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Santa Monica Daily Press
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2011
Volume 11 Issue 34

Santa Monica Daily Press

EVENTS ABOUND
SEE PAGE 2

We have you covered

THE HOLIDAYS IN FULL SWING ISSUE



IT BEGINS

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

Rabbi Eli M. Levitansky of Chabad at SMC lights a menorah on the first day of Chanukah in Palisades Park on Tuesday evening.

Dogs bring joy to hospital patients

Therapy animals have impact on human health, studies show

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

MID-CITY The Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital welcomed approximately 15 canines and their human companions into its wards for the first time Tuesday to spread holiday cheer among patients with Christmas carols and a little unconditional love.

Dogs as small as Gracie the Chihuahua and as giant as Bosley, a 150-pound great Pyrenees, paraded through the halls of the fourth and fifth floors and the Emergency Room festooned with holiday finery as the carolers belted out classics like "Frosty the Snowman" and "Deck the Halls."

The dogs and their owners are part of the People-Animal Connection (PAC) program at UCLA, which strives to match up hospital patients with highly-trained therapy animals for short visits proven to relieve stress and improve a patient's quality of life.

PAC is responsible for over 85,000 visits in the UCLA system since 1994.

Dogs have visited UCLA's Santa Monica campus in twice-monthly sessions, but never for the holiday caroling event, which takes place each year at the Ronald Reagan campus in Westwood.

It's been hard to get enough volunteers together to carol at both hospitals, mostly because of traffic issues, said Jack Barron, the PAC program director and former volunteer.

"It'll happen in Santa Monica as long as I'm director here," he said.

It's a fun time for volunteers like Jane Tomlinson and her black lab Paco, because the dogs don't get to interact often with their therapy colleagues.

"If you see another dog in the hall, you're supposed to turn around and walk away," Tomlinson said.

More importantly, patients forced to wait out the holidays in the hospital for any number of reasons get a little much-needed joy when the dogs come to visit, Barron said.

"Lots of us have dogs at home, and they're our therapy dogs," Barron said. "You walk out the door for five minutes and it's

SEE PATIENTS PAGE 12

Taxi franchise changes close loopholes, raise penalties

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL A series of changes approved last week by the City Council will give city officials the ability to fine taxi cab drivers, franchisees and the general public for violating rules regarding taxis in Santa Monica.

The item, which appeared on the City Council's consent agenda, revised both the fines for violating the municipal code and the schedule of fines associated with the Taxicab Rules, a series of regulations created for the taxicab franchise system which was established in 2010.

The changes will cause some fines to go up between four and 10 times the current amount, depending on the circumstance.

It also puts in place fines for new violations recently approved by council, like a penalty levied against doormen at restaurants and hotels for asking for bribes called "cookies" from drivers in return for lucrative fares.

City officials have three ways of policing the taxicab franchises — fines, criminal citations or by taking away the license to drive in the city altogether.

The administrative fines apply to residents and taxi drivers alike, and is considered to be an alternative to criminal prosecution, wrote Salvador Valles, the taxi franchise program coordinator, in an e-mail.

In contrast, Taxicab Rules, and the fines associated, apply only to franchisees and taxicab drivers, not the general public.

Those fines were originally established by the City Council a year ago, but staff sought to change them to keep the fines in

SEE CABS PAGE 11


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2011

Tiny shakers
Kidsrevolving Studio
1657 12th St., 10:30 a.m.
This yoga class offers an energy bursting, imaginative practice shaped just for little tots! Participants begin with a breathing warm-up and then experience a series of movement explorations based on themes inspired by cultures from around the world.
Cost: $20.
Call (310) 497.4277 or e-mail tiffany@kidsrevolving.com to make reservation.

Self healing
Senior Center
1450 Ocean Ave., 12:30 p.m.
Maria Locsin, a licensed acupuncturist and Chinese herbalist, will lead a discussion on how to stay healthy and heal bodies. How? Maria repeats and reiterates: Food is your medicine. Must be a Senior Center member and 50 or older to participate; membership is free.
For more information, call (310) 458-8644.

Drink and be merry
Library Ale House
2911 Main St., all day
It's the Library Ale House's favorite time of year for beer. The weather cools down and the ABV goes up. It's as though the universe is telling us to stay in inside and sip strong, dark beers. To that end, the Alehouse announces its 2nd Annual Strong Ale Holiday Fest, running Dec. 19-31. For more information call (310) 314-4855 or visit www.libraryalehouse.com.

Thursday, Dec. 22, 2011

Snow on the pier?
Pacific Park
Santa Monica Pier, daily
Pacific Park is offering two exciting ways to enjoy the holiday season. Sit with Santa on the Frog Hooper, the ride that takes up to seven young riders straight up and down to heights of nearly two stories. Then take a ride on the West Coaster roller coaster and feel a curtain of snow fall as you depart. For more information, call (310) 260-8744.

Stories for the kids
Montana Library
1704 Montana Ave.,
11:15 a.m.
Come out to enjoy stories for kids 3 to 5 every Thursday morning. For more information, call (310) 829-7081.

Grind it out
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1323 #A Third Street Promenade
The Grind features players from the Mission IMPROVable National Touring company and the owners of M.i.'s Westside Comedy Theater. For more information, call (310) 451-0850.

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

BBB reduces service during holidays

With many of the institutions served by the Big Blue Bus closed or on reduced hours over the holidays, the bus company is operating its special winter schedule on weekdays only.

The schedule will be in effect until Jan. 2.

Those who ride Lines 2, 3, Rapid 3, 4, 7 and the Downtown Ride need not worry. These will operate according to their regular schedules.

All other routes will have some service reduced.

Weekend schedules remain unchanged.

For more information on which routes are impacted, go to bigbluebus.com, call (310) 451-5444 or stop by the Transit Store at 223 Broadway. Se habla Español.

KEVIN HERRERA

DOWNTOWN

Santa would be proud of this pub crawl

The third annual Santa Monica Pub Crawl raised more than $17,000 on Saturday, enough money for the Westside Food Bank to supply needy families with a "whopping" 70,000 meals, said Kim Koury, founder of Spin Public Relations who co-created the pub crawl with a girlfriend as a way to support local businesses and the less fortunate during the holidays.

"We are proud to announce that we more than tripled the donations we were able to raise from last year," she said.

An estimated 4,500 people donned Santa hats and reindeer antlers and visited various bars all across Santa Monica. Tickets were $10 and helped people score food and drink specials, as well as entrance to an after-party and raffle.

"We're really happy," Koury said. "Everybody had a blast and there were no problems reported. Many of the bars said it was their most successful night of the year aside from St. Patrick's Day. They were busy all night."

It was the first year that an entrance fee was required. In previous years attendees were asked to donate canned goods in exchange for a ticket, Koury said, but that made it difficult for the food bank, which had to transport over 5,000 pounds of canned goods.

Charging a fee "worked out better," Koury said.

Expect the pub crawl to continue as it is quickly becoming a holiday tradition. To check out photos from the night, go to www.santamonicapubcrawl.com.

KH



CLASSIC TALE

Kibiwot Limo *news@smdp.com*

A group of costumed carolers perform 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens on Tuesday in Palisades Park.

Medical marijuana backers ready 2012 ballot measure

LISA LEFF
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO Medical marijuana advocates want to create a statewide system for licensing, regulating and taxing the industry as a way of persuading federal officials to ease up on their crackdown of California's pot clubs and growers.

After months of study, a coalition of medical marijuana activists led by Americans for Safe Access and a labor union that represents dispensary workers in Northern California, have proposed a 2012 ballot initiative that would create an appointed Board of Medical Marijuana Enforcement charged with overseeing businesses and nonprofits that grow, distribute, sell and test pot both in its raw state and in finished products like food items.

The measure was submitted to the secretary of state Thursday and still must be cleared by the attorney general before its supporters can begin gathering signatures. Backers hope that empowering a state body to monitor the industry would show the federal government that California is serious about keeping marijuana in the hands of residents who are authorized to use it.

In October, the four U.S. attorneys based in the state announced a coordinated action to shutter pot clubs and growers they accused of acting as a front for drug dealers.

"We think that this initiative will create a level playing ground that law enforcement will embrace because it creates a sensible process," Dan Rush, national director of the United Food and Commercial Workers' medical cannabis division. "The U.S. attorneys became hostile to medical marijuana in California and what we are doing is offering a responsible, dignified and sincere approach to the citizens of California."

The proposed initiative also would target local governments that have banned marijuana businesses outright by requiring counties and cities to authorize at least one dispensary for every 50,000 residents. Local governments would be allowed to enact dispensary bans only with voter approval.

At the state level, the envisioned regulatory scheme would be financed through application and registration fees, as well as through a 2.5 percent retail sales tax on marijuana and pot-infused products. Most of the proceeds would go toward running the enforcement program, although any profits would be earmarked for medical marijuana research and for supporting uninsured emergency room visits in the state, the only beneficiary not

SEE **MEASURE** PAGE 8

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Landmark the airport

Editor:

The recent article in the Daily Press ("Santa Monica's lost aviation history," Dec. 20) illustrates just one small piece of Santa Monica's aviation history. It brings to light the long and sometimes tumultuous history of one of the city's greatest assets — the Santa Monica Airport.

Now would be an opportune time for the Landmarks Commission to consider the Santa Monica Airport as worthy of consideration as a landmark. This is consistent with their mission, which is to protect improvements and areas which represent the city's cultural, social, economic, political and architectural history; safeguard the city's historic, aesthetic and cultural heritage; and promote the use of landmarks and historic districts for the education, pleasure and welfare of the people.

What better a time than now?

Michael Dubin
Santa Monica

Not being realistic

Editor:

I looked at the rendering in the Dec. 20 edition of the Daily Press depicting what Ocean Park Boulevard will look like after the $4.4 million project to "green up" the thoroughfare from Neilson Way to Lincoln Boulevard is completed. I was amused to see that there were pedestrians and bicyclists along with trees and grass shown in the rendering, but there were no cars depicted.

Now I've lived in Santa Monica for many decades and never have I seen Ocean Park Boulevard devoid of cars on a sunny day. If the developer of this project and City Hall were honest for once, they would have shown gridlocked drivers on a major east-west artery that used to be a four-lane boulevard reduced to a two-lane cow path. And yet, the folks in this city continue to drink the Kool-Aid and assume that anything labeled "green" is good. Just wait until summer traffic backs up for a mile or more on Ocean Park Boulevard and then tell us how that frosty drink tastes.

Barry Barker
Santa Monica

Sharing is caring

Editor:

Yes, there is no Santa Claus. And there isn't any Christmas spirit, either. While we're at it, forget about the Easter Bunny and Tooth Fairy, too. We've taken them all away. As Linus ends his speech, "Peace on Earth, goodwill toward man" ... realize this is a fallacy.

For centuries, mankind cannot live by this credo. We can erect tall buildings, create massive machines, soar into outer space, see beyond our galaxy, yet we cannot be cordial or considerate to anyone or anyone's sect that does not match our own. Conflict always seems to rule rather than tactful concessions. Who wins that way?

City Hall made a mistake. City officials should have allowed the nativity scenes in Palisades Park to be shown in full for a designated period of time and allow other sects the same courtesy. Where was the common sense approach to this issue? December has four weeks, winter is 12 weeks, and a year has 52 weeks — plenty enough time to share Chanukah, Christmas, Kwanzaa.

Ronald Davis
Santa Monica





Stories from the Street

Ron Hooks — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Looks can be deceiving

WHO ARE SANTA MONICA'S HOMELESS?

I get asked this question quite often. Who are they? In other words, is there a particular economic or ethnic group that makes up the majority of the homeless population? I usually answer, "You will probably be surprised."

The other day I was moving some boxes around in my attic and I saw Gary's diploma again. When I saw his prestigious diploma mounted on that beautiful wooden plaque, I couldn't help but wonder where he was and how he's doing.

Gary was sharper than most. His memory was absolutely unbelievable. His attention to detail was impeccable. He had earned his doctorate at UCLA. But all his talents, gifts and education couldn't save him from cocaine addiction, then homelessness.

When I first met Gary, he was carrying around a cardboard box that was beat all to pieces. It was slightly bigger than a file box. I kept seeing him with this torn-up box and finally asked what it was all about. He said that he had been hauling it around for awhile but was afraid that he would eventually lose it, too. He said, "This is all I have left in this world. It's just papers and stuff. They don't mean anything to anybody but me." Then he asked, "Will you keep it for me? Just hold on to it for a week or two until I get a place?" I answered, "Yeah, but only for a week or two."

Gary was also looking for somebody to be his payee. You know, someone to receive his disability check every month then help him manage his money. I thought it would be easy because of the way he had impressed me with his professionalism. So I thought, "Why not, I will give it a try. After all, how hard could it be?"

The first check that I received for him was a shocker. When I saw the amount my first thought was that he must be getting some back pay. It must be several months' worth — $3,200 is a lot of money. I asked Gary, "Why is your check so much? Do they owe you money?" "No, that's what I get every month," was his reply. He was getting professional disability. I had never met anyone who received it before.

Gary once had a thriving practice in Beverly Hills. He was in demand. His patients were some of the richest and most famous people in L.A. He once had all the trappings of success.

Years ago a doctor friend had invited Gary to a party. It was there, in a drunken state, that he tried crack cocaine for the first time. Gary said, "There are some people who just can't handle it. Predisposed, I suppose. I am one of them. Within six months of my first hit of crack cocaine I had lost everything. My practice, my license to practice, my wife and kids, cars, every nickel and every dime. If anything had any value at all, it is gone."

I was his payee for only a short time. It was a nightmare. Gary could find more ways to get his hands on the money than you could imagine. I would give him money in the morning and he would need more by the afternoon. He was still an addict. He was smart. I was naïve. He fooled me. He had all these elaborate plans that took money that somehow failed to materialize every single time. He was "maintaining" as they say on the street. He was using every single cent of his disability to get what he needed to stay high as long as he could. He didn't need a payee, he needed an enabler. He was moving from area to area, finding that unsuspecting person who could get his money for him.

It didn't take very long to figure out what he was doing. We had a showdown one day. Gary confessed to everything. He was just working me to get what he needed. He said that he guessed if he didn't have the disability money he could probably get clean. But he liked it (crack) too much, and it was working for now.

I found it all hard to believe. Gary's story is still unreal to me. How could someone who had achieved so much have fallen so far? He was at the top of his game. He was the cream of the crop. It was a scary scenario.

The last time I saw him was one afternoon at the hospital. A few days earlier he had called me from a phone booth in extreme pain. He was gasping for air as he talked in short breaths from the tenderness in his abdomen. After my 20 minute plea, he finally agreed to go to the hospital. At the hospital, I found out that he was only a few hours away from death, his appendix had ruptured. When he got well he walked out of the hospital. I have never heard from him since.

Who are they? I answer it like this. They are somebody's sister, somebody's brother, somebody's son or somebody's daughter. In my time working with the homeless I can honestly say that there is not one socio-economic group that I haven't worked with. Homelessness does not discriminate.

Don't place all the homeless into one ideological box. What's on the surface can fool you.

RON HOOKS is the founder and executive director of West Coast Care, a nonprofit. WCC is part of the Santa Monica Police Department's Joint Homeless Outreach Program. Learn more at westcoastcare.org.



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The Taxman

Jon Coupal
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Is this poll for real?

THE TAX-AND-SPEND SACRAMENTO insiders who hunger for more taxpayer cash are having to secure their drool bibs after the release of a poll claiming broad public support for Jerry Brown's proposed tax hikes.

The poll by the Public Policy Institute of California, a left-tilting think tank, asked the following question:

"Gov. Brown has proposed a plan to help close the state's budget deficit over the next five years. The plan, which would be put before voters in November, would raise $7 billion annually through a temporary, four-year half-cent sales tax increase and a temporary, five-year income tax increase on those earning more than $250,000. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?"

According to PPIC, 60 percent of likely voters indicated support for the plan, which has those backing tax increases salivating.

Nonetheless, there are reasons to be skeptical. Let's take a closer look.

Note how the question is framed in terms of deficit reduction, even though real world experience shows that there's no correlation between raising taxes and reducing the deficit — or else California certainly would have no deficit at all by now.

In the second sentence, it's stated the governor's plan will, for certain, produce $7 billion in new tax revenue, even though, again, real world experience shows that tax increases rarely, if ever, produce the revenue that is predicted.

See how the tax increases are described as "temporary," while also noting their sunset dates. Is it really necessary for a pollster to emphasize that four-year and five-year tax increases are "temporary?" Doesn't their description as four-year and five-year tax increases already make that clear?

And the question mentions the sales tax, which impacts everyone, first, and then ends with the tax increase on top earners, so that the "tax the evil rich" element is emphasized at the end of the sentence, right before the respondent is asked to make a decision?

Ironically, this same poll shows 57 percent of Californians believe there's a lot of waste in state government spending and 67 percent say the state government is pretty much run by a few big interests looking out for themselves and not for the benefit of all of the people.

If taken literally, the poll tells us that most Californians think government wastes their money and, therefore, they want to pay higher taxes. This significant contradiction of logic takes us back to the biased wording of the tax increase question.

IF TAKEN LITERALLY, THE POLL TELLS US THAT MOST CALIFORNIANS THINK GOVERNMENT WASTES THEIR MONEY AND, THEREFORE, THEY WANT TO PAY HIGHER TAXES.

Only an election can sort out what voters are really thinking, but before the Sacramento politicians start spending the "new" money they believe this poll shows they will get, they should look back to 2009. Two months before a special election vote on Proposition 1A, that would have raised taxes by $16 billion, a Field poll had the measure passing by 57 percent. It lost two months later by more than 65 percent.

In releasing this latest poll, the PPIC should have provided bibs for everyone because what they have served up is pabulum.

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

The Q Line

New trend?

The City Council last week approved a 56-unit apartment complex slated for the corner of Broadway and Fourth Street. The development includes no parking spaces for tenants.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think parking should be required for every development, or is this a trend you'd like to see more of in Santa Monica?

Contact **qline@smdp.com** before **Friday at 5 p.m.** and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. You can also call **(310) 458-7737 ext. 107**.



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State park managers oppose agency director, want change

JUDY LIN
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO California state park managers said they have lost confidence in their director and urged Gov. Jerry Brown to appoint someone else to the post.

The 125-member California State Parks Peace Officer Management Association sent a letter to the governor's office last week expressing disapproval of Ruth Coleman, who has been serving as state parks director for nearly a decade.

Scott Elliott, president of the association, said there is frustration over how Coleman has handled budget cuts. A survey of the association's members found that more than 90 percent have no confidence in their leader, he said.

The state announced earlier this year that it would close as many as 70 of the state's 278 parks to save $33 million over two years. The closures will take effect July 1, 2012.

"We've felt there hasn't been a cohesive plan," said Elliott, an acting superintendent in the Lake Tahoe area. "There's just been a lot of knee-jerk reactions and some decisions that were made to close parks without analysis."

Parks department spokesman Roy Stearns said Coleman has been leading the charge to keep parks open. He said the state has found donors and sponsors to keep nine parks open, and 27 are in negotiations for partnerships.

"We're clearly not sitting on our hands," Stearns said Tuesday. "All of this has been Ruth Coleman's initiative to push the envelope of creative things to keep as many parks open as possible."

Coleman was appointed by former Democratic Gov. Gray Davis in 2002 and reappointed by Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Gil Duran, a spokesman for Brown, said the governor does not comment on personnel matters. The California Department of Parks and Recreation has about 2,500 workers.

Elizabeth Goldstein, executive director of the nonprofit California State Parks Foundation, which provides financial support to the department, said she was surprised by the letter because her group has worked "very closely and extremely well" with Coleman. She said the letter represents just a fraction of state workers in the department.

Goldstein said even though the governor does not face a deadline for that appointment, it might be time for him to make a decision.

"This is the moment for the governor to have anointed a leader, put them in place and back them up," Goldstein said.

The letter signed by Elliott described Coleman as an honorable person but said she has been absent from public discussion on leading the parks system through the state's fiscal problems.

"It is not an exaggeration to say that morale is at a disheartening low in the Department of Parks and Recreation, some of it because of budget problems, yet even more from a woeful lack of credible leadership," he wrote.

Elliott said he has seen ranger and maintenance positions drop by as much as 50 percent in his area, while seasonal staff has fallen to 30 percent of pre-recession levels.

He expressed concern about Coleman's plans to hand off state parks to nonprofits, local governments and private vendors who lack the experience of managing parks. Elliott said the new caretakers may not share the state's philosophy on sustainability.

"There are a lot of people who have dedicated their lives to running parks," Elliott said. "It's just a little bit of a risky proposition to hand these treasures off to people who maybe don't have the same level of experience running them."

Stearns said it's not surprising that state park managers are dissatisfied given that state workers have been forced to take furloughs and staffing has been reduced throughout state government.

California voters in November 2010 rejected Proposition 21, an $18 registration fee for vehicles that would have raised an estimated $500 million for state parks. The nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office said the parks system has been operating on about $300 million annually, with half the money coming from the state's general fund and the other half from gasoline tax and park user fees for admission, camping and other uses.

Stearns said without additional revenue, the state cannot run parks the same way.

"It's a reality that really stinks," he said.









Celebs share New Year's resolutions for their pets

SUE MANNING
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Tony La Russa would like his dog to spend more time in his lap. Bob Barker would like his rabbit to spend more time in its litter box. And Lea Michele would like her cat to spend less time in her cotton ball jar.

The Associated Press asked several celebrity pet owners about New Year's resolutions for their animals — and resolutions their pets might have for them.

La Russa, the reigning World Series champion manager, would like it if his 12-year-old Chihuahua Twiggy would jump into his lap every time he sat down. "I'd like that affectionate reassurance every time, not just sometimes," he said.

And on behalf of Twiggy, La Russa would resolve to "be the person that Twiggy wants me to be and deserves for me to be."

Jazz singer Roberta Flack would resolve "not to have to beg Yogi, my shiba inu dog, to eat his breakfast or dinner so his food bowl would not be looking at us all day long! He likes to be begged to eat — coerced — given one bite from the bowl by hand."

And for her: "That I talk less and quietly. I have a seal point Siamese, Mimi-La, who likes to put her front paw on my face as if to say, 'Shhhhh.'"

Flack didn't include resolutions for eight dogs, 12 cats, a llama, six horses, three donkeys, several Chinese chickens, a road runner, three flamingos and several geese she cares for after adopting them from petting zoos and other places.

"CSI: Miami" actress Eva La Rue would ask that "our bulldog Frank be less of a ham. He is so funny. He always needs to be right in the middle of the room where all the action is taking place. He constantly needs attention.

"If Frank made a New Year's resolution for me it would be that I would devote 100 percent of my time to him only. If my shnoodle, Bingo, made a resolution, it would be that he would get just some of the attention that Frank demands from us! LOL!"

It seemed fitting to ask some of the actors in the movie "New Year's Eve" for their resolutions.

Seven dogs — Oscar, Romeo, Stella, Piper, Weaser, Flora and Tamber — would like actress Katherine Heigl "to feed them consistently on time in the morning."

She wishes Oscar the hound would "not be so aggressive toward strangers. That would be good because I really don't want to get sued."

Academy Award winner Hilary Swank said of her two dogs: "They are so great. ... I wish they could do every interview with me and just sit right here and here. That would be my New Year's resolutions for my dogs — that they're always with me."

Josh Duhamel would like his rescue dog Meatloaf "to really work on his coordination and work on getting a little more exercise because he's struggling right now. But he's still happy and he's not in pain. But it's really hard to get him to do anything. He's super lazy. He's like maybe the most unathletic animal you've ever seen."

"Glee""'s Lea Michele says her cat Sheila needs a resolution.

"I wish that Sheila would stop going into my bathroom, taking out all my cotton balls out of the jars and spreading them all over. So her New Year's resolution would be to get over the cotton ball obsession."

Dog whisperer Cesar Millan would like his pit bull Junior to continue as "an ambassador for powerful breeds, reinforcing the message that it's not the breed, it's the human behind the animal." And Junior to Millan? "Accept yourself," he said.

"We have cats, lots of cats. They are pretty well behaved but one — Ted. I would resolve that Ted might start to work on getting along well with others," said Joe Bonsall of country music's Oak Ridge Boys.

"All of my cats might wish that I stayed out on the road more so they would not have to share (my wife) Mary as much. Seriously! I am sometimes a blight on their existence," he added.

Fellow group member Duane Allen said sports and music would top his list.

"I taught my dogs how to play basketball — everything except shooting. So that would be on the list. l taught one how to sing. I am now trying to teach my Lab (Lana) how to talk. She thinks I am Elvis."

And if Lana had her way, "it would be to tell me to not talk," Allen said.

Country singer Buddy Jewell wants his Akita Jack to "eat more pork chop bones!" And Jack, in turn, wants Jewell to "Grill more pork chops!"

Bluegrass singer Janie Fricke said her favorite pet is Rico, an 18-year-old African grey parrot who plays like a baby. Her wish for him? "I hope he lives to be 80, as the book says."

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MEASURE
FROM PAGE 3

directly related to the industry.

Coalition members including a growers' group based in Humboldt, Drug Policy Alliance and the state chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws started crafting the initiative earlier this year. California voters in November 2010 rejected a first-of-its-kind ballot measure that would have legalized recreational use of the drug by adults and authorized local governments to impose taxes on its sale and cultivation. Some medical marijuana backers were among the measure's most vocal opponents.

California was the first state to legalize the medical use of marijuana, through a 1996 citizens' initiative. The program created under that law is by far the most liberal of the 16 states that allow marijuana use for medical purposes. Doctors may recommend pot to a patient for any ailments for which they think it may provide relief, for example, and the state has no centralized system for monitoring users or the hundreds of storefront dispensaries that have sprung up to supply them.

If it passes, the proposed Medical Marijuana Regulation, Control and Taxation Act would constitute the first legislative changes to California's 15-year-old medical marijuana since state lawmakers in 2003 passed laws requiring counties to issue voluntary identification cards to authorized medical marijuana patients and set guidelines for how much pot users could legally possess.

Rush said the initiative's supporters plan to provide details about their campaign strategy and goals in early January.

The measure could end up sharing the November 2012 ballot with another marijuana legalization measure, as supporters have submitted language to the secretary of state for at least three different ones. Don Duncan, Americans for Safe Access' state director, said it was important for the state to get on the right track with its existing medical marijuana laws before tackling an initiative that would treat pot like alcohol.

"We have come to a point in the field with medical cannabis where we need some sort of statewide standards make things more consistent and rational throughout the state," Duncan said. "We are trying to fix medical marijuana because this is unfinished work, and we think this should be the priority right now because this is so overdue.

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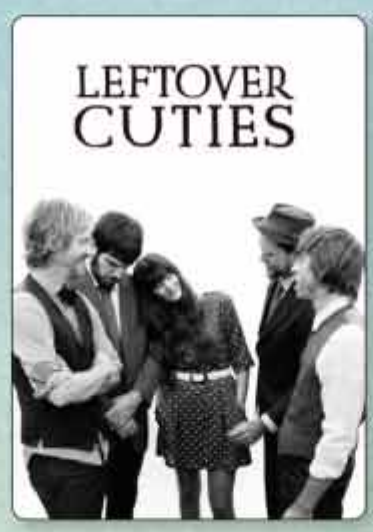
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Kibiwot Limo *news@smdp.com*

LINED UP: **The City Council recently approved new regulations for franchise taxi companies.**

CABS
FROM PAGE 1

line with similar violations in the city code.

The changes associate violations of the rules with "schedules" of penalties used in other portions of the municipal code, which range from A to D and come with charges or suspensions either against the driver or franchise company as a whole.

The goal is to create consistency with the fine amount for similar violations, make it easier to determine the applicable fine and make the amount of fines in line with the nature of the violation, Valles wrote.

That includes some major increases.

According to the staff report, the administrative fine for a taxicab driver who charges more than the amount approved by the City Council will quadruple from $250 to $1,000 to "make it more consistent with other violations that involve serious misconduct by taxicab companies and drivers."

That's still far under the penalty for trying to bribe a public official as defined under the Taxicab Rules.

That used to stand at $1,000, and increased to either a monetary fine of between $5,000 and $10,000 or the revocation of the taxi license on a second offense.

The full breakdown of the schedules can be found at smgov.net in the staff report for the Dec. 13 City Council meeting under consent agenda item 3-C.

The franchise system regulated the number of cab companies allowed to operate in Santa Monica, delivering exclusive contracts to Taxi! Taxi!, Metro Cab, Bell Cab, Independent Cab and Yellow Cab.

It went into effect March 1, after facing fierce opposition from taxi companies that did not make it into the franchise.

In return, the cabs accepted restrictions and requirements, like city inspections, specific kinds of insurance and participation of the drivers in a drug testing program.

They also accepted fare limits, which prevent cabbies from raising prices on customers.

The franchises are meant to keep traffic down in Santa Monica, protect consumers from rip-offs, enhance the experience and safety of riding in a cab and help taxi drivers maintain a living wage in an expensive city.

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Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

WOOFING IT UP: **Canine caroling teams sing to brighten the spirits of patients at the Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital pediatrics unit on Tuesday morning. Each dog and owner are members of the People-Animal Connection (PAC).**

PATIENTS

FROM PAGE 1

like you've been gone for two years, there's nothing like it."

The program, which has over 50 dog-owner teams, tries to bring that feeling to patients by allowing animals trained and certified by the Delta Foundation to come into hospitals and other facilities to visit.

The Delta Foundation is a nonprofit that specializes in training human-canine partnerships to be good therapy animals, tolerant of the noises, smells and conditions of a busy hospital.

That means a four to five month training regimen, either at home or in sessions with Delta trainers, and then a skills test, which can take multiple attempts to pass.

There are also skills needed that can't be taught.

"Not all dogs and not all people are right for this," Barron said. "It's about how they react to patients, and how they see patients. After 12 years of this, you really see that."

The effort is worth it, both for the patients and the volunteers.

Studies on animal-assisted therapy show that patients receive multiple health benefits from even 12 minutes with a dog, including reduced blood pressure and harmful hormones.

Anxiety dropped 24 percent for participants who were visited by a dog-human team, according to a study abstract published by the American Heart Association.

In many ways, the act of bringing that relief can be as helpful to the volunteer as to the patient, Barron said.

Barron and his golden retriever Joey volunteered with the PAC program for three years before Barron became the director in 2002.

They worked with liver and heart patients, people whose illnesses trapped them in the hospital long-term, but perked up at the sight of Joey walking up to their sickbed.

"You ask anybody here and they'll say it changed their lives," Barron said.

Linda Rich has volunteered with PAC for 14 years, most recently with her golden retriever, Abby.

You don't stay with something that long unless it's worthwhile, she said.

"There's no downside to this. You bring a little normal into an abnormal situation," Rich said.

ashley@smdp.com



Rise in home construction suggests a turnaround

DEREK KRAVITZ
AP Real Estate Writer

WASHINGTON The depressed housing market has held the economy back for four years.

No longer.

Home construction has finally begun a gradual comeback and should add to the nation's economic growth in 2011, a turning point in the recovery from the Great Recession.

The main reason appears to be a positive consequence of the weak economy: Apartments are being built almost twice as fast as two years ago. Renting is the only option for many people who have lost their jobs, their homes or both.

Builders in November broke ground on homes — houses and apartments alike — at an annual rate of 685,000, the government said Tuesday. That was a 9.3 percent jump from October and the fastest pace since April 2010.

The numbers show how far the housing industry has come and still has to go:

• Builders should start at least 600,000 homes this year. That's up from 587,000 last year and 554,000 in 2009 — the worst year on record. In a healthy market, economists say, about 1.2 million homes are started each year.

• The pace of apartment construction has soared. About 175,000 will be started this year, also roughly half the number in a healthy economy. But it's far more than the 97,000 apartments begun in 2009.

• Single-family home construction, which accounts for about 70 percent of the housing industry, has essentially stalled for three years. This year will probably turn out to be the worst in the half-century records have been kept.

Construction of single-family homes this year could reach 440,000. That would be below last year's 471,000. In a good economy, builders would break ground on about 840,000 homes.

New homes are 20 percent of the housing market but have an outsize economic impact. Each home built creates an average of three jobs for a year and generates about $90,000 in taxes, according to the National Association of Home Builders.

Since the recession began in December 2007, housing has subtracted between 0.5 and 1.1 percentage points from U.S. economic growth each year. Cuts in spending by homeowners have further reduced growth.

But economists say apartments are going up so fast that housing should add to economic growth this year, even if fewer families are buying houses. The U.S. economy grew at a 2 percent clip last quarter.

"Finally, it appears that the process of healing is under way," says Joel Naroff, president and chief economist at Naroff Economics.

The better-than-expected housing data helped the stock market shoot higher. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 337 points, its fifth-best performance of the year, and closed back above 12,000.

Housing stocks had an even bigger day. PulteGroup Inc., a home construction and mortgage company, rose more than 10 percent, the best performance in the Standard & Poor's 500.

Patrick Newport and Michelle Valverde, U.S. economists at IHS Global Insight, said in a note to clients that the figures demonstrate that the housing industry is "finally getting off the mat."

The industry seems to think so, too. A survey of industry sentiment this week found builders were more optimistic than at any time since May 2010.

But the numbers remain weak, even though mortgage rates are near record lows and home prices have fallen by a third since 2006.

Tighter lending standards are preventing many families from buying houses, and diminished prices on single-family homes have given the industry little reason to build more. Builders are also competing with foreclosures, which hold prices down.

Yet they have found a way to make money — by serving the rising demand for rental apartments.

"When you have a slowdown in home sales and a growth in population, there's a lot of pent-up demand for apartments," says Mark Dellonte, president of Love Funding, which provides loans for apartment construction across the country.

In July, Love Funding started work on a 130-unit apartment building in Bethesda, Md., near Washington, with a $60 million government loan. The builder says it expects every apartment to be occupied when the project is completed at the end of 2012.

Builders have a strong incentive: Rents are rising as people flock to apartments. The average rent has risen 2.4 percent this year to $1,004 a month, according to the real estate data firm Reis Inc. It rose 1 percent last year and fell 2.7 percent in 2009.

Between 2005 and 2010, including the Great Recession, 4 million American households became renters, according to Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies — 10 times what would be expected in a normal economy.

And if government population estimates hold true, at least 2 million households will become renters each year through 2020. That means 400,000 apartments will need to be built each year to keep up with demand.

"For a lot of reasons, many Americans, especially young people, don't want to buy a home anymore," says Dan McCue, research manager for Harvard's Housing Studies Center. "That means the renting population is going to keep growing, and builders are just starting to catch on."

Builders typically begin construction on single-family homes six months after getting a permit. With apartment projects, the lag time can exceed a year. That helps explain why the surge of apartment construction is happening now when rents have been rising for two years.

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Obama administration pushes renewable energy on two coasts

MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON The Obama administration is boosting renewable energy on both coasts, officials said Tuesday, including projects on public lands in the West and pushing for offshore wind projects in the Atlantic Ocean.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said his department has approved a 300-megawatt solar farm in Arizona and a 200-megawatt wind farm in Southern California. The wind farm includes 186 megawatts that would be produced on federal lands.

The projects, southwest of Phoenix and east of San Diego, respectively, are the 24th and 25th renewable energy projects approved on public lands in the past two years, Salazar said, and demonstrate that the administration's commitment to renewable energy is paying dividends.

"Together, these projects will produce the clean energy equivalent of nearly 18 coal-fired power plants, so what's happening here is nothing short of a renewable energy revolution," Salazar said.

The Sonoran Solar Energy Project in Arizona, being developed by Florida-based NextEra Energy Resources, will generate enough electricity to power about 90,000 homes. The Tule Wind Project in California, developed by Iberdrola Renewables, the U.S. division of a Spanish energy company, will be able to power about 65,000 homes.

While onshore projects flourish, the administration's efforts on offshore wind have struggled. Not a single megawatt of wind power is produced offshore.

Last year, Salazar approved the Cape Wind project in Massachusetts after years of federal review, clearing the way for work to begin on the nation's first offshore wind farm.

On Tuesday, Salazar said officials are moving forward on a massive transmission project that would carry electricity produced at offshore wind farms from Virginia to New Jersey. Internet giant Google and others have pledged up to $5 billion for a network of transmission lines for offshore wind farms.

Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is soliciting interest from developers and seeking public comments on the project, which would involve building high-voltage transmission lines along the Atlantic Coast. The line would enable up to 7,000 megawatts of wind turbine capacity to be delivered to the grid, Salazar said.

The announcement comes a week after New Jersey-based NRG Energy Inc. said it is putting on hold a project that would have created a wind farm off Delaware's coast.

NRG said it is putting the project on hold because its Bluewater Wind subsidiary has been unable to find an investment partner. The proposed wind farm would have put 49 to 150 turbines about 13 miles off the Delaware coast.

The wind industry suffered another setback on Capitol Hill as Congress failed to extend a production tax credit, and a similar cash grant program for renewable energy, that supporters say has boosted the industry's strong growth.

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Santa Monica


Hollywood


AWARDS

Wambach handily wins Female Athlete of the Year honor

NANCY ARMOUR
AP National Writer

With the final seconds ticking down and the Americans on the verge of their earliest exit ever from the Women's World Cup, Abby Wambach kept waving her index finger at her teammates.

One chance, she screamed, all they needed was one chance.

When it came in the form of a left-footed cross from Megan Rapinoe, Wambach pounced. With one vicious whip of her head, she changed the course of this year's World Cup and sparked a nationwide frenzy rarely seen for women's sports.

Wambach's clutch performance at this summer's World Cup made her the clear choice for the 2011 Female Athlete of the Year, selected by members of The Associated Press. The U.S. forward received 65 of the 214 votes cast, while teammate Hope Solo (38) was a distant second and UConn basketball star Maya Moore (35) was third.

Wambach is the first individual soccer player — man or woman — to win one of the AP's annual sports awards, which began in 1931. The U.S. women's team won in 1999, when their World Cup triumph at the Rose Bowl transfixed the nation.

"We, as a team, did something that no team since Mia Hamm was able to do," Wambach told the AP. "Even the team that won the (Olympic) gold medal in 2008 wasn't able to inspire and get people excited about women's soccer. It goes to show you the impact drama can bring."

Wambach's four goals in Germany give her 13 in three World Cup appearances. That's the most by an American, topping Michelle Akers by one, and puts her third on the all-time World Cup scoring list behind Brazil's Marta and Germany's Birgit Prinz. The 31-year-old ranks third on the U.S. career scoring list with 125 goals, trailing only Mia Hamm (158) and Kristine Lilly (130).

"When she's on top of her game," U.S. coach Pia Sundhage said, "she's one of the best in the world."

Wambach was certainly at her best at the World Cup, leading the Americans to the final, where they lost to Japan on penalty kicks.

The U.S. has long been the dominant team in women's soccer, winning two of the first three World Cups and all but one of the Olympic gold medals since the sport was added to the program in 1996. The Americans were so famous they could go by one name — Mia, Brandi, Foudy — and they got rock star treatment during the 1999 World Cup, playing to sold-out crowds in massive stadiums from coast to coast.

Americans grew spoiled by the group's success, however, and were barely able to muster a yawn when the U.S. won the Olympic gold medals in 2004 and 2008. Many people in the States may not have even realized there was a World Cup going on this summer.

Then came that quarterfinal against Brazil.

Down a player for almost an hour, the Americans were less than 90 seconds from losing in overtime after squandering an early lead. But in the 122nd minute, Rapinoe lofted a cross from 30 yards and Wambach rose above the Brazilian defenders. One of the world's best players in the air, she scored on a thunderous header, setting off pandemonium in the stadium that soon spread clear across the Atlantic Ocean.

"It just seemed surreal. Even in the moment, I was feeling like it was a dream because we were so against the ropes and everything was pointed to us going down that day," Wambach said. "But there was something inside of us that wasn't going to allow that to happen. We weren't quite ready to give up."

There are few things Americans like more than winners, especially those who wear "U-S-A" on their chests. That the U.S. women were a fierce, gritty bunch who refused to be beaten only made them more appealing, particularly in a summer when all the other news — the economy, home sales, the NFL lockout — was bleak.

By the time the U.S. beat Brazil on penalty kicks — Wambach and her teammates made all of theirs — folks who couldn't tell a bicycle kick from a Schwinn were piling on the

SEE AWARD PAGE 16

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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

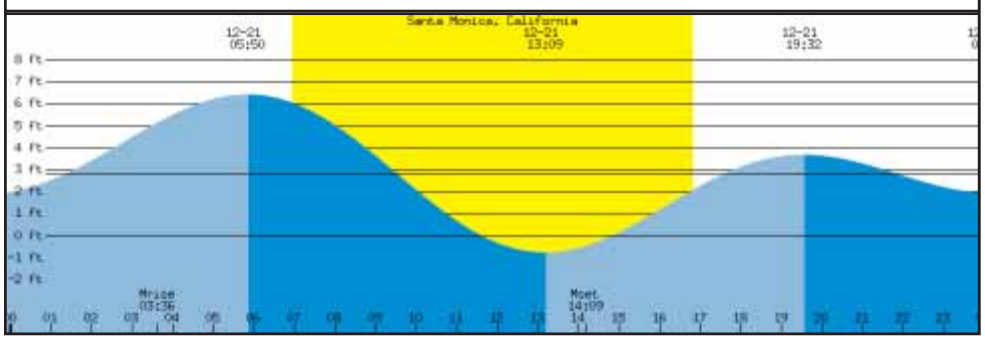
Swell Forecast

NW swell come ashore, hitting SB/VC early in the day, and finally SD mid to late morning. Size should run head high at most west facing breaks with pluses at standouts going about 2' overhead.

Long Range Synopsis

NW is expected to back off a bit, more along the lines of chest to at times head high for west facing breaks.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **December 14, 2011**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 27 / 9
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Grousbeck Family Foundation, simplehuman, LacarGUY, SMA

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
Los Cerrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A	B
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	D	A
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechuza and Las Alisos creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	B	B
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	D
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Rominer Canyon Creek mouth.	B	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	F	F
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	F
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	F	A+
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	D
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A+	F
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	B
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.	B	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	F
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	B	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	A
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	B	F
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	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	B
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	F
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A	F
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	A
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A	A
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	A+
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	B
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	A	D
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	A+
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	A
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	B	A
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	A
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	F
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.

AWARD
FROM PAGE 15

bandwagon. Celebrities such as Tom Hanks, Lil Wayne and Super Bowl MVP Aaron Rodgers were quick to show the Americans some love, and the women even got facetime on the Jumbotron at Yankee Stadium.

"People kind of forgot about their woes and were able to celebrate," Wambach said.

She did her part to keep it going, heading in a corner kick for the go-ahead goal in the 79th minute of the semifinal against France. Wambach also scored in the final, giving the U.S. a 2-1 lead in the 104th minute of overtime. But Homare Sawa tied the game in the 117th, and the Americans lost 3-1 on penalty kicks.

Despite the loss, the Americans were welcomed home like champions. They had inspired the country when it needed it, and that meant as much as any trophy or title.

Almost six months later, the accolades are still coming. Wambach was named Sportswoman of the Year by the Women's Sports Foundation, and the victory over Brazil was named the top sports accomplishment of the year in a Marist poll. The Women's World Cup ranked 10th in the voting for AP sports story of the year.

"I'm not a person who cares much about (individual) awards, but I really appreciate you guys recognizing this team," Wambach said. "It helps keep this sport alive, and it's really important."

Wambach takes her role as ambassador for the game seriously, recognizing that time in the spotlight is still rare for women's soccer and it must be taken advantage of. She is as accommodating a star athlete as there is, happy to sign autographs, pose for pictures or do interviews. This is how the game is grown, and that, not the goals or the scoring records, is what she hopes her legacy will be.

"Hopefully when I'm long gone, this team is so good that people don't even talk about (me)," she said. "Truthfully."

Not that Wambach is going anywhere.

The Americans are the defending Olympic champions, and Wambach and her teammates are currently training for next month's regional qualifying tournament. She hopes to be healthy enough to play at the 2015 World Cup in Canada, and fill that last gap in a resume as dazzling as anyone who's ever worn the U.S. uniform.

"I have to say, of all people, I think she is one of the best role models: interacting with fans, saying good things about the game, saying good things about this country, saying good things about her teammates," Sundhage said. "I'm very proud of the fact I've had the chance to coach her for so many years. It will be a highlight of my career."



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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF DATE CHANGE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SANTA MONICA HOUSING AUTHORITY
2012 DRAFT ANNUAL PLAN AND ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN

The City Council/Housing Authority Board of the City of Santa Monica will hold a public hearing to receive comment and adopt the 2012 Annual Plan and proposed revisions to the Santa Monica Housing Authority's Administrative Plan. The Annual Plan outlines the Housing Authority's policies, programs, operations, and strategies for meeting local housing needs and goals. The Administrative Plan establishes oversight policies to operate the Santa Monica Housing Authority's (HA) housing rental subsidy programs in a manner consistent with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. The draft Annual Plan and Administrative Plan are now posted for review during the **45-day public comment period ending January 9, 2012**. Copies are available to view at the Santa Monica Housing Authority Office at 1901 Main Street, 1st Floor, Suite A, Santa Monica, CA 90405 and on the web:

http://www.smgov.net/Departments/HED/Housing_and_Redevelopment/Housing/Draft_Administrative_and_Annual_Plan_2012.aspx.

Please send your written comments to the above address,
Attn: Annual Plan, by January 9, 2012.

The Public Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, April 10, 2012 COUNCIL DATE CHANGE
At 6:30p.m. in the City Council Chambers
located at 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica

The Council Chambers are wheelchair accessible. If you have any special disability-related needs/accommodations, please contact the Housing Authority at (310) 458-8743.

MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
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(310) 260-1528

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Mr. Nobody (NR) 2hr 21min
7:30pm
Belgian beer reception in the lobby. French subtitles.

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

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) 1 hr 27 min
11:55am 2:30pm 5:10pm 7:45pm 10:15pm

Arthur Christmas (PG) 1 hr 37 min
10:55am 1:30pm 3:55pm

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) 2 hr 8 min
11:45am 2:50pm 6:00pm 9:15pm

The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R) 2 hr 40 min
10:50am 2:35pm 6:10pm 9:50pm

The Sitter (R) 1 hr 40 min
6:30pm 8:45pm 10:45pm

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

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) 1hr 27min
9:50am 11:00am 1:00pm 1:40pm 3:30pm 4:20pm 5:55pm 7:00pm 8:20pm 9:20pm 10:55pm

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) 2hrs 08min
10:00am 11:00am 1:00pm 2:00pm 4:15pm 5:15pm 7:30pm 8:30pm 10:45pm 11:30pm

The Muppets (PG) 1hr 38min
11:10am, 2:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R) 2 hr 40 min
9:30am 12:05pm 3:40pm 7:20pm 11:00pm 11:30pm

Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG-13) 2 hr 12 min
9:45am 1:05pm 4:25pm 7:45pm 11:05pm

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

Cook County (NR) 1hr 33min
1:00pm 3:20pm 5:40pm 8:00pm 10:15pm

Call theatre for more information.

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

Hugo 3D (PG) 2hrs 07min
10:40am 1:45pm 4:50pm 8:00pm 11:00pm

New Year's Eve (PG-13) 1hr 57min
10:35am 1:20pm 4:05pm 7:00pm 10:00pm

Young Adult (R) 1hr 34min
10:30am 1:00pm 3:30pm 6:00pm 8:30pm 11:10pm

Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG-13) 2 hr 12 min
10:30am 1:50pm 5:00pm 8:15pm 11:30pm

The Adventures of Tintin (PG) 1 hr 41 min
10:45am 1:30pm 4:20pm 7:10pm 9:55pm

The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) 1 hr 41 min
11:45am 2:30pm 5:20pm 8:10pm 10:55pm

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

Go to bed early, Sag

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Your sense of direction and high energy encourage completion, though you might be tempted by an offer or a new project. You cannot cap your enthusiasm for this venture. Know what works for you. Tonight: Others bend to your ideas.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Defer to others, and you'll find that you have less to do and will foster good will. Ask yourself why you need to be so in control, and try giving up that role. Focus on your creativity with a child or project. You will only add to the moment. Tonight: Your imagination takes the lead.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Make an effort to clear out key projects. Follow through on what is needed, opening up some free time. Your high energy could be disruptive with a family member or a personal situation. Make sure you squeeze in a stress-buster. Tonight: Happy at home.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ You might want to see a situation differently or work with it. Your ability to move a project forward allows flexibility, not only for you, but also for others. A close friend could be emotionally fried, adding more of a problem. Tonight: Let your imagination flow into plans.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Listen to feedback. Nothing replaces the opinions and thoughts of others. Still, you might not be ready to absorb everything that is said. Visit with family, if possible, and stay close to home. Others seem to just appear. Tonight: At your place ... wrapping or unwrapping.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Your unusual drive marks this holiday season. A child or loved one wants to participate and help organize. The phones ring. You return calls. You have your hands full with many people seeking you out, on top of what you already have to do. Tonight: Smile away.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You could be taken aback by your own unanticipated actions and/or feelings. Some issues need to be discussed and not shoved under the carpet, as you can see. Investigate what is going on around you, but be accountable for what is happening. Tonight: Treat time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Continue as planned, but allow for spontaneity. Your choices will naturally be the correct ones, if you don't lose sight of your long-term goals. Others need more of you. Be aware of your limits and, once more, remember your priorities. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Listen to the drumbeats, making sure everything is going fine. Don't push too hard to achieve certain goals. Slow down and catch your breath. You don't want to be too exhausted when the weekend rolls in, do you? Tonight: Try for an early bedtime.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Zero in on what you want, when you want. A meeting -- even a business meeting -- could turn into a fun get-together. Don't limit yourself by keeping to your schedule. Tonight: The more people around you, the better.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Visualize, and you are likely to create just that. Others tap into your imagination for suggestions. Try to slow the pace, as you are carrying an enormous amount of responsibility. A close friend or loved one will pitch in. Tonight: Know when to call it a night.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Some of you might be traveling; others have loved ones from a distance coming in. You are on a hectic pace, one that you cannot stop -- or so you think. Take the time to relax and enjoy the moment, even if it means canceling a plan or two. Tonight: Isn't that better?

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 respond to many different and possibly conflicting drives within you. You will want to be wise with money, yet carefree and a risk-taker. Emotionally you could be secretive, yet at other times you are everyone's best friend, sharing your multifaceted personality. If you are single, a love relationship evolves through a friendship, if you are open. If you are attached, the two of you braid together the many dimensions of your bond. You accept rather than judge each other. SCORPIO can be loyal but secretive.....

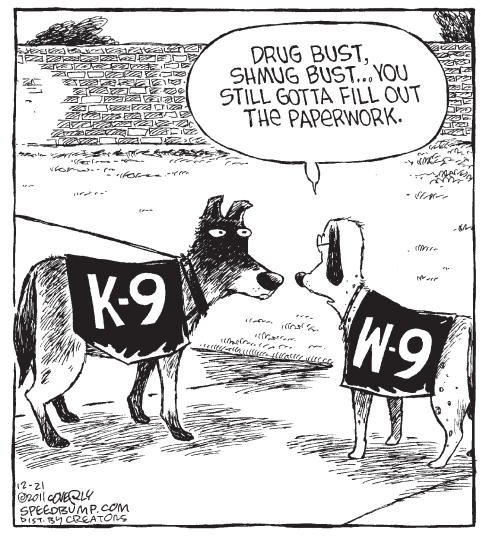


MYSTERY PHOTO

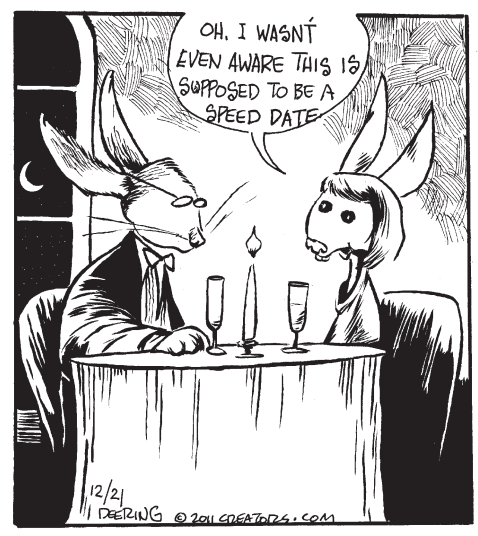
Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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.

Speed Bump By Dave Coverly



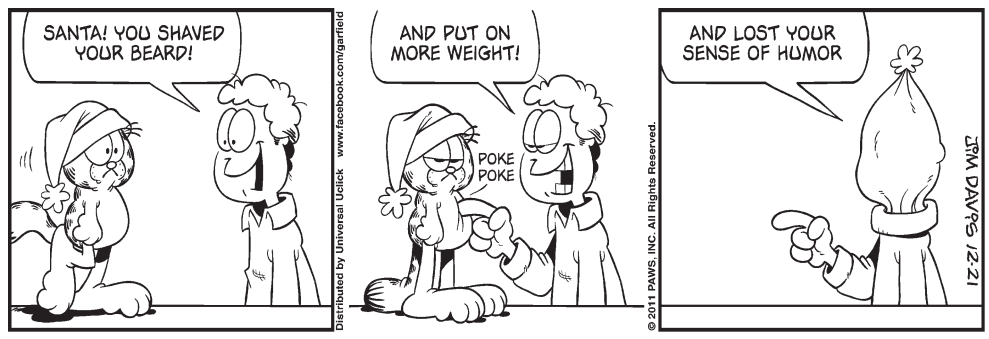
Strange Brew By John Deering



Dogs of C-Kennel By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield By Jim Davis



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



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Singer Guthrie
5 Gift encircler
11 Yule song
12 Card game for two
13 Carryall
14 Buccaneer
15 Enjoy Aspen
16 Quick kiss
17 Chinos fabric
19 Pot part
22 Hot crime
24 Without exception
26 Pin-up guy
27 School on the Thames
28 Some woodwinds
30 Paris river
31 Evergreen shrub
32 Isolated
34 Winter glider
35 Fan sound
38 Patch
41 Evergreen tree
42 Homecoming group
43 Writer Ferber
44 Christmas tree stuff
45 Shipshape

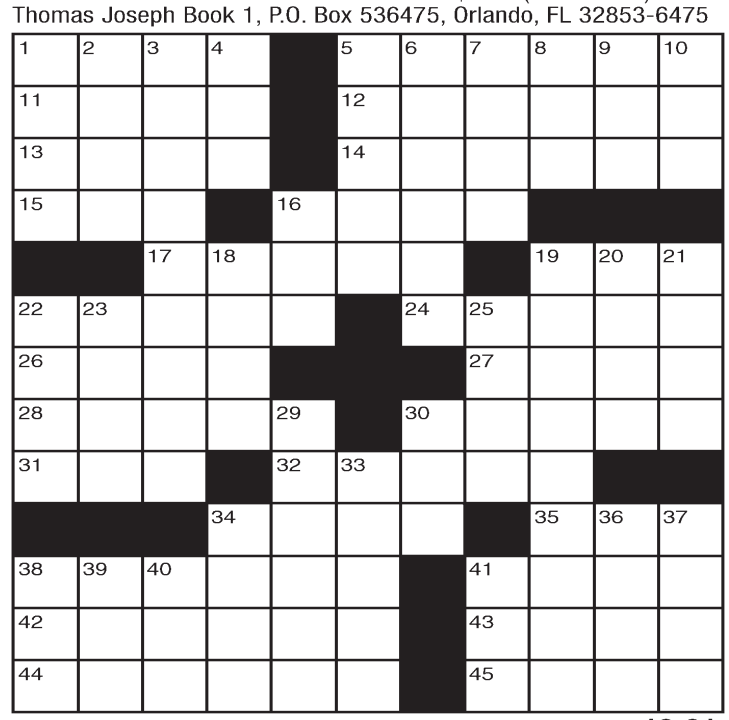
DOWN

1 Colony members
2 Corner piece
3 Seasonal song sentiment
4 Flamenco cry
5 Drive off
6 Eaves dropper
7 Seal sound
8 Lingerie item
9 Giant Mel
10 Once called
16 Sewing aid
18 Came to
19 Utterance at a casino
20 Vitamin extra
21 Force unit
22 Harbor call
23 Yokel
25 Turn suddenly
29 Like tears
30 Melancholy
33 Danger
34 Houston and Rayburn
36 Visitor to Siam
37 Fireplace output
38 Maze runner
39 Yale student
40 Groan inducer
41 Stock holder

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

Yesterday's answer

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12-21

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• Insert the given numbers in the empty squares so when they are calculated in threes from left to right and top to bottom they satisfy the demands in the shaded boxes both horizontally and vertically.

• Each empty square dictates the math operation that must be performed to meet the demands.

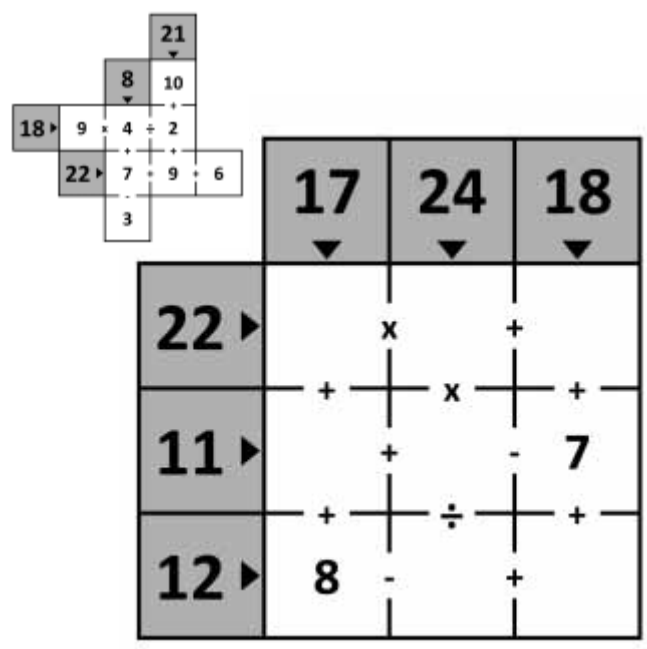
• Remember to multiply or divide before you add or subtract.

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

3, 3, 4, 6, 6, 7, 12

Solution for Task 575



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SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 17 23 29 37 46 Meganumber: 17 Jackpot: $17M

Fantasy 5: 1 16 20 22 28

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 6 5 5 EVENING: 2 6 5

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 07 Eureka 2nd: 05 California Classic 3rd: 06 Whirl Win RACE TIME: 1:44.57

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Least Competent Plans: (1) L.B. Williams, a black man married to a white woman in Panama City, Fla., reported that the Ku Klux Klan had burned a cross in his driveway in November and left a threatening note. However, the note did not demand that the couple move from the neighborhood; it demanded that they stay. Since the Klan is not known for supporting mixed-race couples, the police were suspicious and ultimately charged Williams with making the threats himself -- to frighten his wife into abandoning the divorce she had recently requested. (2) Paul Moran, possessing (according to his lawyer) "considerable intellectual ability," nonetheless attempted a procedure to turn his own feces into gold (and was sentenced in October to three months in jail in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, after accidentally setting his apartment on fire in the process).

■ Cry for Help: Math teacher Paul LaDuke, 75, was fired in November from the Schaumburg (Ill.) Christian School after a student reported seeing him brazenly masturbate, with his pants lowered, as he sat behind his desk in a full classroom. LaDuke had been at the school for 26 years, and police believe (according to a Chicago Tribune report) he had "committed similar acts at the school several times a year for a decade or longer."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1988 A bomb explodes on board Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie, Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland, killing 270.

1992 A Dutch DC-10, flight Martinair MP 495, crashes at Faro Airport, killing 56 people.

1994 Mexican volcano Popocatepetl, dormant for 47 years, erupts gases and ash.

1995 The city of Bethlehem passes from Israeli to Palestinian control.

1999 The Spanish Civil Guard intercepts a van loaded with 950 kg of explosives that ETA intended to use to blow up Torre Picasso in Madrid.

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