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Volume 10 Issue 34



Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

NO LOAN FOR DONOVAN
SEE PAGE 12

THE ALL ABOUT PLANNING ISSUE



Nick Taborek *news@smdp.com*

MAKING SWEET MUSIC: **Bob 'The Music Man' Levy entertains seniors Friday at the Adult Day Service Center run by WISE Healthy Aging.**

Senior center wins award for lunch service

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

PICO BLVD For the seniors who attend the Adult Day Service Center here, lunchtime means more than just a meal.

It's a social hour in a bright setting with flowers on every table. And it comes with entertainment.

On Friday, the show was courtesy of Bob "The Music Man" Levy, who played his guitar and taught World War II era songs, frequently stopping to quiz his audience about the lyrics — his way of challenging the seniors to think.

"I have so many friends here. Everybody has a lot of fun," said Helen Louise Jacobson, as she waited for lunch to be served.

Her table mate, Aurora Vasquez, joked: "All these hags are very nice. They're sweet."

It's this kind of pleasant atmosphere, along with the Pico Boulevard facility's ability to tailor its meals to specific dietary needs and provide individualized assistance to those in need, that this month won it a "Distinguished Site" award from the Los Angeles County Area Agency on Aging.

The center, located at 1510 Pico Blvd., hosts up to 30 seniors for lunch six days per week. With 5 to 1 client-staff ratio, the center provides some of the most specialized senior service in Santa Monica.

"For many seniors, mealtimes are among the most difficult times of the day," said Grace Cheng Braun, president and CEO of WISE & Healthy Aging, the non-profit that operates the facility, as well as lunch programs at four other Santa Monica sites. "We've worked hard to make sure the healthy lunches program is something participants look forward to — a chance to be with friends, celebrate a season or a holiday and learn something educational, be entertained or collect some information."

Frankie Aggers, the program director at the Pico facility, said the lunch program doesn't just benefit the seniors themselves — it also helps their caretakers.

"For [seniors] to come here, it helps the family members balance their life," she said.

The menu on Friday included broccoli cheese soup to start, a choice of chipotle pork or fish vera cruz, mashed sweet potatoes, creamed

SEE LUNCH PAGE 9

Area braces for new round of rainfall

GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES If six days of pounding rain wasn't enough to dampen holiday spirits, a seventh could prove to be downright dangerous.

Forecasters expected heavy rains across California going into Wednesday, while authorities kept a close eye on the first sign of mudslides in the wildfire-scarred foothills across the southern part of the state.

So far, the inconveniences have been relatively minor: Rescuers had to pluck some stranded motorists from rain-swollen creeks. Shoppers dodged puddles while buying last-minute Christmas gifts. Disney resorts canceled a plan to shower visitors with artificial snow.

"We'll keep our fingers crossed, but the more rain that comes, the possibility of mudslides is definitely real," said Jim Amormino, spokesman for the Orange County sheriff's office, which has rescued nine people from the flooding in the past 24 hours.

"We've been lucky so far, but I'm not sure how much longer the luck will hold out," he said.

For all the perils of the torrential rains, there was a silver lining: The water is expected to help ease the effects of years of drought. Thursday is expected to be dry, with sunshine. There will be light rain on Christmas Day in parts of California.

The immediate concern, however, was the impact of the expected downpours, particularly in areas where wildfires strip hillsides of the vegetation that keeps soil in place and burns up the leafy ground cover that acts like a sponge.

Downtown Los Angeles received one-third of its annual average rainfall in less than a week. As of midmorning Tuesday, the rain gauge at the University of Southern California campus recorded 5.77 inches. Forecasters said another 2 inches was expected there through Wednesday.

Up to two inches of rain per hour was expected in areas primed for a major mudslide by last year's wildfire in suburbs just north of the city.

Mudslides are a significant risk for three years after a fire and are especially likely anytime the rainfall rate reaches or exceeds one inch per hour, said Susan Cannon, a research geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey.

That's a likely scenario Tuesday night into Wednesday in the area burned by last year's Station Fire, which charred 250 square miles above the suburbs tucked below the San Gabriel Mountains.

SEE STORM PAGE 8

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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2010

Winter break made fun
Montana Avenue Library
1704 Montana Ave., 2 p.m. — 4 p.m.
From Monday through Wednesday, the library will be entertaining school kids on vacation. Activities include a screening of the Disney classic "The Jungle Book" on Wednesday.

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

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

Thursday, Dec. 23, 2010

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

'Car Face'
Novel Cafe
2507 Main St., Daily
Art show exhibit entitled "Car Face" by the internationally acclaimed trompe l'eoil muralist and artist, Blue Sky, will exhibit at the Novel Cafe through Dec. 31.

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

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Census: U.S. population at 308.7 million

CHARLES BABINGTON & HOPE YEN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Republican-leaning states will gain at least a half dozen House seats thanks to the 2010 census, which found the nation's population growing more slowly than in past decades but still shifting to the South and West.

The Census Bureau announced Tuesday that the nation's population on April 1 was 308,745,538, up from 281.4 million a decade ago. The growth rate for the past decade was 9.7 percent, the lowest since the Great Depression. The nation's population grew by 13.2 percent from 1990 to 2000.

Michigan was the only state to lose population during the past decade. Nevada, with a 35 percent increase, was the fastest-growing state.

The new numbers are a boon for Republicans, with Texas leading the way among GOP-leaning states that will gain House seats, mostly at the Rust Belt's expense. Following each once-a-decade census, the nation must reapportion the House's 435 districts to make them roughly equal in population, with each state getting at least one seat.

That triggers an often contentious and partisan process in many states, which will draw new congressional district lines that can help or hurt either party.

In all, the census figures show a shift affecting 18 states taking effect when the 113th Congress takes office in 2013.

Texas will gain four new House seats, and Florida will gain two. Gaining one each are Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, South Carolina, Utah and Washington.

Ohio and New York will lose two House seats each. Losing one House seat are Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Florida will now have as many U.S. House members as New York: 27. California will still have 53 seats, and Texas will climb to 36.

In 2008, President Barack Obama lost in Texas and most of the other states that are gaining House seats. He carried most of the states that are losing House seats, including

SEE **CENSUS** PAGE 9



Photo courtesy David Stluka/University of Wisconsin Athletic Department

BADGER PRIDE: **Wisconsin Badgers mascot Bucky Badger poses with fans after an NCAA college football game against the Austin Peay Governors on Sept. 25, 2010 at Camp Randall Stadium in Madison, Wisc. The Badgers beat the Governors 70-3.**

Wisconsin to hold pre-Rose Bowl rally at SM Pier

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM PIER Expect to see a flood of college football fans dressed in red and white if you're in Downtown Santa Monica on Dec. 30 — the date when the Big Ten co-champion Wisconsin Badgers will hold a pep rally at the Santa Monica Pier ahead of their Rose Bowl appearance opposite Texas Christian University on New Year's Day.

It's an event that's expected to draw 25,000 fans, according to the Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau, and give local bars, restaurants and shops a welcome boost.

"Local businesses are energized by the spirit visiting fans and team supporters will bring," said Misti Kerns, the CVB's president and CEO.

Deals and special discounts aimed at Badger fans are being consolidated on the CVB's website, www.santamonica.com.

It's not just drink specials and meal markdowns, said Kim Baker, the non-profit organization's director of marketing. There's also offerings from the Big Blue Bus, Pacific Park and Starline Tours, as well as coupons from a local bike shop and jeweler.

"Businesses can be impacted as much as they'd like to be, if they're willing to do something fun," she said.

Kevin Kluender, the University of Wisconsin's assistant athletic director, said Santa Monica was a perfect place for Badger fans to come together.

"The opportunity to host our event in Santa Monica, with its scenic ocean views and beautiful beaches as a backdrop, is one of the many highlights of the Rose Bowl experience for our team and our fans," he said.

Last year, the CVB welcomed both Rose Bowl participants, Ohio State and the University of Oregon, to town for pier-side rallies.

"We definitely saw the impact to local business," Baker said, with attractions on the pier, shops on the Third Street Promenade and especially hotels reaping the benefits.

> **"BUSINESSES CAN BE IMPACTED AS MUCH AS THEY'D LIKE TO BE, IF THEY'RE WILLING TO DO SOMETHING FUN."**
>
> **Kim Baker,**
> CVB marketing director

She said locals are expecting Wisconsin fans to turnout in similarly large numbers.

"They're a school that will travel for something like this," Baker said. "They're really excited."

The rally, which is free and open to the public, is scheduled for 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. next to the Santa Monica Pier on Dec. 30.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Too pricey

Editor:

I, like both Michael De Mendoza and Jack Norris, am a long-time resident of Santa Monica (60 years) and I too remember the good old days of growing up in the non politically correct, non entitlement period. Santa Monica was great and everyone got along. Clo Hoover was mayor and the homeless and the SMRR/Campaign For Economic Democracy hadn't yet taken over. It was the post People's Republic of Santa Monica era. All the stores celebrated Christmas, not "Happy Holidays," and business was booming.

I have yet to visit Santa Monica Place, but last week we had visitors staying with us from Scotland and they did. They said the place was almost empty and they went from store to store looking at the goods and couldn't believe the prices. While in Nordstrom, they were talking with one of the sales people and asked, "What is the average income in Southern California." The clerk responded, "Probably about $45,000." My friends then asked how the average person could afford the prices of the goods sold at Santa Monica Place, and the clerk responded that their target customer is not the average person.

If this is the attitude of the stores in SM Place, I predict that SM Place will be in bankruptcy within a year or two because I work in customer service and retail in Santa Monica and we may have a fairly high number of high-income people in the Santa Monica area but they are very price conscious and tend to spend their money wisely.

Santa Monica has lost most of the small town appeal that it had while I was growing up here, and now it is just another city with a nice beach. Merry Christmas!

Kent Cullom
Santa Monica

City officials greedy

Editor:

Is there anything the Santa Monica City Council won't do to increase revenues to line the pockets of its cronies ("Business leaders bash plan to raise rents for restaurants," page 1, Dec. 15)?

Raising the rent on space leased from City Hall will mainly effect the tourist trade; those of us who live here stopped eating at local restaurants a while ago. Maybe this new increase will redirect tourist traffic to other parts of Los Angeles.

I stopped buying at the Main Street Farmers' Market because of their prices, even before the economy collapsed.

Santa Monica is no longer the People's Republic since SMRR realized they could get in on the largesse; as long as they elected people who played along with City Hall, SMC, SMMUSD, car dealers, local hotels and developers, etc.

The city attorney should investigate anyone on the council or the SMRR board who have received consultant fees from the city coffers, and look at any links to fixing elections by SMRR insiders.

It is only because the voters here are so apathetic and uninformed that the corrupt political favoritism, cronyism and conflicts of interest continue to be overlooked by the local electorate.

Jon Mann
Santa Monica

Missing the pie guy

Editor:

Is there any way to find out where the apple pie chef went at the Farmers' Market? We are devastated by the loss of the best apple pie ever.

Please, please find out and tell me if there is a recipe at least or where we can purchase the pie now.

Sharon Weremiuk
La Jolla, Calif.

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Your column here

Sarah Mosko

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Plastic poses problems

THE SIMPLE FACT THAT AMERICANS consume 1,500 single-serve water bottles per second made of PET plastic has sufficed to make these disposable bottles a target of environmentalists concerned about the impact of so much trash. Until very recently, however, it has been assumed that the PET bottles pose no direct health risk to humans who drink from them.

New evidence that PET drink bottles can leach substances into the contents that mimic the sex hormone estrogen — phthalates and antimony — has put PET bottles in the crosshairs also of scientists worried about their health safety.

Scientists use the term xenoestrogens to describe foreign chemicals which act like estrogen in animal tissues. There has already been much ado in the media about BPA (bisphenol A), a different potent xenoestrogen found leaching from polycarbonate plastic which is used in many sports bottles and baby bottles. Now widespread in human tissues, BPA has been linked in hundreds of studies to a host of health problems including obesity, diabetes, breast and prostate cancer, infertility and attention deficit disorder.

But water, sodas and sports drinks are all sold in bottles made of PET or polyethylene terephthalate which does not contain BPA, so accumulating evidence that the contents of PET bottles can exhibit estrogenic activity has come as a surprise.

In a review of this topic published in the journal Environmental Health Perspectives in 2009, the executive director of the Pennsylvania-based Center for Research in Child and Adolescent Development, Leonard Sax, detailed the evidence that PET plastic is indeed a source of phthalate and antimony contaminants in beverages, a conclusion contested by the PET Resin Association which represents the makers of PET in North America.

Some of Sax's key arguments are summarized below.

Multiple laboratories have shown that water samples from PET bottles can test positive for estrogenic activity by using an accepted yeast assay method. However, direct evidence that an estrogen mimic not already present in the water prior to bottling is released from the PET was demonstrated in 2009 by German scientists who first emptied several brands of mineral water sold in both PET and glass bottles and then replaced the water with mud snails in a growth medium to determine if the type of bottle would affect the snails' reproduction.

Mud snails were selected for study because they are highly sensitive to estrogen.

That mud snails incubated in the PET bottles produced significantly more embryos than snails in glass bottles, no matter what bottle brands were tested, pointed to an estrogenic substance emanating from the PET.

Phthalates are softening agents added to some plastics to make them pliable. A growing literature links phthalate exposure to abnormal development of the reproductive system and to obesity, triggering recent legislative and governmental actions to limit phthalates in consumer products in the United States, Canada, Australia and European Union.

In an investigation of 71 commercial brands of water, all sold in both PET and glass bottles, the level of phthalates was nearly 20 times higher in the PET bottles, according to a 2008 report in the journal Food Additives and Contaminants. That phthalates are introduced into the water from the PET bottles seems pretty clear given other studies showing gradually increasing levels of phthalates in water stored over weeks or months in PET, but not glass, containers. Warmer storage temperatures and acidity, as in soda pop, seem to promote greater leaching of phthalates.

However, the PET industry asserts that phthalates are not used in the production of PET drink bottles, so how it gets there is somewhat of a mystery.

Sax posits that recycled PET could be the source of phthalates in beverage bottles. The U.S. recycling rate for all PET containers in 2009 was 28 percent. Other products bottled in PET, like some shampoos and cosmetics, are purposely formulated to contain phthalates which could have migrated into the PET before recycling.

Antimony is a heavy metal commonly used as a catalyst in the production of PET resin. The U.S. government has set limits for acceptable levels of antimony contamination in drinking water based on older findings about its cardiovascular risks and carcinogenicity. But, only since a 2003 study from South Korean researchers has it been known that antimony also has potent estrogenic properties not mentioned on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's website on antimony in drinking water.

Researchers from several different laboratories have now detected antimony in many brands of bottled water, and upon exposure to warmer storage temperatures the levels rise and can reach or exceed the U.S. government's safety limit.

Sax does not rule out that other unidentified xenoestrogens in the bottle wall, in addition to phthalates and antimony, might also contribute to the estrogenic activity of water bottled in PET.

There's hardly a scarcity of solid reasons to steer clear of water and other beverages packaged in PET bottles:

• Many brands of bottled water, including Dasani and Aquafina, are just reprocessed tap water sold at a thousand times the cost.

• Tap water undergoes mandatory daily testing; reporting of contaminants in bottled water is not required.

• As a petroleum derivative, PET bottles contribute to oil spills and pollution of air and groundwater in communities near refineries.

• 17 million barrels of oil are used to manufacture bottled water each year.

• PET bottles are non-biodegradable, probably lasting hundreds of years in landfills.

• An ocean area double the size of Texas dubbed the "Great Pacific Garbage Patch" already contains a plastic soup with 46 times more plastic debris than plankton.

However, if none of those reasons move you, perhaps protecting your family and self from potentially risky chemicals leaching from PET bottles will.

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Hiding in the Open

David Alsabery
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Protecting the freedom of the press

IF SOMEONE RAPED YOU, WOULD YOU make them breakfast, buy them a train ticket, call them repeatedly to see them again, throw a party in their honor or all of the above?

It seems the answer is all of the above for the two young ladies in Sweden who have filed rape charges against the founder of WikiLeaks, Julian Assange. What's even more disturbing is the fact that our major news outlets have all decided to ignore the facts of the case and perpetuating half truths.

So why does the sex life of Mr. Assange matter to you? Well I am glad you asked. He is protecting your freedom. In the United States the free press is protected by the Constitution to make sure our government is not lying and cheating us. As a matter of fact, in a case revolving around the Pentagon Papers in 1971, the United States Supreme Court ruled that the New York Times didn't break any laws publishing a leaked top secret document about the real activities of our government in Vietnam, while we were at war in Vietnam. That document outlined what was really going on for internal government use as opposed to the fabricated story being given to the media and the people.

The Supreme Court case is called New York Times Co. v. United States (403 U.S. 713), and in it the Supreme Court upheld the right of the free media to publish top secret documents. On June 30, 1971, Justice Black said in the majority opinion, "Only a free and unrestrained press can effectively expose deception in government. And paramount among the responsibilities of a free press is the duty to prevent any part of the government from deceiving the people, and sending them off to distant lands to die of foreign fevers and foreign shot and shell." Weapons of mass destruction anybody?

At this point I should point out that we were at war, and the arguments being made were the same during the Vietnam War as they are today. If you have not made an official Freedom of Information Act request for documents that were considered top secret in the past, you really should exercise your right and see what happens. Requests for transcripts of top secret hearings that looked into the attack on Pearl Harbor 69 years ago, have a majority of the text blacked out. Why would it still be considered top secret when everyone involved is already dead?

This brings us full circle to the case at hand. I've read through many pages of the WikiLeaks documents, and I haven't seen anything that would put our troops in harms way. President Kennedy said: "Government at all levels, must meet its obligation to provide you with the fullest possible information outside the narrowest limits of national security." It's why our founding fathers protected freedom of the press as a right in the First Amendment to the Constitution.

The question I ask is do you care about your rights anymore? Our government is being accused of "deceiving the people," and WikiLeaks is giving us the proof while the press is scared silent. Corporate and government forces are trying to find a way to shut them down, and you should be outraged about that. This is why it's important to pay attention to the rape case in Sweden, and the extradition to the United States from Sweden that's expected.

The case is big news in Europe, and the Swedish authorities have leaked the official statements of the women and their charges. The Daily Mail in the UK and other UK sites have published the full statements of the encounters as described by the female groupie and female stalker. Assange, it seems, is a single heterosexual man who has sex with some of his groupies while he's on the road. These groupies stalk and invite him over to their homes and movie theaters, where they have sexy times together.

What happened is clearly not illegal in the United States and the United Kingdom, where he's being held on a warrant for questioning issued by Sweden. It seems in Sweden, they have many levels of rape, including one that comes with a harsh talking to if you're found guilty. What Mr. Assange is guilty of is being a promiscuous person and not showing better judgment. It seems the charges are based on him continuing to have sexy time after the condom broke. Yes the Swedish people have a law for that.

That is what this WikiLeaks thing is all about. The WikiLeaks secret documents are hardly current news, but have the ability to upset many people doing illegal things now and in the future. Bank of America, for instance, has been caught laundering the money of the Mexican narco-terrorists, and it seems they may have a leak that shows they did more than they admitted. You see this stuff could expose illegal actions by governments and large corporations.

So instead of trying to silence and blame the whistle blower, how about we start asking our media to start demanding the truth from our government, no matter who's in office. This is not Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Somalia or Zimbabwe. So let's stop acting like the dictatorships we're fighting.

DAVID ALSABERY wonders why Pearl Harbor is still top secret? He can be reached at alsabery@gmail.com.

The Q Line

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Safe streets?

The Santa Monica Police Department recently reported that there have been no traffic fatalities in the past year. It's the first such year in recent memory.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Are our streets really safer or is this a statistical fluke?

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

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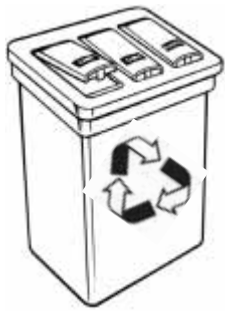


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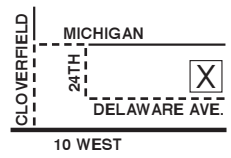


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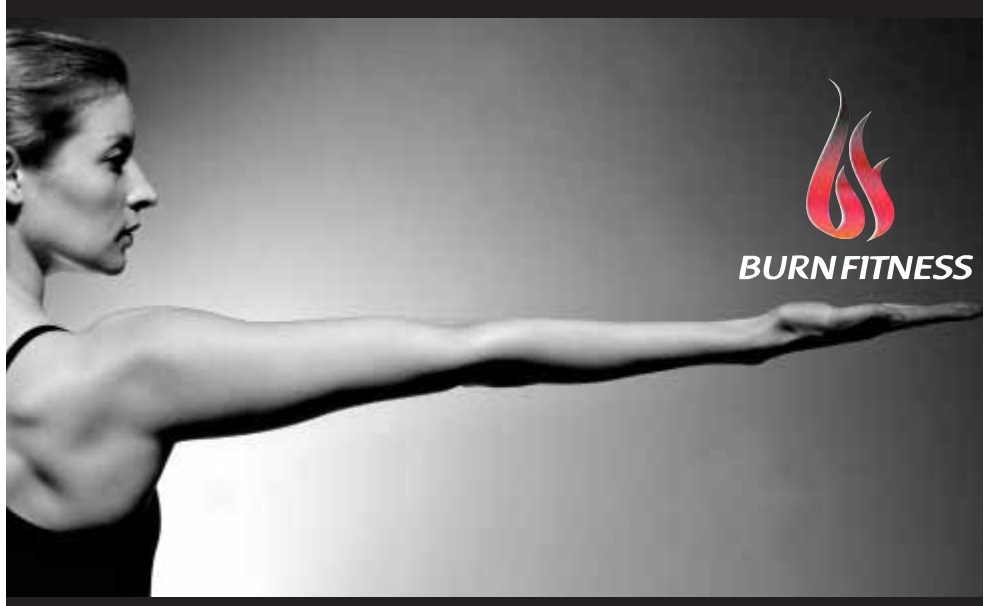
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Census: State won't gain seats in House of Reps

JUDY LIN
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO California is not gaining any seats in the House of Representatives for the first time in eight decades, according to 2010 Census figures released Tuesday.

However, California will hold on to all of its current 53 seats under the new state population totals being used to reallocate the nation's 435 congressional seats.

While California's population grew by 10 percent in the past decade, it was the state's slowest growth rate listed on a chart for California going back to 1910.

California remained the most populous state in the nation, with 37.3 million people in 2010. The state had 33.9 million residents in 2000.

California had gained seats every decade going back to 1930. In 2000, the state gained one House seat.

The latest population count will help guide a newly formed state commission responsible for carving new congressional and state legislative districts.

Voters in 2008 stripped the state Legislature of the responsibility for drawing boundaries and entrusted the independent citizens commission to determine the districts. The panel also will determine districts for the tax-collecting state Board of Equalization.

This year, voters expanded the commission's scope to include congressional districts.

The final six members of the 14-member California Citizens Redistricting Commission were selected last week.

"We think the initial eight commissioners did an excellent job of complementing regional and ethnic diversity," said Tunua Thrash of the Greenlining Institute, a nonprofit group advocating for racial and economic justice.

The commission faces a daunting task of drawing those districts in eight months, she said.

John Malson of the state Finance Department's demographics unit said much of California's population growth in the past decade can be attributed to a high birthrate in Los Angeles County. The growth has led some residents to migrate into surrounding Riverside, San Bernardino and other counties.

Meanwhile, Placer County, east of Sacramento, has seen an influx of people from the San Francisco Bay area.

California released its own population figures earlier this month, estimating the number of state residents had grown even more to 38.8 million, up from 34 million in 2000.

It's still too soon to understand why the state population estimate is 1.5 million higher than the Census Bureau's figure, said Linda Gage, a senior state demographer. The state is now waiting for Census Bureau figures involving cities and counties that will be released next year.

Malson noted the federal government uses different methods than the state, leading the Census Bureau to show a larger number of California residents leaving the state. State demographers believe they are using more precise figures that come from driver's license address changes.

"The jury is still out on all the numbers," Gage said.

Rain brings dampness and social confusion to L.A.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES It rarely rains for days on end in Southern California but when it does it doesn't just pour, it seriously upends the entire Zeitgeist.

In a part of the country where people conduct much of their lives in shorts and flip-flops, the half-dozen or so inches of rain that have drenched the Los Angeles area since Friday has created social confusion.

Outdoor shopping malls have been deserted and outdoor restaurants have emptied out. Even beach yoga had to be canceled.

The rain has drowned the fireworks at Disneyland and kept the college football players in San Diego for Thursday's Poinsettia Bowl from seeing SeaWorld.

But some things have endured. An open-air tourist bus filled with people, was on the streets of Beverly Hills on Thursday, with a makeshift tarp on top.

Judge to decide Jackson syringe testing issues

ANTHONY MCCARTNEY
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES A judge overseeing the criminal case of a doctor charged in Michael Jackson's death has scheduled a hearing to determine if medical items found in the singer's bedroom should undergo another round of testing.

Defense attorneys for Dr. Conrad Murray have been asking for months that fluids in two syringes and an IV bag found in Jackson's rented mansion be tested to determine how much of the anesthetic propofol they contained.

Murray's defense attorneys say the items are deteroirating and the results could be crucial at trial, but prosecutors have downplayed the significance.

Coroner's officials ruled Jackson died of acute propofol intoxication.

A judge will hear arguments on the issue on Dec. 29 — six days before Murray is scheduled to appear for a preliminary hearing. Murray has pleaded not guilty to involuntary manslaughter.

The testing is not a factor during the hearing, when the judge will determine if there is enough evidence for Murray to stand trial

STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Bid for new trial rejected in 'Millionaire' case

A federal judge says she won't order a new trial in a lawsuit that resulted in a $319 million judgment against Walt Disney Co. over profits from the TV show "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire."

U.S. District Judge Virginia Phillips issued her ruling Tuesday, writing that evidence supported the jury verdict in favor of London-based Celador International.

The company sued in 2004, accusing Disney of using creative accounting to hide profits.

Disney attorneys argued the judge improperly excluded certain evidence and testimony. Disney has called the verdict "fundamentally wrong" and is likely to appeal.

An attorney for the company did not immediately return a phone message seeking comment.

"Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" first aired in the U.S. from August 1999 to May 2002.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

SoCal woman faces 86 years in Ponzi scheme

A California woman who promised investors up to 20 percent returns on their money has pleaded guilty in a nearly $7 million real estate and small business Ponzi scheme.

Guadalupe Valencia pleaded guilty Monday to six federal fraud charges claiming she bilked more than 150 victims who invested in her Downey-based Real Estate & Loan Consultants and R.E. Equity Group investment pools.

The 46-year-old West Covina woman, who was immediately taken into custody, faces 86 years in federal prison and fines totaling $1.5 million when she's sentenced May 23.

From 2001 to 2009, prosecutors say Valencia promised investors high rates of interest from 8 percent to 20 percent in as little as 45 days.

AP

PERRIS

Investigators seek to identify SoCal plane wreck

Federal investigators are trying to determine if wreckage found at Southern California's Lake Perris is a small plane that disappeared after taking off Monday from Palm Springs on a flight to Chino.

Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Ian Gregor says National Transportation Safety Board and FAA investigators are hiking to the site.

Lake Perris is part of an 8,800-acre state recreation area about 65 miles south of Los Angeles.

The Aero Commander was reported overdue by a relative of the pilot when the craft failed to arrive at Chino as expected.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Judge trims claims in Paris Hilton hair lawsuit

A judge has trimmed several claims in a $35 million against Paris Hilton by a company that claimed she didn't properly endorse its line of hair extensions.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Gregory Alarcon ruled Friday that Hairtech International Inc.'s lawsuit did not properly plead several key claims, including fraud. He also ordered stricken several references to allegations of Hilton wearing competitors' hair products.

Alarcon's ruling also removes Hilton's father, Rick Hilton, from the case and he is not allowing Hairtech to amend the lawsuit to try to restore some of the claims, court records show.

Hairtech sued Hilton, 29, in August, and she has since countersued, claiming the company owes her $1.7 million.

Hairtech's attorney, Chris Brainard, did not immediately return a phone message.

A breach of contract claim that Hilton missed a launch party for Hairtech's extensions remains part of the case. Hilton was in jail at the time of the party, serving 23 days after she was caught driving twice on a suspended license while on probation for reckless driving.

Records show attorneys will now try to resolve the case through private mediation before a trial scheduled to begin next November.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Customs officials seize Chinese plastic bags

Federal inspectors seized a $450,000 shipment of more than 21 million Chinese plastic bags at the Los Angeles-Long Beach port complex.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection spokesman Jaime Ruiz said Monday that the shipment violates antidumping duty laws.

The Daily Breeze in Torrance says importing goods at an unfairly low or subsidized price is a violation of federal law.

Customs officials are responsible for collecting the required import duty fees of up to 77.5 percent of the value of the bags. Chinese-made plastic bags made up of more than 50 percent polyethylene are subject to antidumping duty fees.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Staffer at rehab center accuses Lohan of battery

Lindsay Lohan is under investigation for an alleged misdemeanor battery against a female staffer at a rehab facility where the actress is receiving treatment, authorities said Tuesday.

Riverside County sheriff's Deputy Herlinda Valenzuela said officers responded to a Betty Ford Center facility in Palm Desert on Dec. 12 shortly after 1 a.m. for an incident involving Lohan.

Valenzuela says a female staffer reported having a dispute with the "Mean Girls" star and that she wanted to pursue charges. No arrests were made and Valenzuela says detectives continue to look into the case.

Their results will be presented to Riverside County prosecutors, who will decide whether to file a criminal case, Valenzuela said.

Messages for Lohan's attorney, Shawn Chapman Holley, were not immediately returned.



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STORM
FROM PAGE 1

A debris flow of rocks and mud about three feet deep was detected in the area early Tuesday and forecasters warned of possible rainfall rates of .75 inch to 1 inch an hour and thunderstorm rates of 2 inches an hour in the region.

"It means that once the heaviest rains start, it should be a very active time up there," Cannon said.

Heavy rains also fill riverbeds and creeks that remain dry much of the year, often spilling onto roadways and washing them away.

In San Bernardino County, east of Los Angeles, the normally dry Mojave River was running 17 feet deep and overflowing onto the roadway, said Tracey Martinez, spokeswoman for the county's fire authority.

Major rains in California can have deadly consequences.

In 2005, five days of near constant rain left at least 28 dead in mudslides and drownings, including a major debris flow in the Central Coast town of La Conchita that killed an entire family except the father. He had gone to get ice cream for his children.

So far, authorities say, there were two traffic fatalities caused by the rain in Northern California.

Swift water rescue crews saved five people who became trapped in raging flood waters, including a woman whose Ford Ranger was carried a quarter-mile downstream by an overflowing creek. Four people, including two homeless, were rescued from the Mojave.

"We've had extreme amounts of flooding. We already had some homes that came very close to being flooded," Martinez said. "And we're being told that tonight and tomorrow we'll be hit the hardest."

In Orange County, four hikers missing overnight in a flooded canyon in the Cleveland National Forest were rescued by helicopter after their car was trapped along swollen Trabuco Creek. Rescuers used a bulldozer to retrieve five other people who became stranded by the creek.

Residents who weren't trapped in flooding crept along freeways, dodging puddles downtown and doing last-minute holiday shopping.

The rain also dampened vacationers' plans. Disneyland and Disney's California Adventure canceled the daily fireworks and artificial snow that mark the resort's big holiday season, said Suzi Brown, park spokeswoman.

The rain was a boost for drought-stricken farmers and cities statewide that have been forced to patrol water use after three bone-dry years.

Water content in the snow pack in California's mountains was at 197 percent of normal and 169 percent of the average measurement for April 1 — traditionally the date when the snow's water content is at its peak, said Ted Thomas, spokesman for the California Department of Water Resources.

As the snow melts, that water will run off into reservoirs that feed the state's extensive agriculture and city water systems.

"It's just a good sign," Department of Water Resources Director Mark Cowin said.

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CENSUS
FROM PAGE 3

Ohio and New York.

Each House district represents an electoral vote in the presidential election process, meaning the political map for the 2012 election will tilt somewhat more Republican.

If Obama were to carry the same states he won in 2008, they would net him six fewer electoral votes under the new map. Some states Obama won, such as Florida, tilted Republican in last month's election and the electoral votes they will gain could further help GOP candidates in 2012.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said he did not expect the census results to have a "huge practical impact" on national politics.

For the first time in its history, Democratic-leaning California will not gain a House seat after a census.

Since 1940, 79 House seats have shifted to the South and West, mainly from the Northeast and Midwest, census officials said.

Starting early next year, most state governments will use detailed, computer-generated data on voting patterns to carve neighborhoods in or out of newly drawn House districts, tilting them more to the left or right. Sometimes politicians play it safe, quietly agreeing to protect Republican and Democratic incumbents alike. But sometimes the party in control will gamble and aggressively try to reconfigure the map to dump as many opponents as possible.

Last month's elections put Republicans in full control of numerous state governments, giving the GOP an overall edge in the redistricting process. State governments' ability to gerrymander districts is somewhat limited, however, by court rulings that require roughly equal populations, among other things. The 1965 Voting Rights Act protects ethnic minorities in several states that are subject to U.S. Justice Department oversight.

The average population of a new U.S. House district will be 710,767. But each state must have at least one district. So Wyoming, the least populous state with 563,626 residents, will have a representative with considerably fewer constituents. Six other states will have one House member. Each state has two U.S. senators, regardless of population.

The U.S. is still growing quickly relative to other developed nations. The population in France and England each increased roughly 5 percent over the past decade, while in Japan the number is largely unchanged, and Germany's population is declining. China grew at about 6 percent; Canada's growth rate is roughly 10 percent.

The South had the fastest growth since 2000, at 14.3 percent, the Census Bureau said. The West was close behind at 13.8 percent. The Northeast had 3.2 percent growth while the Midwest had 3.9 percent.

The declining U.S. growth rate since 2000 is due partly to the economic meltdown in 2008, which brought U.S. births and illegal immigration to a near standstill compared with previous years. The 2010 count represents the number of people — citizens as well as legal and illegal immigrants — who called the U.S. their home on April 1.

States losing political clout may have little recourse to challenge the census numbers. Still, census officials were bracing for the possibility of lawsuits seeking to revise the 2010 findings.

North Carolina just missed picking up the last House seat, falling short by roughly 15,000 people.

The release of state apportionment numbers is the first set of numbers from the 2010 census. Beginning in February, the Census Bureau will release population and race breakdowns down to the neighborhood level for states to redraw congressional boundaries.

Louisiana, Virginia, New Jersey and Mississippi will be among the first states to receive their redistricting data in February.

The 2010 census results also are used to distribute more than $400 billion in annual federal aid and will change each state's Electoral College votes beginning in the 2012 presidential election.

LUNCH
FROM PAGE 1

spinach and Caesar salad.

Many of the regulars are in their 90s, but according to Aggers, they can be quite discerning, especially when it comes to meal time.

"They're very astute," she said. "If they don't like something, they let us know."

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Stocks get boost from deal

CHIP CUTTER & MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK Financial companies led stock indexes to new two-year highs Tuesday after another big banking deal raised hopes that more acquisitions could be on the way.

Toronto-Dominion Bank said it is buying Chrysler Financial, the automaker's old lending arm, from Cerberus Capital Management LP for $6.3 billion. It was the latest example of a relatively healthy Canadian bank buying a U.S. lender battered by the financial crisis. Toronto-Dominion bought Commerce Bancorp Inc. in 2008, and just four days ago Bank of Montreal said it would buy Milwaukee-based bank Marshall & Ilsley Corp. for $4.1 billion.

The S&P 500 closed above the level it reached on Sept. 12, 2008, the last trading day before the collapse of Lehman Brothers at the height of the financial crisis. The Dow Jones industrial average is at its highest since Aug. 29, 2008.

Corporate mergers have picked up strongly this year. That, along with signs of an improving economy and a tax cut package passed last week, have helped drive stocks up. The S&P 500 has jumped 6.3 percent this month and 12.5 percent this year.

Investors like to see an increase in deals because it shows that companies are becoming more confident in the economy. It also leads investors to hunt for companies that might become targets for buyers.

Research firm Dealogic reported Tuesday that the total dollar amount of corporate deals has jumped 18 percent to $2.7 trillion so far this year compared with all of 2009. Caterpillar Inc., Chevron Corp. and Google Inc. have also made significant deals in 2010.

"There is growing optimism about the economy, or at least the U.S. economy, in 2011," said Alan Gayle, senior investment strategist for RidgeWorth Investments. "We're 18 months into this recovery, and good things are gradually happening."

The Dow rose 55.03, or 0.5 percent, to close at 11,533.16. The Dow is up 4.8 percent so far this month.

The S&P 500 index rose 7.52, or 0.6 percent, to close at 1,254.60. The Nasdaq composite rose 18.05, or 0.7 percent, to 2,667.61.

Financial companies were the best performers. JPMorgan Chase & Co. rose the most among the 30 companies that make up the Dow. The stock rose 2.6 percent to $41. Bank of America Corp., Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and Wells Fargo Corp. all rose by more than 1 percent.

"There's a perception that some of the ... bigger banks will start an acquisition program of their own in addition to what we're seeing with some of the Canadian banks," said Randy Bateman, chief investment officer for Huntington Asset Advisors.

Adobe Systems Inc. jumped 6 percent to $30.93 after the software maker reported earnings that were much stronger than analysts had expected. The company also raised its forecast for earnings and revenue in the current quarter.

Another technology company, Jabil Circuit Inc., soared 10.7 percent to $19.55 after its income more than tripled on stronger revenue. Jabil, which makes parts for electronics and other technology companies, also issued a higher earnings and revenue forecast.

CarMax Inc. slumped 7.6 percent to $33.17. The used car dealership chain said its expenses jumped 14 percent last quarter as the company paid more for sales commissions and advertising.

Bond prices were relatively flat. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note edged down to 3.30 percent from 3.35 percent late Monday.

The euro fell against the dollar after Portugal became the latest European country to be warned of a possible credit rating downgrade.

More than two stocks rose for every one that fell on the New York Stock Exchange. Trading volume was 809 million shares.

Craigslist removes global adult services listings under pressure

STEPHANIE REITZ
Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. Craigslist has confirmed that it removed its controversial adult services section from its international sites, Connecticut's attorney general said Tuesday, four months after it did the same for its U.S. sites.

The U.S. move in September came under pressure from officials, including Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, over whether Craigslist was adequately policing illegal ads.

Blumenthal, who is also a U.S. Senator-elect, says Craigslist representatives confirmed to his office Tuesday that it had removed erotic services listings from hundreds of sites in dozens of other countries.

Representatives of San Francisco-based Craigslist did not immediately return messages Tuesday about when the change went into effect. The removal was first reported on Wired magazine's website.

Blumenthal called the company's decision a victory against sexual exploitation of women and children, and against human trafficking connected to prostitution.

"This move is another important step in the ongoing fight to more effectively screen and stop pernicious prostitution ads," he said.

Craigslist replaced the adult services section's link on United States sites with a black-and-white "censored" bar on Sept. 4 after Blumenthal and 16 other state attorneys general sent a joint letter to the website demanding its removal.

A Craigslist official told U.S. lawmakers during a House Judiciary Committee panel a few weeks later that the website has no plans to resume its adult services section.

Craigslist, which is largely free, has been under prosecutors' scrutiny for years. It tried to police the postings on its adult services page by charging a fee to post the ads and requiring them to be vetted and approved.

The section carried ads for a variety of erotic services, including personal massages and a night's companionship, which critics say veered into prostitution.

The website has also come under increased scrutiny since the September jailhouse suicide of 24-year-old Philip Markoff, a former Boston University student.

Markoff was awaiting trial for the fatal shooting of Julissa Brisman of New York City and the armed robbery of a Las Vegas woman. Rhode Island prosecutors also accused him of attacking a stripper.

Markoff had met the women through ads for erotic services posted on Craigslist.

Teen birth rate at all-time low, economy cited

MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

ATLANTA The U.S. teen birth rate in 2009 fell to its lowest point in almost 70 years of record-keeping — a decline that stunned experts who believe it's partly due to the recession.

The birth rate for teenagers fell to 39 births per 1,000 girls, ages 15 through 19, according to a government report released Tuesday. It was a 6 percent decline from the previous year, and the lowest since health officials started tracking the rate in 1940.

Experts say the recent recession — from December 2007 to June 2009 — was a major factor driving down births overall, and there's good reason to think it affected would-be teen mothers.

"I'm not suggesting that teens are examining futures of 401(k)s or how the market is doing," said Sarah Brown, chief executive of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy.

"But I think they are living in families that experience that stress. They are living next door to families that lost their jobs. ... The recession has touched us all," Brown said.

Teenage moms, who account for about 10 percent of the nation's births, are not unique. The total number of births also has been dropping, as have birth rates among all women except those 40 and older.

For comparison look to the peak year of teen births — 1957. There were about 96 births per 1,000 teen girls that year, but it was a different era, when women married younger, said Stephanie Ventura, a co-author of the report issued by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The CDC births report is based on a review of most birth certificates for 2009.

Overall, about 4.1 million babies were born in 2009, down almost 3 percent from 2008. It's the second consecutive drop in births, which had been on the rise since 2000.

The trend may continue: A preliminary count of U.S. births through the first six months of this year suggests a continuing drop, CDC officials said.

A decline in immigration to the United States, blamed on the weak job market, is another factor cited for the lower birth rate. A large proportion of immigrants are Hispanic, and Hispanics accounted for nearly 1 in 4 births in 2009. The birth rate among Hispanic teens is the highest of any ethnic group with 70 births per 1,000 girls in 2009. However, that rate, too, was down from the previous year.

Other findings in the new report include:

— The cesarean delivery rate rose yet again, to about 33 percent of births. The C-section rate has been rising every year since 1996.

— The pre-term birth rate, for infants delivered at less than 37 weeks of pregnancy, dropped for the third straight year to about 12 percent of all births. It had been generally increasing since the early 1980s.

— Birth rates were down from 2008 in almost every age group of women of childbearing. The birth rate for women in their early 20s plummeted 7 percent, the largest decline for that age group since 1973.

The one exception was women older then 40 — a group that may be more concerned with declining fertility than the economy. The birth rate for women ages 40-44 was up 3 percent from 2008, to about 10 births per 1,000 women. That's the highest rate for that group since 1967.

The drop in birth rates was less pronounced in women in their 30s than women in their 20s, noted Carol Hogue, an Emory University professor of maternal and child health and epidemiology.

"If women feel they are up against a biological clock, that is a counterbalance to 'I can't afford to have a baby right now,'" she said.

CDC officials said the most striking change was the decline among teens, and some experts credited popular culture as playing a role. The issue of teen pregnancy got a lot of attention through Bristol Palin, the unmarried daughter of former GOP vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin. Bristol Palin had a baby boy in December 2008. Teen pregnancy is also cast in a harsh light by "16 and Pregnant," a popular MTV reality show which first aired in 2009 and chronicles the difficulties teen moms face.

Gabriela Briela, 17, a high school senior in Chicago, believes TV shows like that one are a big factor. She also credits sex education that goes beyond abstinence and advises birth control for teens who have sex.

Briela recalled one of her eighth grade teachers telling students to write down how they would tell their parents if they became pregnant.

"It's something that I still keep with me. It forced you to really ponder that thought" and think about the consequences, she said.

For decades, health educators have been emphasizing the hazards of teen pregnancy, including higher dropout rates and other problems for these young mothers and their kids. The cumulative effect of such campaigns may have played an important role in pushing down the teen birth rate, Ventura said.

But experts acknowledge they are speculating. Hogue noted a lack of key data for 2009 that would answer questions about whether teens are having the same amount of sex, whether their use of contraception changed, or whether they were getting pregnant just as often as in earlier years but were having more abortions.

Abortion could be a factor, said Jaqui Johnson, 17, a senior in Des Moines, Iowa.

Because teens generally don't plan pregnancies, she doubts the recession as an explanation. When financial considerations do creep into a teen's conversation about pregnancy, it most likely involves a bleak assessment of their ability to support a child, Johnson said.

"If girls do get pregnant, they're probably looking more into getting abortions" than teens may have in years past, she said.

None of the experts was able to explain an uptick in the teen birth rate in 2006 and 2007.

Also, there's reason to rein in celebration of the 2009 numbers. The U.S. teen birth rate continues to be far higher than that of 16 other developed countries, according to a 2007 United Nations comparison that Brown cited.

Still, news of the large decline was a stunning and exciting surprise for advocates, Brown noted. "This is like a Christmas present," she said.





SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

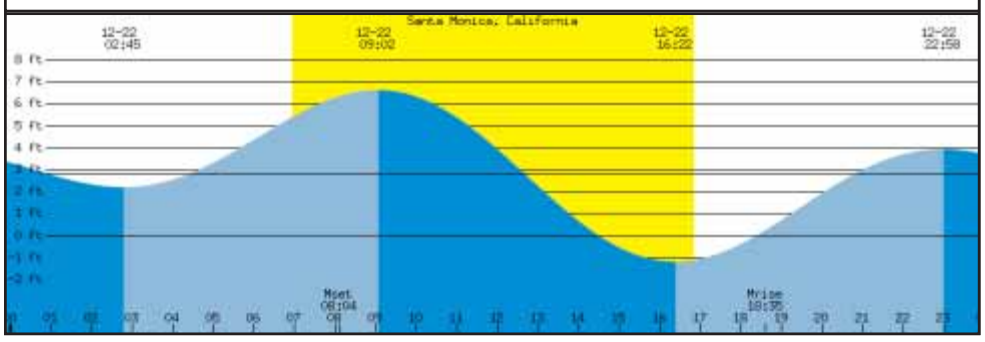
Swell Forecast

Should see a decline in wind swell to waist to chest at west facing breaks.

Long Range Synopsis

Should see an increase wind wind swell, chest to head high at 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, 2010**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 41 / 23
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 7 / 18

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alina creeks.	A+	C
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A	A
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	B
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	F
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach.	F	A
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A+	B
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	C
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	F	C
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	B
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	C
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	C	A+
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	F	D
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	D	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	A
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	B
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	A
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	C
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	B
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	A	C
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	A
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	C
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	A+
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	F
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	F
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	C
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	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+	A+
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	D
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	C	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.

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MLS

Galaxy's Donovan forgoes loan

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CARSON Landon Donovan is staying put this offseason, forgoing the chance to be loaned to a European club for the third straight winter.

Donovan scored two goals in 13 matches during a loan to Everton from last January to March, helping the Toffees beat Chelsea and Manchester United, and draw against Arsenal. Everton manager David Moyes appeared open to having the 28-year-old return.

"While I enjoyed my time at Everton last season and still appreciate all the support their fans have given me, I feel that it is important to continue to rest and recover this offseason as opposed to going on loan," Donovan said in a statement Tuesday. "I never considered being loaned to a club other than Everton, but I have been playing nearly non-stop for the past two years and I believe that this decision will allow me to perform at my best for the Galaxy and the national team throughout the upcoming year."

Donovan spent the early part of 2009 on loan to Bayern Munich, then rejoined the Galaxy. After a summer in which he played for the U.S. at the Confederations Cup, he returned to the Galaxy, took a short break, then joined Everton. That started a 10-month stretch that included the World Cup, where he had three goals for the Americans, including a stoppage-time score against Algeria that advanced the U.S. to the knockout phase.

Donovan said during the MLS playoffs last month that overcoming the mental fatigue was more challenging than dealing with the physical. Despite missing time for the World Cup, Donovan scored seven goals for the Galaxy and led MLS with 16 assists.

Considering Filing for *Bankruptcy?*

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- Get the facts now

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City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

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

Marine Park Score Keeper Building Hazmat Abatement & Demolition (SP 2176)

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, not later than 2:30 p.m. on **Thursday, January 13, 2011** to be publicly opened and read aloud after 3:00 p.m. on said date in City Hall. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Bids.

Non-mandatory Job Walk: Tuesday, January 4, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.

ESTIMATE: $20,000
CONTRACT CALENDAR DAYS: 30 Days
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $500 PER DAY
COMPENSABLE DELAY: $400 PER DAY

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's Finance website at: http://www01.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/. The Contractor is required to have a **Class A or Class B, or a Class C21 (Demolition)** license with **ASB** certification at the time of bid submission.

MOVIE TIMES

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

White Christmas (NR) 2hr
7:30 p.m.

Call theater for more information.

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

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
11:45am, 10:35pm

Little Fockers (PG-13)
12:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:30pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

How Do You Know (R) 1hr 56min
12:45pm, 3:50pm, 6:40pm, 9:30pm

Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader in Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 52min
12:10pm, 2:45pm, 5:20pm, 8:00pm

True Grit (PG-13)
2:20pm, 4:55pm, 7:30pm, 10:05pm

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

Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 40min
11:30am, 1:50pm, 4:35pm, 7:15pm, 9:45pm

Yogi Bear 3D (PG) 1hr 22min
10:50am, 12:55pm, 3:05pm, 5:15pm, 7:30pm, 9:50pm

Tron: Legacy in Disney Digital 3D (NR) 2hrs 07min
1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:05pm, 10:00pm

How Do You Know (R) 1hr 56min
11:00am, 1:45pm, 4:50pm, 7:40pm, 10:30pm

Little Fockers (PG-13)
11:30am, 2:00pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

Black Swan (R) 1hr 50min
11:30am, 2:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:45pm, 10:20pm

True Grit (PG-13)
11:40am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:55pm, 10:30pm

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

Ward No. 6 (Palata NÂ°6) (NR) 1hr 23min
1:00pm, 5:30pm

King's Speech (R) 1 hour 58 min
1:10pm, 2:10pm, 4:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm, 9:50pm

Casino Jack (R) 1hr 48min
1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:10pm, 9:50pm

Inside Job (PG-13) 1hr 48min
3:00pm, 7:40pm, 10:15pm

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

Tron: Legacy (NR) 2hrs 07min
11:00am, 1:50pm, 4:45pm, 7:40pm, 10:30pm

Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader in Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 52min
12:00pm, 3:15pm, 6:05pm, 9:00pm

Tourist (PG-13) 1hr 43min
11:00am, 11:30am, 1:30pm, 2:15pm, 4:00pm, 5:00pm, 6:45pm, 7:45pm, 9:30pm, 10:20pm

Fighter (R) 1hr 54min
11:00am, 1:05pm, 1:40pm, 3:40pm, 4:40pm, 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 9:15pm, 10:15pm

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

Know when to stop, Aquarius

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ You move quickly, mentally and physically. You know what you are doing. Careful! Fatigue could mark a decision at work. You want to get going and start the holiday. Give yourself space and time -- you are just about there. Tonight: Happily heading home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Keep communicating exactly what you are thinking. Your verbal style appeals to many people, yet present fatigue in your voice might be misread. Be clear with friends how happy you are to see them! Tonight: Hanging out is fun.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ A last-minute crisis forcing unanticipated spending could put the kibosh on this holiday. Slow down. Move from automatic to reflective and thoughtful. The results can only be better. Tonight: Your treat, and don't forget yourself!

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ You make a special effort toward a child or loved one. Though this person might not realize what you have done immediately, he or she will eventually. Schedule time for some early Christmas sharing. Tonight: What you want counts too.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Everyone knows that the Lion doesn't want to step out of the limelight. Just wait a little while longer, and the spotlight will be on you. Know that this is only a passage. Use this quiet time to complete a project. Tonight: Take some much-needed personal time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Meetings are strategic. You seem to relate to the crowd rather than the individual. Be willing to say "no" to another person's request. Following through might stretch you too far. Tonight: Where others are celebrating.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Count on last-minute requests wherever you are, no matter what you are doing. Your softer side emerges, and you just might overcommit yourself. You have energy, but you need to indulge yourself. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Make sure you touch base with those at a distance while you still have time. You could become more and more spread thin in the next few days. Detach and try to solve an issue unrelated to the holidays. Tonight: Follow your dreams.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Relate to people directly. Sending a message might not have the same quality as a phone call. Others are unusually gracious and ready to share. Make time to open up and share more. Tonight: Find mistletoe.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You don't defer easily, unless it is part of the plan, and it must be your plan as well! Still, with so much pressure on your shoulders, you might have little choice. Communication flourishes. Engage in more open dialoguing. Tonight: Listen to suggestions, but do what you want.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Focus on one task at a time. You'll accomplish a lot very quickly, ultimately creating more free time. Be careful not to overcommit yourself. Your plate looks full. Be helpful, but not at the cost of damaging your holiday. Tonight: Know when to stop.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Pull out the stopper and allow your imagination to fill in the gaps with work, people and perhaps with a gift or two. You might not be able to shut off your creativity. Tonight: Take a walk to relax, or join a friend for some Christmas cheer.

Happy birthday

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

This year, dealing with two different forces or situations helps you perfect the art of juggling. Use your creativity to create a middle ground. You also can allow opposite issues to just flow, deciding you don't need to do anything. Your view has a uniqueness that is much in demand. If you are single, separate your personal and professional lives. Don't let one take root in the other. Everyone will be happier that way -- above all, you. If you are attached, the two of you need to respect your differences. Often, if you detach, you can see the validity of your sweetie's ideas. Encourage differences. Life as a couple could be more exciting that way. CANCER has a way of testing your limits.



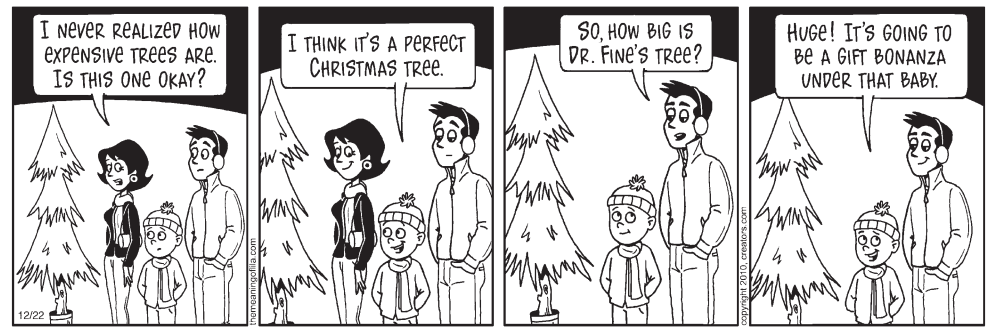
Garfield

By Jim Davis



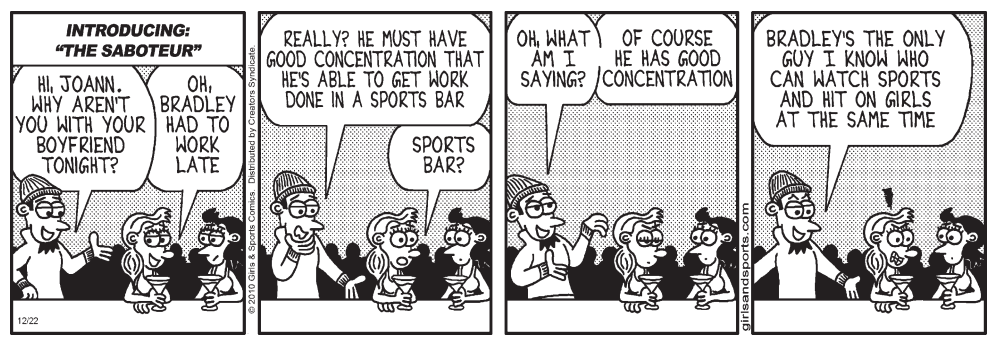
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



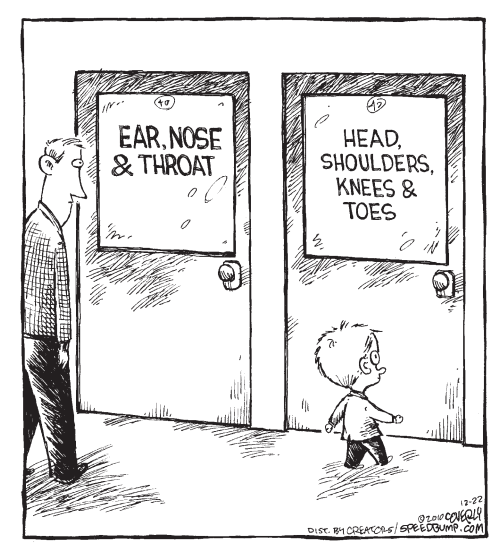
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

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

"Attention Seniors with Retirement Savings!"

"Retirees Make These Mistakes Losing Thousands of Dollars"

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Ornament shape
5 Holiday ring
11 Vicinity
12 Make helpless
13 Funny folks
14 Devour
15 Floral ring
16 Greek vowels
17 Locker room need
19 Topper
22 Out of style
24 Plow pioneer John
26 Small stream
27 Proton's place
28 Mexican farewell
30 Shows amusement
31 Puppy cry
32 Have faith in
34 Quarry
35 Plop down
38 Parcel out
41 Computer command
42 Plummer of film
43 Do origami
44 Christmas tree stuff
45 Was in debt

DOWN

1 Cry like a baby
2 Huron neighbor
3 Inadvertently reveal
4 — Vegas
5 Like Bing's Christmas
6 Jimmy's successor
7 Omelet start
8 Devoured
9 "— the season ..."
10 — up (agitated)
16 Ram's mate
18 Norway's capital
19 Yule song
20 Steel ingredient
21 Reps.' foes
22 Ask for divine help
23 Verdi opera
25 Headphones site
29 Walked boldly
30 Fellow
33 Of the kidneys
34 Sewing aids
36 Goofing off
37 Rock's Rundgren
38 Scoundrel
39 Paris pal
40 Leather shade
41 Sky sighting

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

Yesterday's answer

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

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	9	10
11				■	12					
13				■	14					
15			■	16				■	■	■
■	■	17	18				■	19	20	21
22	23				■	24	25			
26				■	■	■	27			
28				29	■	30				
31			■	32	33				■	■
■	■	■	34				■	35	36	37
38	39	40				■	41			
42						■	43			
44						■	45			

12-22

ARITHMO™

CrossMath + × − ÷

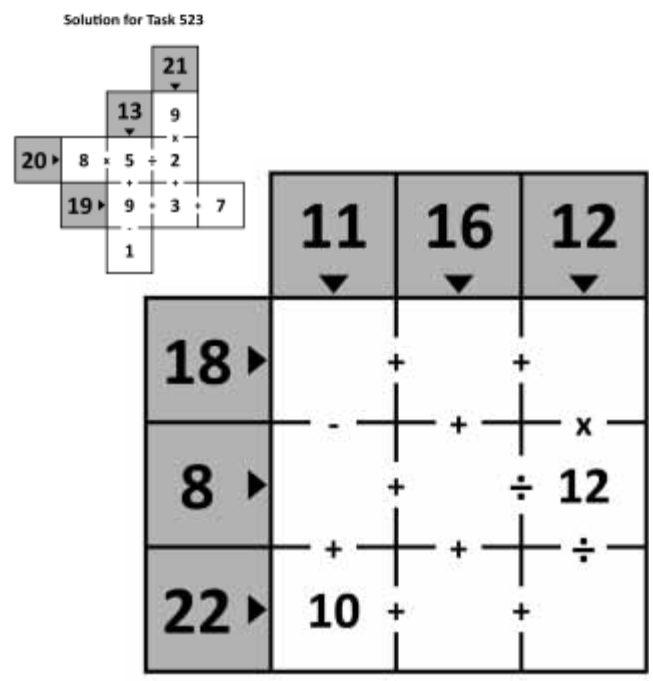
- Fill the grid with the set of given numbers (1 to 12) to satisfy the Equa demands (7 to 24) in the shaded boxes. The Equa demands represent the sum of the digits that you will insert into the empty squares.
- Each horizontal row has one Equa demand to satisfy; each vertical column also has one demand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

For more games, go to www.arithmo.com

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

1, 3, 7, 8, 9, 9, 12

Solution for Task 523



DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 11 20 26 46 53 Meganumber: 12 Jackpot: $145M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 10 11 12 25 33 Meganumber: 21 Jackpot: $14M

Fantasy 5: 2 4 15 28 31

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 5 5 3 EVENING: 0 7 2

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 05 California Classic 2nd: 02 Lucky Star 3rd: 01 Gold Rush RACE TIME: 1:45.66

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

■ Medical Marvels: (1) Six-year-old Alexis McCarter, of Pelzer, S.C., underwent surgery in December to remove the safety pin that she had stuck up her nose as a baby and which was lodged in her sinus cavity (having sprung open only after it was inside her, causing headaches, nosebleeds and ear infections). (2) Sharon Wilson of Doncaster, England, finally got a worthwhile answer for her nearly 10-year odyssey through a range of doctors' complicated misdiagnoses. She had complained of many, many days when she vomited more than 100 times, at "almost exactly" 10-minute intervals. The previous diagnosis was a tumor in her pituitary gland, but another specialist nailed it: "Cyclical Vomiting Syndrome."

■ Researcher Patricia Brennan of Yale University told a conference in July that a duck's penis may vary in length from year to year -- depending on their competition that year. Their penises waste away after each mating season and regrow, and Brennan found that they regrow longer if there are other males around. (Female ducks are known to have corkscrew-shaped vaginas, and thus a centimeter or two can make a big difference for success in mating.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1890 Cornwallis Valley Railway begins operation between Kingsport and Kentville, Nova Scotia.

1894 The Dreyfus affair begins in France, when Alfred Dreyfus is wrongly convicted of treason, on antisemitic grounds.

1920 The GOELRO economic development plan is adopted by the 8th Congress of Soviets of the Russian SFSR.

1937 The Lincoln Tunnel opens to traffic in New York City.

1940 World War II: Himarë is captured by the Greek army.

1944 World War II: The People's Army of Vietnam is formed to resist Japanese occupation of Indo-China, now Vietnam.

WORD UP!

caliginous
\ kuh-LIJ-uh-nuhs \ , adjective;
1. Misty; dim; dark.

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Los Robles Hospital & Medical Center
4th Floor Vertical Expansion Core & Shell(37,784 SF)

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CONSTRUCTION WITH INTEGRITY

Layton Construction (Construction Manager/General Contractor) and the Owner will be holding an informational meeting for interested subcontractors and vendors regarding this project.

Meeting Location, Date and Time:
Los Robles Medical Center January 11, 2011 Classroom 1 Open House: 4:00 p.m. 215 West Janss Road Presentation: 4:30 p.m. Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

Prequalification packets will be distributed at the meeting. Subcontractors must be prequalified in order to bid on the project. Prequalification information must be returned to Layton Construction by 5:00 pm PST on January 13, 2011. Questions regarding the project should be directed to:

Eric Carlson
ecarlson@laytoncompanies.com
801-568-9090

Trent Isaacson
tisaacson@laytoncompanies.com
801-568-9090

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