285 with 128 RBIs in 148 games.

"To get a guy like Josh and combine him with Albert is going to give us building blocks for what we hope is years to come," manager Mike Scioscia said. "We can't wait."

Neither can dozens of red-clad Angels fans, who lined up outside a restaurant where Hamilton was introduced. The team had a table set up for ticket sales and he signed autographs on his way inside.

Hamilton's $25 million average salary matches Philadelphia first baseman Ryan Howard for the second-highest in baseball, trailing only Alex Rodriguez's $27.5 million average with the New York Yankees.

"It was a great investment," said Angels owner Arte Moreno, who insisted he wasn't trying to keep up with the Los Angeles Dodgers, who are on track to surpass the New York Yankees as baseball's biggest spending team in 2013.

"I think it's just great," he said about the Dodgers' spending spree this week that got them former Angels pitcher Zack Greinke for a $147 million, six-year deal and South Korean left-hander Ryu Hyun-jin for a $36 million, six-year contract.

"Why would I ever want to wish something bad on someone? I really liked Greinke, but you make a decision how much you're going to spend on one player. We said we're going to get a couple relievers and a pitcher. I personally can't wait to play them."

Hamilton agreed to the deal with the Angels on Wednesday after having talked with them since the winter meetings in Nashville, Tenn.

"They like to get after it," he said.

Rangers general manager Jon Daniels had hoped to re-sign Hamilton, who led Texas to consecutive World Series appearances in 2010 and 2011. He said he was disappointed the Rangers never got a chance to match any offer during the process, as they had expected, or be contacted before Hamilton agreed with another team.

"I gave them everything I had for five years," Hamilton said. "I'd be lying if I said I wasn't a little upset they didn't put the press on."

Hamilton's wife, Katie, spoke up and compared the situation to dating.

"We were with them for five years. If you're going to date someone, you make it known and official pretty quick," she said. "They let us date other teams and Josh had said he would give them first chance and they didn't (make a move)."

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MOVIE TIMES

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

White Christmas (NR) 2hrs
7:30pm

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

Rise of the Guardians (PG) 1hr 37min
1:15pm, 6:45pm

Looper (R) 1hr 58min
1:45pm, 7:15pm

Wreck-It Ralph (PG) 1hr 48min
1:30pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Killing Them Softly (R) 1hr 40min
4:30pm, 10:00pm

Rise of the Guardians 3D (PG) 1hr 37min
4:05pm, 9:30pm

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

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

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

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

Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey in 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 46min
1:30pm, 5:30pm, 9:30pm

Argo (R) 2hrs 00min
11:20am, 2:10pm, 4:55pm, 7:50pm, 10:30pm

Monsters, Inc. 3D (G) 1hr 32min
11:30am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:25pm

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

Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey in HFR 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 46min
11:55am, 4:05pm, 8:00pm

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

Intouchables (R) 1hr 52min
7:00pm, 9:40pm

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

Any Day Now (R) 1hr 37min
1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:50pm

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

Already Famous (NR)
1:30pm, 4:15pm

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

Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 2 (PG-13) 1hr 56min
11:20am, 2:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:35pm, 10:25pm

Skyfall (PG-13) 2hrs 23min
11:05am, 2:40pm, 6:15pm, 9:30pm

Guilt Trip (PG-13) 1hr 35min
11:30am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:20pm

Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13) 2hrs 46min
11:00am, 2:45pm, 6:30pm, 10:30pm

Playing for Keeps (PG-13) 1hr 45min
11:10am, 1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

Silver Linings Playbook (R) 2hrs 00min
11:10am, 2:00pm, 4:50pm, 7:40pm, 10:30pm

Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away 3D (PG) 1hr 31min
7:00pm

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

Out late tonight, Pisces

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ The unexpected runs rampant right now. If you stop and think about it, you are the trigger. Express your caring without getting involved in a power play. Tonight: A call could affect your plans.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You could be taken aback by everything that is happening around you. It might be difficult to define what you want to do. Make it OK to do nothing. Trust that you will see the path and that timing will be on your side. Tonight: Keep a secret.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Make plans to bring friends together before you exit the scene for a family holiday gathering. You will be, or probably already are, in the mood to start enjoying the eggnog and presents and cornering your sweetie under the mistletoe. Tonight: Wrap those presents.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Others follow your lead, but they could be wondering what is up. You might want to vanish and not be found. Indulge those around you a little, but continue on your path. Tune in to your inner voice and center yourself. You will know what to do. Tonight: In the limelight.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Keep reaching out to others, especially the people you rarely call but often think of. A friend's confession could stun you. Let your feelings show -- there is no reason to hold back. Tonight: Go along with someone's plans.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You might want to eliminate a problem and move forward. The other party can be unreasonable and often does the unexpected. A child or a loved one decides that now is the time for rebellion. The smart move is to ignore this behavior. Tonight: A chat over coffee and dessert.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Others want what they want, so try not to stand in the way of their long-desired dreams. Avoid protesting any opposition you might have, as their energy is far higher than yours. Tonight: Love the one you are with.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Everyone seems to be pursuing their interests, or they're already slacking off. You have a lot that you would like to accomplish before relaxing and getting into the holiday mood.Tonight: At home.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ You can't be restrained or held back. You are like a wild horse that is tied up. Your creativity surges in this mindset; however, not all of your ideas are good or positive. Hold yourself back. Tap into an innate sense of self-discipline. Tonight: You can have the best of both worlds.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ You might be uptight about a domestic or personal matter. Accept what is, and choose not to push to have your way. Your pushing is part of what keeps the situation from finding resolution. You want change, so change your behavior. Tonight: Head home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You could have a lot to say. Maybe the smart move is to hold back and be more observant. You have been questioning where an acquaintance is coming from. Tonight: Have some eggnog with friends.

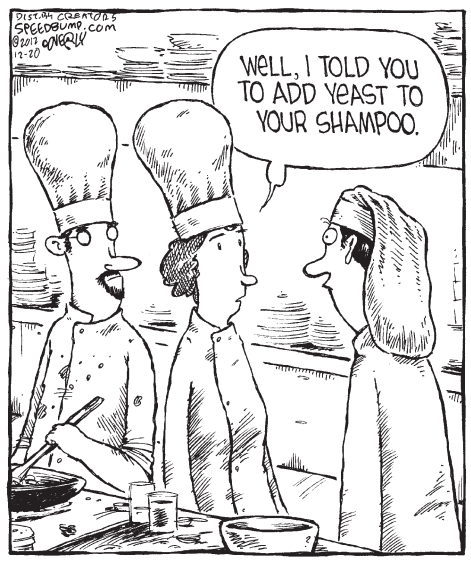
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Run out the door if you must for some last-minute holiday items or gifts. You might feel as if you want to indulge a loved one more. You don't need to drop all of those gifts on this person immediately. After all, you do not want to make this person feel uncomfortable. Tonight: Out late.

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 will you be much more assertive than you have been. As a result, you will break past patterns that have held you back in the past. You will be prone to do the unexpected. According to others, you are following a different drummer. If you are single, you will meet quite a few potential suitors. Be true to yourself. You will continue to date until you meet the right person. You will know when the time comes. If you are attached, be gentle with your sweetie. This person is adjusting to the changing you. ARIES has a fiery temper!

Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



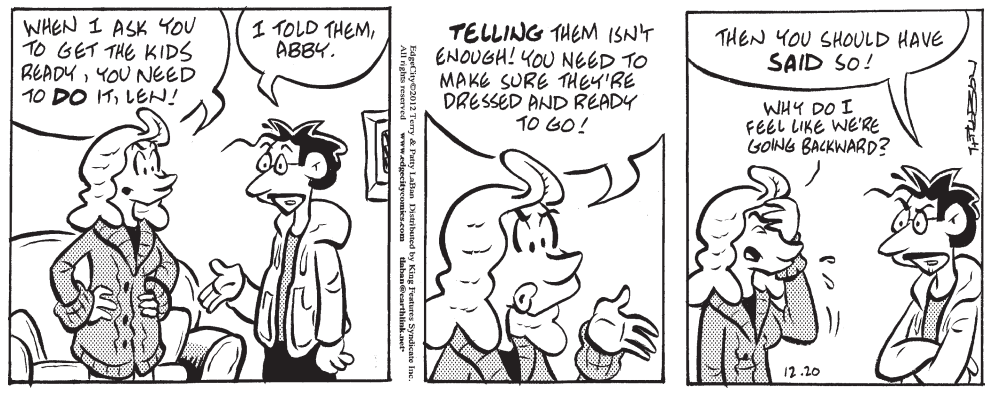
Strange Brew
By John Deering



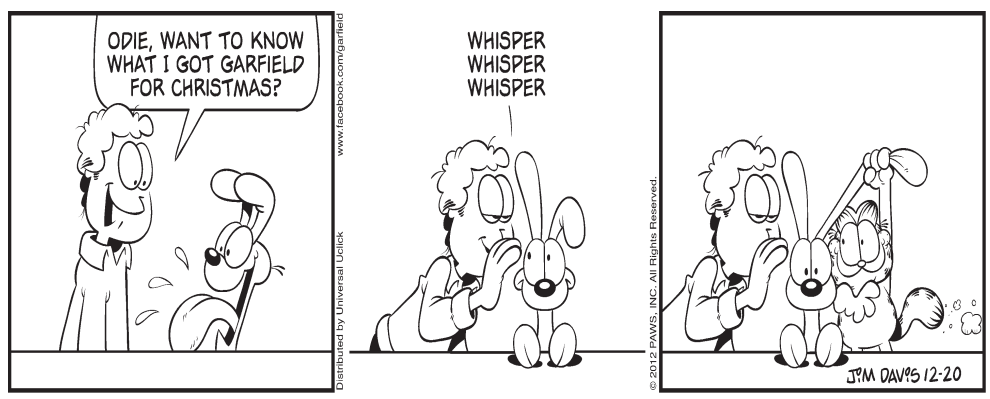
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



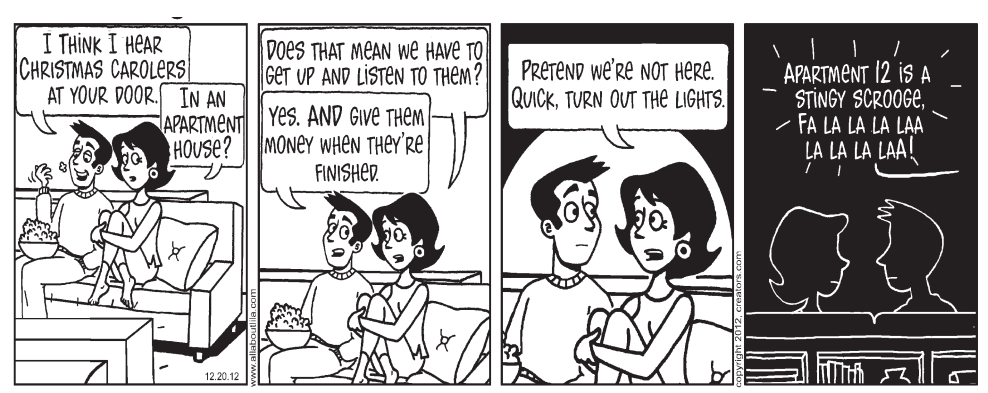
Edge City
By Terry & Patty LaBan



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 ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Book unit
5 Occurs
11 Amorous archer
12 Spot
13 Throw out of balance
14 Intercede
15 Secure space in a home
17 Garden visitor
18 Majestic
22 Crockett's last stand
24 Boring movie
25 Rap's — Kim
26 Unconscious
27 "Atlantic City" director
30 Filling threads
32 Incendiary crime
33 Center
34 Untutored
38 Playground bug
41 Bread spread
42 Passionate
43 Blueprint
44 Chaplains
45 Catch sight of

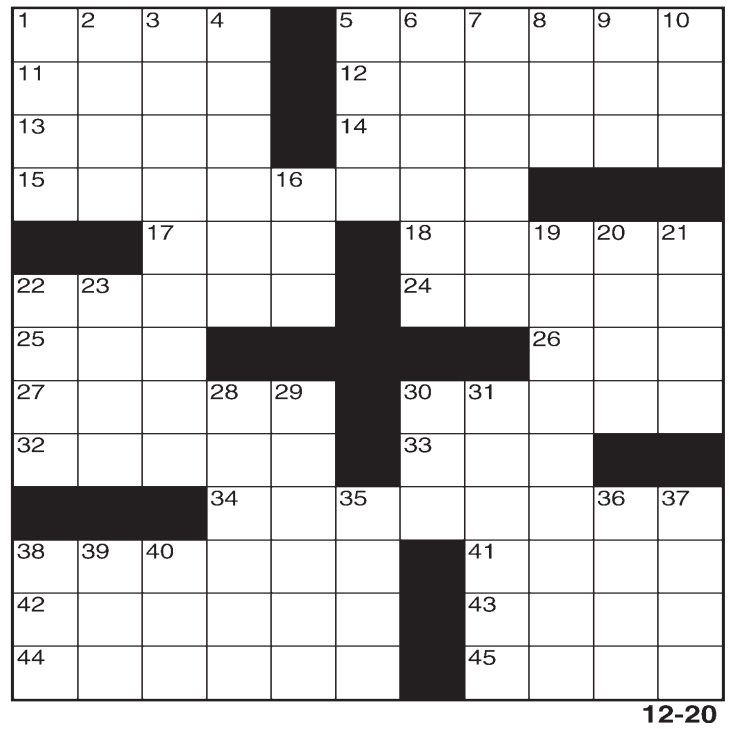
DOWN

1 Darlings
2 Diva's piece
3 Driving needs
4 Think highly of
5 To boot
6 Copter parts
7 Old suppliers
8 Easy mark
9 Yale rooter
10 Capitol Bldg. VIP
16 Early auto
19 Doofuses
20 In — (stuck)
21 "Why not!"
22 — mater
23 Deceitful one
28 Hang around
29 Car part
30 Question of identity
31 Atlas section
35 Catches
36 Tide type
37 Swank
38 Ballpark souvenir
39 Man-mouse link
40 Peculiar

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

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



12-20

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/18
1 6 7 18 29
Meganumber: 16
Jackpot: $12M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 12/15
11 15 24 26 28
Meganumber: 10
Jackpot: $21M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/19
10 19 22 25 38

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 12/19
MIDDAY: 8 9 5
EVENING: 9 1 9

SANTA ANITA DERBY
Draw Date: 12/19
1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 02 Lucky Star
RACE TIME: 1:45.49

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

■ Things People Believe: (1) Personalities are heavily influenced by blood types, according to the Japanese. People with Type A blood are thought to be "sensitive perfectionists and good team players, but over-anxious," according to a November BBC News dispatch, while O's are "curious and generous but stubborn." Some industries market blood-type-specific products ranging from soft drinks to condoms. (2) Names given by their parents heavily influence a person's fortunes in life, according to many Thais, but that means relief from misery is just an official name-change away, according to a November Wall Street Journal dispatch from Bangkok. Services-for-fee are available to help find prosperous names, with one smartphone application suggesting five for the equivalent of about $10.

■ Saudis Remain Freedom-Challenged: (1) In September, officials in Jeddah detained 908 female Nigerian visitors who were not accompanied by appropriate male guardians as required for all females in the kingdom under age 45. (Women older than that are allowed merely to carry notarized permission slips from husbands, sons or brothers.) That the Nigerians were in the country only to make the required Muslim Hajj pilgrimage did not deter Saudi authorities. (2) Saudi immigration officials in November began a text-messaging service to notify husbands if a woman attempts to leave the country (at an airport or across a border) without the official "yellow sheet" authorizing her departure.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1996 - NeXT merges with Apple Computer, starting the path to Mac OS X.

1999 - Macau is handed over to the People's Republic of China by Portugal.

WORD UP!

echolalia
\ ek-oh-LEY-lee-uh \ , noun;
1. The imitation by a baby of the vocal sounds produced by others, occurring as a natural phase of childhood development.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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- 3 Bedrooms
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- Living Rm w/ Fireplace
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- Great Location
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- 2.5 Baths
- Private Sun Deck
- Huge Loft



603 16th Street

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- Hardwood Floors
- Freshly Painted
- Kitchen Appliances Incld
- Great Neighborhood



Average Price of **ALL** Santa Monica Single Family Homes From **ALL** agents in **ALL** companies Listed for Sale As of mid December 2012		
Santa Monica Canyon	=	$1,650,000
North of Montana	=	$3,750,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$2,638,000
South of Wilshire	=	$ 989,000
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