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Santa Monica Daily Press
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2011
Volume 11 Issue 35

# Santa Monica Daily Press

*We have you covered*

SAMOHI HONORED
SEE PAGE 3

THE GUSTS WITH GUSTO ISSUE

## Planning Commission clears the way for landlord

### Owner can improve building without removing tenants

**BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD**
Daily Press Staff Writer

NOMA Perhaps it was a stroke of Christmas spirit, but a landlord in Santa Monica got her wish when the Planning Commission approved a mechanism to allow her to put an addition on her unit without destroying three other homes.

Commissioners voted last week to approve a text amendment which would allow Daniella Kuhn, the live-in landlord of a rent-controlled complex of four apartments on the 700 block of Euclid Street, to add a second story to her unit as long as it complied with all other code provisions, including those governing height, the number of stories and other provisions.

Key was the caveat that the construction not increase the number of units on the property.

Vice Chair Gerda Newbold and Commissioner Jennifer Kennedy raised con-

SEE PLANNING PAGE 9

## Police release sketch of robbery suspect

**BY DAILY PRESS STAFF**



SMC Campus police have released a sketch of an armed robbery suspect who made off with an undisclosed amount of cash last Thursday after holding up a used-books buyer at Santa Monica College.

SEE SUSPECT PAGE 10




Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

MAKING ROOM: **The longtime nativity scenes in Palisades Park had to make way for other groups this holiday season.**

## City Hall may alter lottery for spots

**BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD**
Daily Press Staff Writer

PALISADES PARK As Christmas Day moves ever closer, the tussle over nativity scenes that held a place of prominence in Palisades Park for nearly 60 years continues to grow in fervor and national interest, causing city officials to weigh the possibility of altering the lottery system used to select who gets to put up displays.

How that system evolves is the focus of much interest on both sides of the aisle, with Christians hoping to secure a permanent display in the park and atheists aiming to shut down the tradition altogether.

The council made changes to the system two years ago when competition for the spots first arose, and then again when the 13 applications appeared this year, said Mayor Richard Bloom.

"I think it's fair to say that, in retrospect, we could have done a better job," Bloom said. "Frankly, I don't know how that will make everybody happy."

The struggle began in early 2011 when City Hall held a lottery to determine who would have access to the 21 slots spread across two blocks of Palisades Park.

The lottery system was chosen to keep it fair, ensuring that City Hall could not exercise any preference, said City Attorney Marsha Moutrie.

Two applications filed by atheists included requests for a maximum of nine spaces each. The atheists won the lottery, leaving one space for Chabad Santa Monica, which traditionally puts up a menorah, and two spaces for a coalition group of Christian churches.

For the last 57 years, those churches have erected a 14-piece display in Palisades Park.

Proponents of the scenes formed the Save Our Nativity Scenes campaign, which kicked off on Sunday, Dec. 4 with an electric-light vigil and a petition asking the City Council to reinstate the decades-old tradition.

That petition has garnered hundreds of signatures, wrote Hunter Jameson, spokesman for the coalition, in an e-mail.

In addition to the signatures, comments have flooded in expressing their support of the displays, or recounting fond Christmas memories that included them, Jameson wrote.

"Many voice frustration that only three of the scenes are up in Palisades Park this year," Jameson wrote. "I would say they are displeased that this unique Santa Monica tradition has been reduced to a shadow of

SEE SCENES PAGE 8


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# What's Up Westside

## OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

### 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**
M.i.'s Westside Comedy Theater
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.

### Friday, Dec. 23, 2011

**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.

**Take a picture**
Roberts Art Gallery
601 Pico Blvd., 8:15 p.m. — 3:15 p.m.
Now open, take a shot at Santa Monica High School's first annual ROP Photography Exhibit, featuring work by students from the Samohi art program. Prints are available for sale. Exhibit open weekdays, through Dec. 30, or through Jan. 7 by appointment. Cost: free. For more information, call (310) 395-3204, ext. 71446 or e-mail abarnes@smmusd.org.

**Ice skating in the sunshine**
ICE at Santa Monica
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Skate in the sunshine at this outdoor ice skating rink. It's not often that you can skate just blocks from the beach. For more information, call (310) 393-8355.

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

CITY HALL

### Rosie's Girls honored

City Hall's Rosie's Girls, an extra-curricular program designed to build young girls' self esteem through exposure to non-traditional trades, is the recipient of the League of California Cities' 2011 Helen Putnam Award for Excellence for engaging youth in city government.

"Our program takes the original Rosie's Girls model one step further by transforming participants' very hometown into a classroom," said Julie Rusk, Santa Monica Human Services Division manager and co-founder of Rosie's Girls Santa Monica. "Learning about a city from the inside out creates an extraordinary opportunity to connect girls with their community... all while having lots of fun."

Through unique components, such as mock City Council meetings and working as youth liaisons for the city's Commission on the Status of Women, girls 11 to 13 years of age get the opportunity to grow as leaders and create a stronger community through increased community service and advocacy, Rusk said.

Each year, approximately 80 middle schoolers don hard hats and jumpsuits and head into the trade shops at the City Yards to learn how to operate saws, drills, welding torches and other tools of the trades.

Rosie's Girls will be offered in the spring, April 9-13, and summer, June 25-July 13 and July 23-August 10. Financial assistance is available to those families that qualify, and payment plans are offered upon request.

For more details, visit www.rosiesgirls.smgov.net.

KEVIN HERRERA

# Winds blowing back into SoCal

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

LOS ANGELES Powerful and possibly damaging Santa Ana winds are predicted for Southern California, even as piles of tree debris from last month's windstorm await cleanup in some communities.

The National Weather Service said Wednesday that north to northeast winds would kick up today and continue through early Friday as a high pressure system builds over the Great Basin.

The notorious Santa Anas form when cold, dry air sinking over the western interior flows toward California, speeding up as it squeezes down through mountain passes and canyons in a rush toward the coast.

Sustained winds will range from 25 to 40 mph, with gusts to 60 mph, forecasters said. High-winds were expected in the mountain ranges of the Los Angeles region, the inland counties to the east, and south to San Diego County.

The weather service said the winds will make travel hazardous for big-rigs and high-profile vehicles such as motor homes. The winds and low humidity will also increase the danger of wildfires.

Gale-force winds were predicted for the inner coastal waters, while freezes were possible along parts of the Central Coast and in the San Joaquin Valley, forecasters said.

During a Nov. 30 windstorm that spawned gusts approaching 100 mph, trees were toppled, power poles and traffic light standards snapped, homes and cars damaged, and electricity cut to nearly 650,000 homes and business.

The major damage occurred east of Los Angeles in cities below the San Gabriel Mountains. No injuries were reported amid the blizzard of flying debris, but some homes lost power for a week, triggering complaints against utilities.

Southern California Edison, which was criticized by some customers for not providing information on when power would be restored, said in a press release that it would post any information on outages from the new round of winds on Twitter and Facebook as well as its website.

Hard-hit Pasadena's Water and Power department urged residents to prepare for future emergencies.

The city said temporary repairs made after last month's wind will be followed by permanent fixes over the next few months. For safety reasons that work may cause intermittent outages.

In one week after the windstorm, a year's worth of green debris, 18,000 tons, was collected, according to the city.



Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

BOOM: **Samohi's Sarah Krenik (right) makes a play against Torrance this season.**

**HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL**

# Samohi's season capped by awards

**BY DANIEL ARCHULETA**
Managing Editor

SAMOHI The Santa Monica Vikings' run to the semifinals of the CIF-Southern Section Division 3AA girls' volleyball playoffs must have impressed people in high places.

A pair of Vikings were named to the All-CIF-SS Division 3AA team after finishing the season 21-6 overall and 8-0 in the Ocean League. Freshman setter Blossom Sato and senior outside hitter Sarah Krenik were placed on the first team, it was announced late last week.

"Isn't that cool," Head Coach Liane Sato said. "I'm pretty stoked to get two on."

The honors didn't stop on the CIF-SS level.

Vikings dominated the All-Ocean League team. Sato was named Most Valuable Player while Krenik was tabbed Most Outstanding Player.

Joining them on the Ocean League team are a total of seven teammates.

The first team includes: junior outside hitter Jordan Levy; senior libero Dana Ritchie; senior middle blocker Abby Southam; junior opposite hitter Avalon Lennon; and junior middle blocker Joslyn Hayes.

The second team featured junior middle blocker Greta Schmittdiel and junior libero Samantha Moore.

With four of the selections underclassmen, Coach Sato is looking to 2012 as another strong campaign for her Vikings.

"We have a nice group coming back on varsity," she said. "They know what it takes to advance in the playoffs."

Blossom Sato's selection is somewhat surprising considering that the freshman has never played competitive volleyball. Her blood lines are strong, though, with mother Liane a former member of the U.S. Olympic team.

"It was really fun," Coach Sato said of the pair's first season together. "She really had the support of the other varsity players."

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

### Nativity displays unworthy

**Editor:**

To all members of the Santa Monica City Council,

I want to thank you for the work you do, even though I don't agree with the outcome of every vote you take. Not one of you represents all of my interests. That, however, is the price I gladly pay for democracy.

Now to the issue of the nativity scenes.

If the council chooses to get involved in the controversial issues concerning the nativity/non-nativity scenes in Palisades Park, I want to make the following points:

Palisades Park is public land and City Attorney Marsha Moutrie has already stated that we are dealing with First Amendment requirements. I favor the concept of fulfilling First Amendment requirements and not being swayed by "tradition" or faith or non-faith.

We need to remain rational and remember that each exhibit in Palisades Park is nothing but a marketing tool in the market of ideas financed by those who wish to sell those ideas.

And by the way, every exhibit I looked at this week and in the past 30 years has been repulsive to me from a strictly aesthetic point of view and actually unworthy of Santa Monica, "creative capital of the world."

**Ursula Fox**
Santa Monica

### Questioning Roosevelt

**Editor:**

As I walk and drive by Roosevelt Elementary School here in Santa Monica, I wonder what students learn about Teddy Roosevelt.

"I don't go so far as to think that the only good Indians are dead Indians," he wrote in "The Winning of the West," "but I believe nine out of 10 are, and I shouldn't like to inquire too closely into the case of the 10th."

Do students learn about his racist views toward Indians, Filipinos and Cubans, among others? Do they learn that he was a vigorous exponent of ethnic cleansing? And if not, why not?

What message is conveyed to young people when their home of learning is named for a racist and war lover? A discussion of this issue should be part of students' civic education. Is it?

**John Marciano**
Santa Monica

### Atheists play the spoilers

**Editor:**

I am ashamed of the Santa Monica administration for allowing two individuals to usurp 18 of 21 available spaces set aside to celebrate the Christmas and Chanukah season.

In the first place, how is it that two out of 13 applicants can control so many of the spaces? In the second place, if they are atheists, why are they so obsessed with obstructing and ruining other people's beliefs and celebrations? And finally, and worst of all, only two displays have gone up in the 18 spaces taken by the two atheists. Is their idea of freedom of speech to deny it to others?

**Dan Stirling**
Malibu




## Your column here



**Gerrit Westerveld** — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

# Early childhood learning: states leading the way

DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS DON'T agree on much these days. But there is one thing on which they do see eye to eye: the value of early childhood education.

Once an afterthought of America's education system, early learning now is front and center as educators, governors and legislators grapple with ways to better prepare children for a lifetime of success.

The Obama administration just announced that nine states — California, Delaware, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island and Washington — will receive grants under the federal Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge, a $500-million project intended to jump-start programs that educate our youngest learners. These states are led by Republican, Democratic and Independent governors.

In fact, more than two-thirds of the nation's governors — 17 Republicans and 18 Democrats — applied for federal money to develop early learning programs. They represented states large and small and scattered throughout every region of the country, from Maine to Hawaii, Washington to Florida.

While only a handful of states won grants, one thing is clear: There is a strong, bipartisan, national movement to establish and improve early childhood education. And it's not going away.

Just look at what this competition already accomplished. The 35 states (plus Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia) that applied for grants first had to examine their own approaches to early childhood education and make sure they had policies in place to improve quality, build connections and support children and families. That work alone increased awareness of and appreciation for the importance of early learning and gave new momentum to the issue within state capitols.

Leaders in all those states and more now realize that we must start long before kindergarten to give children the tools they need to flourish during their school years and throughout their lives. This is exactly what funders, advocates, practitioners and experts intended when they began to lay the groundwork for change more than a decade ago.

States have been leading the way. The BUILD Initiative, created by philanthropies through the Early Childhood Funders Collaborative, has worked with nine states — Arizona, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Washington — to develop early learning systems that support the National Education Goal that "all children start school ready to learn." These states have been pioneers in creating a comprehensive approach to early childhood policies that respond to child health, nutrition, mental health, family support, and early care and education needs for young children and their families.

Even the states that did not win grants are making progress. They now have detailed plans on how to improve early learning opportunities and the support of a burgeoning movement that includes parents, philanthropists, business leaders and high-ranking government officials. It is a movement led by states and fueled by private-sector energy and philanthropic resources — historically a potent combination for bringing about social change.

The movement also will grow because states will learn from each other. The BUILD Initiative and the First Five Years Fund, leaders in strengthening the connection between early childhood and the K-12 community, have formed the Early Learning Challenge Collaborative to tap into this collective expertise from the states. The collaborative will continue to share with all states the best thinking for improving the quality and effectiveness of early learning programs.

Education in general and early learning in particular is one of the smartest investments America can make, not only for our children, but for our country's economic well-being. Success in the workplace begins with success in the early grades.

State leaders understand that, and have taken steps to give children a strong start by educating them from the moment they are born.

Research by Nobel Laureate economist James Heckman bears out the impact of early learning on the economy. He found that investing in early childhood education closes the achievement gap, reduces the need for special education, increases the likelihood of healthier lifestyles, lowers the crime rate, and reduces overall social costs. Heckman estimates that for every dollar invested in early childhood education, there is a 10 percent per year return on investment.

For the last decade, the nine BUILD states and others have developed early learning systems that put Heckman's theory into action. These states have worked to improve early childhood education because they know that children are born learning, and that nurturing their early development and the ability of their families to support them strengthens their chances for long-term success.

Isn't that what we all want for our children?

**GERRIT WESTERVELT** is executive director of the BUILD Initiative, a national project created by the Early Childhood Funders Collaborative to help states improve and align policies and services for young children.

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CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

The Santa Monica Daily Press is published six days a week, Monday through Saturday.

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2011. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West LA. Members of CNPA, AFCP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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# Life Matters

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

# Career resolutions for the new year

AS 2011 COMES TO AN END, THIS IS A great time to reflect on your successes and evaluate your professional and career goals. Oftentimes we end up being so busy during the year that we move from one project to the next without truly taking time to acknowledge all that we have done. However, it is important that you take time to identify your accomplishments and determine where you hope to go in the year ahead.

Start by listing some of the things you accomplished this year. You may find it helpful to review your computer for documents, reports, and e-mails from clients and superiors. Consider creating a portfolio to track and manage your success. Analyze your experiences and focus on identifying five to 10 accomplishments you are really proud of. Reflecting on your personal and career successes can help supply the motivation you need to continue your success throughout 2012.

Then take time to identify what you hope to accomplish in the coming year. While it is easy to think of big, longer-term goals, starting off with something small and attainable will allow you to achieve success. Write down your goals and keep the list in a place where you will frequently see it. Having a constant reminder of your goals will help to make it a top priority in your daily work.

This is also a great time to update your resume. Even if you are not actively seeking a new position it is always wise to have your resume updated and ready to share. Focus on your accomplishments and the skills you have demonstrated rather than a simple listing of your job duties. Use the success list you created to get started.

While it can be easy to get caught up in the day-to-day of your job, make sure to dedicate time to keeping abreast of changes in your field and current events. Consider subscribing to online news feeds or setting your favorite news or industry site as your home page. Simple steps can help you stay on top of new information.

Continue to spend time nurturing and building your professional network. Send out a holiday or New Year's greeting card as a natural way to stay in touch. Commit to having lunch with someone new each month or joining a business-networking group in your community. Focusing your energy on supporting and building your network as a foundation for success in the coming year.

**WHILE IT IS EASY TO THINK OF BIG, LONGER-TERM GOALS, STARTING OFF WITH SOMETHING SMALL AND ATTAINABLE WILL ALLOW YOU TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS.**

Take time for you. The most successful professionals are able to find ways to create balance between work and home. The better you take care of yourself the better you will be able to perform at work and at home. It is crucial to take time for things you truly enjoy. If there is a slow time during the year, plan now for a short vacation or trip. Taking care of yourself is the key to attaining success.

No matter what you resolve to work on, find someone who will support your goals. If you do not already have a trusted adviser, you may want to consider finding an experienced professional to provide you with the guidance and motivation necessary to make 2012 your year of career success.

Best wishes for a successful New Year!

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

## 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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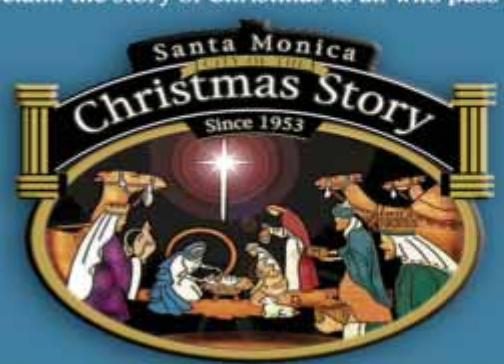
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## D.U.I. Do's & Don'ts

With a slumping economy, ensuing global conflicts and our own personal dilemmas, a few drinks come as a welcome respite for many. But before you have that extra glass of wine at dinner, make sure you are aware of some new laws and issues that may drastically affect your driving privileges. California has some of the toughest DUI laws in the country, and while no one plans to get arrested for DUI, here are 5 helpful tips to remember if you find yourself at the wrong end of a DUI checkpoint this year.

**1) Submit To FSTS:** When arrested for DUI many people look for a quick and easy way out of it such as refusing to submit the officer's tests. Well, truth be told, this doesn't really work. Refusing to submit to field sobriety tests (FSTS) will almost always earn a year suspension from the DMV regardless what happens with your court case. Refusing to submit to FSTS might weaken the State's evidence against you, but is it worth risking an automatic one year suspension? This includes submitting a breathalyzer test at the scene of the arrest (called a PAS test). A PAS test might not even be admissible in the criminal case, but if you are below a .08 it will save you a ton of hassle…and probably earn a get out of jail free card. Submit to testing and let a skilled lawyer take it from there. Even if the test results appear "bad," by hiring the right attorney there are many legal arguments and challenges that can be made to the manner in which the tests were administered, your statements, and the results of the tests.

**2) Request A Hearing:** if arrested for DUI you will receive a temporary driver's license that is good for 30 days before your license is suspended. However, you have the right to request an administrative hearing with the DMV in order to challenge the suspension. This hearing might also yield valuable testimony from the arresting officers that could help you later on when fighting your case in court. Administrative hearings are conducted either in person or telephonically, are far less formal than a court proceeding, and have a lower evidentiary standard of proof required to sustain a suspension. Administrative hearings must be requested within 10 days of arrest, so make sure to act fast if you are arrested. A trained experienced lawyer is also advantageous in order to help navigate through the complexities of the DMV.

**3) Know The Penalties:** In most Los Angeles County courtrooms a "standard" first time DUI conviction carries with it a $390 fine, 3 month alcohol program, 3 year probation, and mandatory installation of an ignition interlock device (a new 2010 law that L.A. County D.A.'s and C.A.'s are widely enforcing). Typically, prosecutors will not seek jail confinement on a 1st time conviction. In addition to the fines, the court will add on various penalty assessments and fees that could raise your final bill to upwards of $1,750. Depending on the circumstances of your case (under 21, high blood alcohol, refusal) the court could also order you to complete community service, caltrans work, attend AA meetings, and complete a MADD or hospital/morgue program. A first time DUI conviction is priorable, meaning it will be used to enhance punishment on any subsequent DUI in a 10 year period. A second time DUI begets similar punishment with heightened fines and a mandatory minimum of 96 hours (4 days) in jail. Of course, all of these penalties and punishments are subject to change based on varying circumstances, and it should be noted that there are additional restrictions that the DMV can enforce on top of all the court required punishments.

**4) Be Polite & Courteous:** No matter what crime you are arrested for, be it for DUI or some other offense, dealing with police officers in a calm, respectful, and appropriate manner is always the best approach and will reward you in the end. Officers will note your behavior in their reports, and any belligerent outburst or tirade will likely be used against you as a sign of intoxication and could also earn you additional charges. Of course the opposite is also true meaning if you are calm and collected it could be used as a sign of non-impairment. Even if you didn't do anything wrong always remember that you attract more bees with honey!

**5) Don't Drive!:** The easiest tip of all...drink to your heart's content and enjoy the holidays, and when you're done take a cab, ride a bus, or call a friend...just don't drive!

THIS COLUMN WAS PREPARED BY JACOB GLUCKSMAN, A CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY. HE CAN BE REACHED THROUGH THE LEGAL GRIND AT 310-452-8160 OR REFERRAL@LEGALGRIND.COM

Disclaimer: this article does not constitute legal advice and does not create an attorney client relationship.

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| 5:00–6:00pm | (1st & 3rd Monday/Month) Small Business-startups, Non-profit law, Green & Sustainable Business Practices, Corporations, Contract Drafting, Business Litigation and Employment Law with Attorney Becki Kammerling |
| 5:00–6:00pm | (1st & 3rd Monday/Month) Tenant Rights, Auto accidents, Products Liability, Insurance & Business Disputes, Personal Injury & Small Claims with Attorney Mark Palmer |
| **TUESDAY** | |
| 9:00-12:00noon | Patent, Trademark and Copyright Law with Attorney Marcus Risso (By appointment only) |
| 1:00-4:00pm | Employment Law: Wrongful Termination, Sexual harassment, Disability Accommodation, Leave Law, Discrimination, Retaliation, Whistle Blower, Wage & Hour disputes with Attorney Sara Eliot |
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| 12:00-2:00pm | Immigration and Family Law with Attorney Galorah Keshavarz (By appointment Only) |
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Photo courtesy Google Images

AT HOME: **African elephants in the area surrounding Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania.**

# They'll take your breath away

**BY HELEN ARIO**

Special to the Daily Press

I loved the safari, enjoyed meeting the Masai and had the most amazing time exploring Kenya. Now for a different kind of adventure. I decided to go to Mount Kilimanjaro. If climbing Kilimanjaro has been on your wish list, I discovered it was one of the easiest things to organize.

Two options to get to the climb, catch a short flight from Nairobi, Kenya or a shuttle bus, which takes five hours and drops you off at Moshi, Tanzania. Arriving, in the city of Moshi you will find quite a few hotels that are filled with people that have just started the climb or about to start the climb. The excitement of being in the mountains and the suntanned faces of those returning from the climb to the summit are everywhere. Hotels vary from reasonable to backpackers' delights. If you choose the Impala Hotel it is quiet and nice and very affordable with prices less than $125 per night.

If you want to start from the base of the mountain I suggest visiting www.maranguhotel.com. The Marangu Hotel is owned by Fie and she will outfit you from top to bottom and organize the complete climb. Just show up at her front door and she will make sure you are climbing the next day. She is pretty amazing.

There are different climbs to attempt, and they can take five days or seven days. There are also beautiful national parks that make for a great safari. While at Arusha National Park, I did see the white monkeys. If you love coffee I have to say some of the best coffee I have had in years was the Kilimanjaro brand. Also a funny story, I met the vice president of Starbucks at the Impala. What can I say, was he looking for coffee beans.

After climbing Kilimanjaro, I decided to visit the city of Zanzibar, Tanzania. As you land in Zanzibar you see the white sandy beaches, the port with many ships and the city made of coral and limestone. It's a magical oasis of cobblestone roads, beautiful courtyards, exotic small restaurants, ornate balconies, Arab-style houses with buildings of Indian influence and lively street-side vending stalls.

Visit the House of Wonders, the Palace Museum, Old Fort (built in the 1700s), the slave market, and the old Persian baths. I suggest a few days in Stone Town staying at the Zanzibar Grand Palace Hotel. The hotel and its staff are the most thoughtful, and if any problem occurs they will stand by you in any situation. The price at this hotel is approximately $125 per night.

For those who want the lavish lux experience, the Serena Hotel, around $300 per night, has the most spectacular views. For high rollers, visit Mnemba Island Lodge, which runs around $1,250 per night per person. A private oasis, it's a short boat ride away. In Stone Town, enjoy the shopping and stop and have drinks at the Mercury Restaurant.

After a few days of shopping and sightseeing, I suggest renting a car from Omar, info@zansds.com. His prices, at less than $40 per day, are very reasonable. Take the car on a drive around the island. On one side of the island you can go swimming with the dolphins. Go to the Seaviewlodgezanzibar.com and ask for Mohamed; he manages four cottages right on the edge of the water. The rooms here are less than $40 per night.

Or go north to Nungwi, much more crowded but the bigger hotels will be located there and very popular with all the tourists. The diving is great as the water is turquoise and clear, while the sand is white and beautiful. There are many hotels but the problem will be they are not on the best of roads. Expect a bumpy ride on your way to paradise.

The food is amazing, if you like fresh fish. For cocktails, I suggest anything made with fresh passion fruit. The people traveling here are often English, Irish, Germany or Italians. Everywhere I went I met friendly people and the opportunity to strike up a conversation with everyone was easy and fun. I enjoyed Zanzibar but felt it was time for another adventure.

I made my choice based on time. I realized, I had to start my return to Nairobi and therefore, headed for Mombasa. Mombasa has the beautiful Tamarind Village Hotel with majestic views of the Indian Ocean. The rooms are gorgeous as well as enormous. It feels like a home rather than a hotel room with balconies facing the sea. I had a kitchen, living room and dining room. The hotel also has a casino and a dhow that can take you out for a night of dining and sailing.

Take a taxi into the city and explore old town, the harbor and Fort Jesus, a Portuguese fortress built in 1593. The city is beautiful, and I wished I could have stayed longer, but it was time to catch the train from Mombasa to Nairobi. The train does not run everyday and I would say you will need to give yourself a buffer to make sure you don't miss your connection, but it is something to enjoy a train ride through Africa. The trip is almost finished but the last day of travel can be relaxing and fun. Spend some time in the dining car and take the sleeping compartment back to Nairobi.

It's time to leave Africa, but you know you will return as three weeks is just not enough to see all that this place has to offer.

**HELEN** spent years traveling across the world as an importer, selling clothes, fabrics and jewelry. To learn more about Helen's trip, contact her at eleniario@yahoo.com.

# HOME ENTERTAINMENT REVIEWS



BY RANDY WILLIAMS
Special to the Daily Press

## DVDs

### 'Limitless' (Unrated Extended Cut)

Bradley Cooper stars as Eddie Morra, a burnt-out writer, who comes into a top-secret pill that taps into 100 percent of his brain's abilities. The ensuing display of mind-bending talents and brilliant visions bring him a dream life until the pill's side effects kick in. This version includes: the theatrical feature, an unrated extended cut, audio commentary with director Neil Burger and an alternate ending. (Fox)

### 'The Help'

This inspirational ensemble hit, based on the well-known novel by Kathryn Stockett, is the story of three very different women in the early-1960s South who build an unlikely friendship around a secret writing project that goes against society's norms. The two-disc Blu-ray/DVD combo includes a making-of segment, deleted scenes and a Mary Blige music video. (Disney)

### 'The Hangover Part II'

(Blu-ray/DVD Combo + UltraViolet Digital Copy)
Same problem, different country. This follow up from the original hit, sees Stu (Ed Helms) marrying a Thai-American woman (Jamie Chung) with the entire wedding party flying to Thailand for the ceremony. Bonus materials include: Instant Streaming with UltraViolet Digital Copy, "Comedy Rhythm of Todd Phillips," "Not Your Everyday Monkey," "Bangkok Tour with Mr. Chow," action mash-up and a gag reel. (Warner Bros)

### 'Warrior'

Tom Hardy stars as an ex-Marine haunted by a tragic past who returns to his hometown of Pittsburgh and enlists his father, a recovered alcoholic and his former coach (Nick Nolte), to train him for an MMA tournament awarding the biggest purse in the history of the sport. As the young man blazes a violent path toward the title prize, his brother, Brendan (Joel Edgerton), a former MMA fighter unable to make ends meet as a public school teacher, returns to the amateur ring to provide for his family. (Lionsgate)

### 'The Smurfs' Blu-ray 3-D

Chased out of their village by the evil wizard Gargamel, the little blue Smurfs find themselves out of their world and right in the Big Apple's Central Park. The challenge to get back home before the nasty wizard tracks them down is on. Lots of extras including Smurf-O-Vision where viewers can interact with the Smurfs on TV's, iPads and iPhones. (Sony)

## CDs

### Lady Gaga - 'Born This Way' - The Collection, Deluxe Edition

Well-known for her outrageous sense of style as a recording artist, in fashion, in performance and in her music videos, the five-time Grammy winner, offers here a 14-track collection of remixes and a DVD containing the 130 minute concert video – "Lady Gaga Presents The Monster Ball at Madison Square Garden." "Born This Way" has over 8 million copies worldwide. (Universal Import)

### 'King of Cool - The Best of The Dean Martin Variety Show'

This highly rated variety show that ran for nearly 10 years starting in the mid-'60s, combined music and comedy like no other. Among those joining the popular crooner are Louis Armstrong, Bill Cosby, William Holden, Petula Clark, Redd Foxx and Don Rickles. (Time Life)

### 'Neil Diamond: The Very Best - Original Recordings'

Nearly two dozen of one of America's most gifted singer/songwriter's best tunes are tightly packaged in this single-disc collection. "I Am I Said," "Holly Holy," "Kentucky Woman" – this title is a definitive studio-only hits collection. This is indeed, beautiful noise. (Columbia)

### 'Neville Marriner - Baroque Masterpieces'

The veteran conductor of the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields chamber orchestra delivers on some classics by such brilliant composers as Bach, Albinoni, Telemann and Handel. (EMI)

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Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

FLYING HIGH: **Atheist groups applied for and were granted spaces in Palisades Park this year.**

## SCENES
FROM PAGE 1

its former self."

The petition and its backers hope to prove that the display should enjoy some protection as a popular display, and include the Chabad menorah, which has also been erected for many years, in the request.

"We are very glad that Chabad won a place in the lottery in Palisades Park," Jameson wrote. "Its menorah will be right next to our booths. That's fitting."

What's not fitting for Jameson is a group of people with few or no signs taking up space used for the Christian displays.

There's a reason for that, said Damon Vix, the face of the atheist sign campaign.

The atheist groups had no real desire to set up displays, but wanted to counter the nativity scenes in size and message. The unused spots represent a statement as well, Vix said.

"We wanted them to leave it as a park. It's a better use of the property," Vix said. "What's going on is a spectacle, and it's been a spectacle for 57 years."

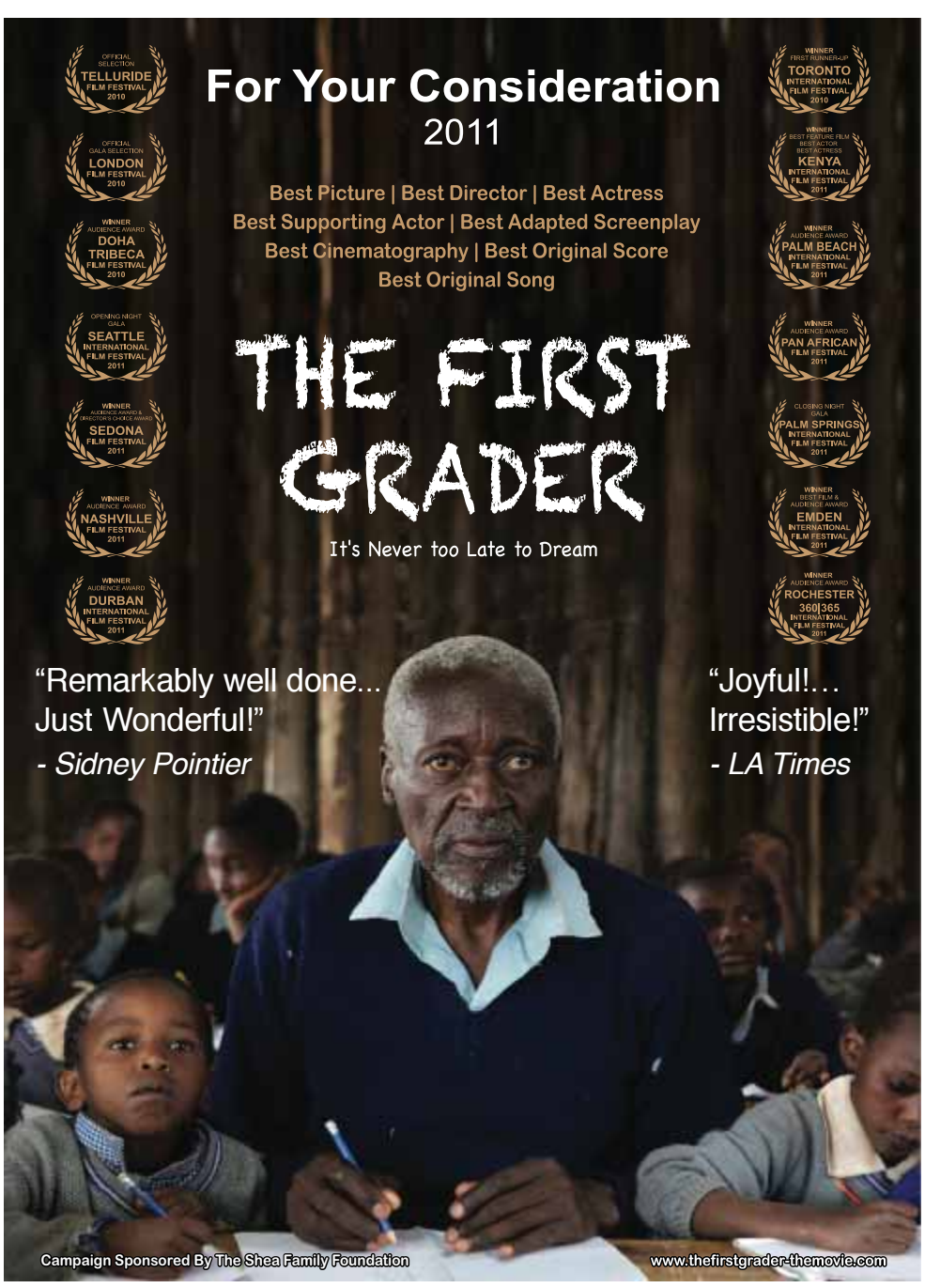
The signs have also drawn ire for their appearance, which aren't as elaborate as the 14 nativity displays.

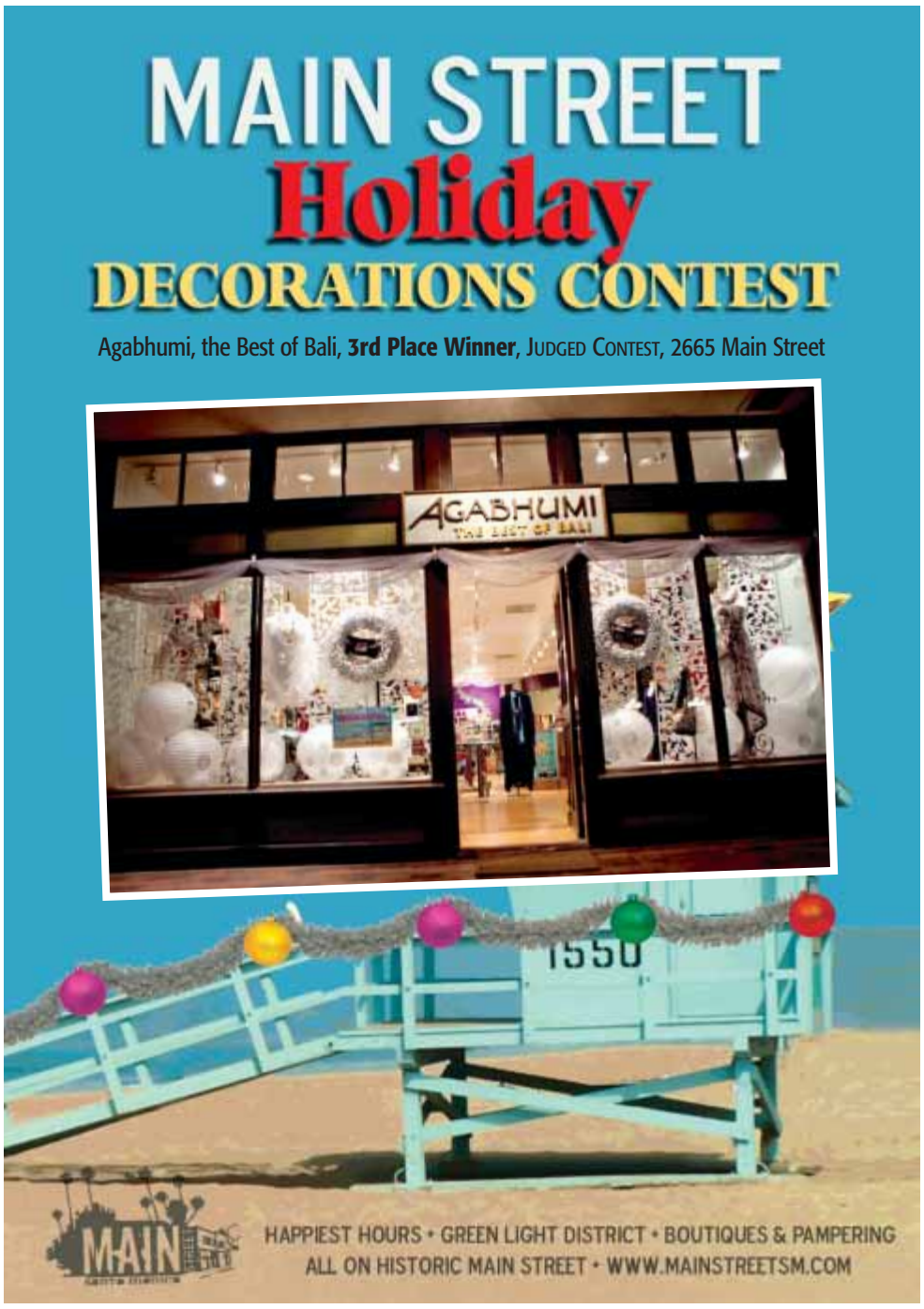
While the first one, a sign with a quote by founding father Thomas Jefferson bashing religion was meant to be unattractive — "It's a cage-like structure and I purposefully made it ugly because I think the nativity scenes are ugly," Vix said — the remaining signs were a practical matter.

"The city didn't buy or create a bunch for displays with props and wardrobe, signage and electricity," Vix said. "We had to do this all on our own. It cost a couple $1,000 of my own money."

Ultimately, Vix and his fellows hope that the displays will be shut down completely and end what he sees as an unconstitutional support of religion by local government.

ashley@smdp.com









## PLANNING
FROM PAGE 1

cerns about the treatment of residents during the construction of the second story, but were assured that those items were covered under rent control law.

"I'm really happy about how everything went," Kuhn said.

The change has been several months in the making. Kuhn decided in July that she wanted to expand her 800-square-foot apartment so that she could continue to live there when she established a family.

When she went to City Hall to get permission, she was denied.

Size, in this case, wasn't the problem.

The proposed second story on Kuhn's personal unit was well under the maximum square feet allowed for a single-family home in her north of Montana Avenue district.

However, Kuhn's multi-residential complex was a legacy of a different time, before the area had been zoned exclusively for single-family homes. As a result, her building was a "legal non-conforming" use, meaning that she could not do major improvements on it without turning it into a single-family home.

To do so would mean taking all four rent-controlled units off of the rental market, demolishing them and kicking out the existing tenants.

Kuhn and land use attorney Chris Harding approached the Planning Commission in October to dispute the ruling, arguing that staff had incorrectly interpreted the zoning code, and that under their interpretation, the expansion could be permitted.

Alternatively, they could file for a text amendment, but the cost was prohibitive: $10,000 to $15,000 just to ask the staff to look at it.

The Planning Commission didn't choose between the two methods — they used both, filing for a text amendment and requesting the staff interpretation of the code.

Last Wednesday, it was the text amendment that was approved, to the relief of Commissioner Ted Winterer, who had voted against requesting the interpretation.

"I was concerned that the hearing on her particular issue was problematic," Winterer said. "… I was sympathetic to her cause for a variety of reasons, but thought there was a better way to change the law."

Having seen City Hall craft a text amendment that would allow electric cars on the Third Street Promenade, Winterer felt it would be a fast, clean way to resolve the solution.

The Planning Commission voted to approve the amendment unanimously.

Kuhn was thrilled.

"Someone is just trying to live their life and then are trapped in a weird code preventing you from getting on with your life," she said. "Now everybody's on board."

She hopes that the demonstration of City Hall's willingness to work with landlords will convince others to take a more active role in their apartment buildings, possibly increasing the live-in landlord population in the city.

Kuhn has already hired an architect and will begin moving through the permit process to design and build the new floor.

"I still have to jump through a lot of hoops, this isn't a done deal. There are a lot of approvals that have to happen," she said. "It'll take a long time, but I'm OK with that."

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## SUSPECT
FROM PAGE 1

Police said the suspect walked up to the buyback vendor around 1 p.m. and demanded money. He allegedly showed a silver semi-automatic handgun that he had in his backpack. The vendor, who did not work for Santa Monica College, immediately complied and the suspect ran northbound to Pico Boulevard, police said.

The suspect is described as a white male in his late 20s or early 30s, around 5-feet, 11-inches tall and weighing 180 pounds. He was wearing a charcoal-gray hooded sweatshirt, dark color jeans, black baseball cap and aviator-style sunglasses. The backpack he was carrying was black.

No injuries were reported.

The Santa Monica Police Department is investigating and anyone with information is urged to contact detectives at (310) 458-8941. Those with information can provide an anonymous tip by calling (310) 434-UTIP (8847).

If confronted during a robbery attempt, the SMC Police Department would like to remind people to:

• Comply with the robber's demands (your property is not worth your life);

• Obtain a detailed description (what stands out?);

• Contact SMC police — (310) 434-4300 or the SMPD — 911 — once out of harm's way.

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# Oracle miss drags down tech stocks

JOSHUA FREED
AP Business Writer

Technology stocks fell Wednesday, dragged down by a weak earnings report from the business software maker Oracle Corp.

Broad market indexes were flat. The Dow Jones industrial average eked out a gain of 4 points after having been down 104 points at midday.

Technology stocks in the Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 2 percent. Oracle plunged 12 percent after the business software company said it was struggling to close deals.

The rare earnings miss by Oracle seemed to reinforce worries that businesses and the government may cut back on technology spending. Especially worrying was a weak 2 percent gain in new software licenses, a key sign of demand from other businesses. Oracle had predicted gains of as much as 16 percent.

Those worries hurt other big technology companies. IBM Corp. was by far the biggest loser in the Dow, falling 3.1 percent to $181.47. A bright spot was the BlackBerry maker Research In Motion Ltd., which jumped 10 percent to $13.78 on rumors that it might be a takeover target.

Investors also had more to worry about from Europe. New data showed extensive lending from the European Central Bank to European banks. The initial reaction to the $639 billion in lending by the ECB was positive, but then worry set in that Europe's banks needed so much help in the first place.

"Long-term, people were a little bit concerned that banks needed more money than we thought they did," said Joe Bell, a senior equity analyst with Schaeffer's Investment Research.

The Dow edged up 4.16 points, less than 0.1 percent, to close at 12,107.74. On Tuesday the Dow jumped 337 — its biggest gain this month — on a strong bond sale in Spain and a surge in new home construction in the U.S.

The Standard & Poor's 500 rose 2.42 points, or 0.2 percent, to 1,243.72. Outside of the 2 percent decline for technology companies, prices rose or were flat in the rest of the S&P 500's 10 sectors.

The Nasdaq composite fell 25.76 points, or 1 percent, to 2,577.97.

Consumer staples rose with help from a 1.7 percent increase by Coca-Cola Co. and a gain of 1.2 percent at Kraft.

Nike Inc. rose 2.9 percent after reporting strong demand and higher prices for its shoes and clothing.

Volume was much lower than usual at 3.5 billion shares, which can make prices more volatile.

Many investors are on the sidelines because they're worried that a recession in Europe would hurt U.S. companies, said Bernie Kavanagh, vice president for portfolio management at Stifel Nicolaus.

"Any hint of positive data, we think you have the potential for a pretty nice rally," either before the end of this year or early in 2012, Kavanagh said.




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**Utility Undergrounding and Excavation Construction-Citywide**
**RFP1002UUC**

The City of Santa Monica is soliciting bids for construction rates related to a multi-phased project with incremental utility undergrounding and excavation for a term of 3 to 5 years. Parties shall submit construction rate Bid Schedule and Cost Proposal for project phase representative of average construction work order per bid instructions. Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, 90401, not later than 2:30 p.m. on January 30, 2012, to be publicly opened and read aloud after 3:00 p.m. on said date in City Hall Council Chambers. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Bids.

**MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK:**
None

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's bidding website Planet Bids at: http://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=15167# . The Contractor is required to have a General "A" and Class C-10 Electrical Contractor license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids. Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.






## SURF REPORT

**Surf Conditions** **Water Temp:** 61°

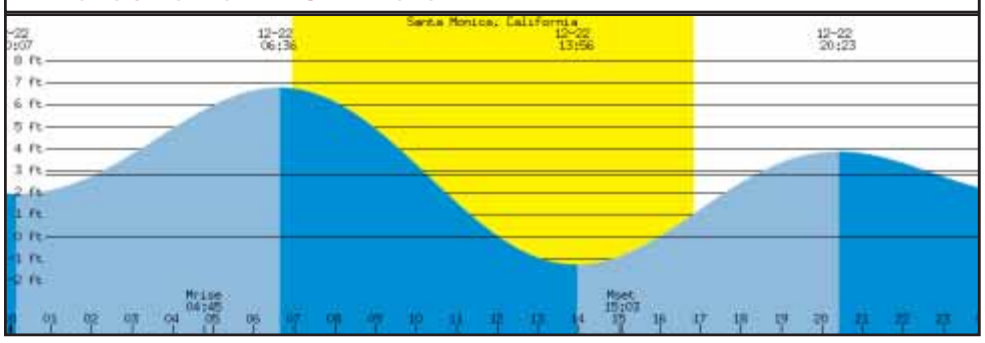
### Swell Forecast

**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 |
|---|---|---|
| Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth. | A | B |
| Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth. | D | A |
| El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisos creeks. | ns | ns |
| Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach. | A+ | A+ |
| Broad Beach at Troncas 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 Ramirez 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 fences. | 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

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

The Beach Report Card is an indication of past water quality and is not a warranty of the current safety of those areas surveyed. Our lawyers are happy.

MLB

# Dodgers' creditors oppose Fox effort to halt sale order

**RANDALL CHASE**
Associated Press

DOVER, Del. Creditors of the Los Angeles Dodgers are joining the team in urging a federal district judge not to halt implementation of a bankruptcy court order authorizing the Dodgers to begin a process for selling television rights to future games.

In a filing Wednesday, the committee said there's no guarantee that a sale of the team without the TV rights will result in Dodgers creditors being paid in full.

The committee noted that the Dodgers face several unreconciled claims, including a lawsuit filed on behalf of a San Francisco Giants fan who is represented on the creditors committee and was critically injured in an assault outside Dodger Stadium on opening day.

Fox is challenging the proposed media rights sale, saying it violates the company's rights under an existing contract with the Dodgers.

AWARDS

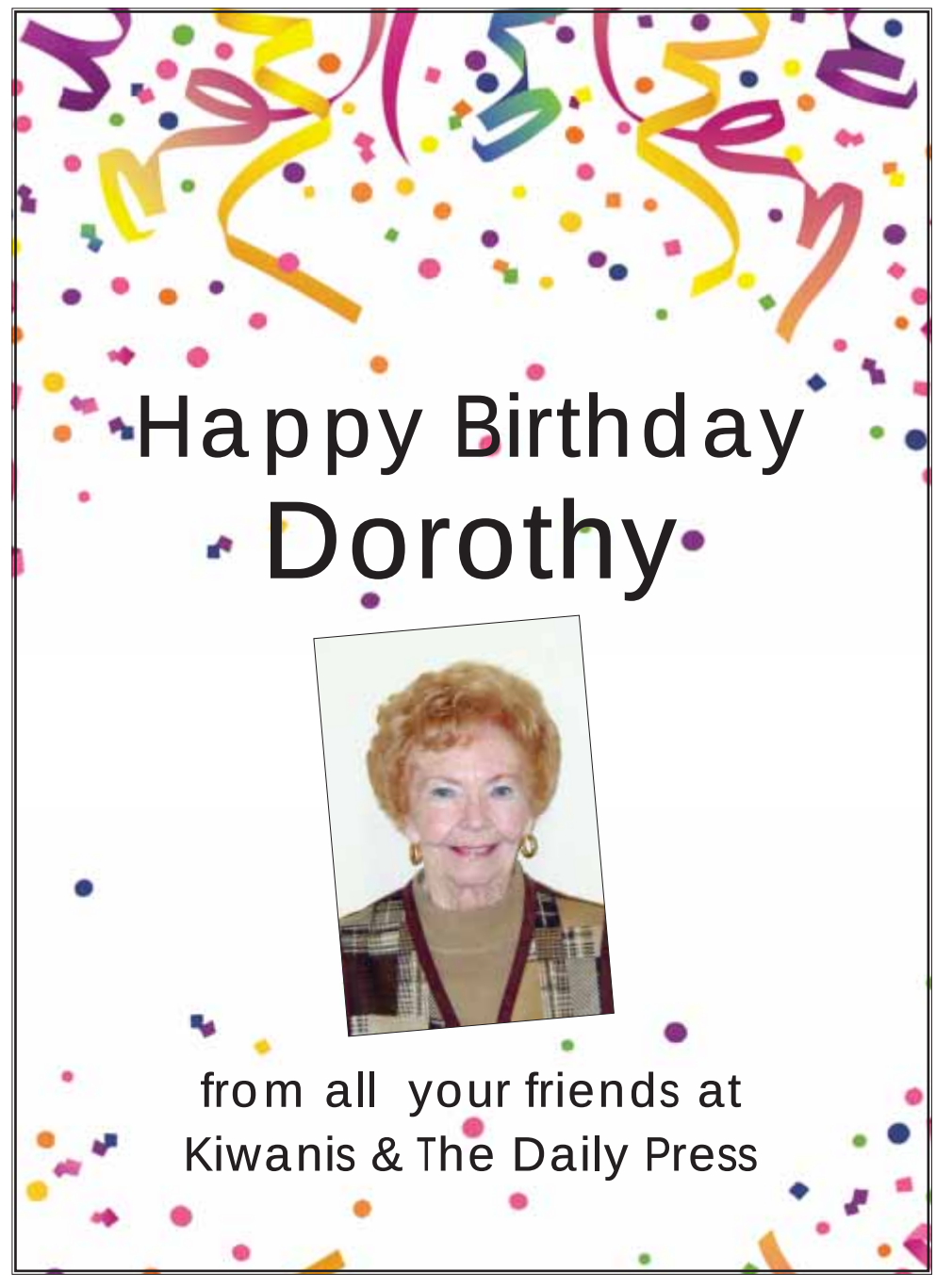
# Rodgers is AP's Male Athlete of Year

**CHRIS JENKINS**
AP Sports Writer

GREEN BAY, Wis. Aaron Rodgers is the 2011 Male Athlete of the Year, chosen by members of The Associated Press, after he turned in an MVP performance in the Green Bay Packers' Super Bowl victory over the Pittsburgh Steelers in February and then went on to lead his team on a long unbeaten run this season.

Rodgers received 112 votes out of the 212 ballots submitted from U.S. news organizations that make up the AP's membership. Detroit Tigers pitcher Justin Verlander finished second with 50 votes, followed by tennis standout Novak Djokovic (21), Carolina Panthers rookie quarterback Cam Newton (6) and NASCAR champion Tony Stewart (5).

Rodgers is one of three quarterbacks to receive the honor in the past five years. The New Orleans Saints' Drew Brees won in 2010 and the New England Patriots' Tom Brady won in 2007.




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# MOVIE TIMES

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

**Elf (PG) 1hr 35min**
**Fitzwilly (NR) 1hr 42min**
7:30pm

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

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

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

**Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) 2hrs 08min**
11:45am, 2:50pm, 6:00pm, 9:15pm

**Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R) 2hrs 40min**
10:50am, 2:35pm, 6:10pm, 9:50pm

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

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

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

**Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) 1hr 27min**
9:50am, 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

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

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

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

**Margin Call (R) 1hr 49min**
5:55pm

**Crazy Wisdom: The Life and Times of Chogyam Trungpa, Rinpoche (NR) 1hr 29min**
3:45pm

**Descendants (R) 1hr 55min**
1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

**Melancholia (R) 2hrs 10min**
12:45pm, 8:30pm

**Dangerous Method (R) 1hr 39min**
1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 9:50pm

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

# Act like a teenager tonight, Leo

## ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ A lot happens quickly, before you can even run interference. The community understands your strong leadership, whereas your personal circle often experiences your kindness. You communicate unusually well with an expert or a distant friend. Tonight: Go caroling.

## TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You have an intense bond with one person who you can count on. Together as a team you accomplish more. An unexpected insight occurs because of this relationship. Your optimistic ways make a big difference. Tonight: Enjoy the one you are with.

## GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Encourage others to express their ideas. The unexpected runs through your plans, especially those involving groups and/or friends. Generally you follow your intellect, yet today your intuition is right-on. Tonight: Plans change rapidly.

## CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Keep a steady pace. Enjoy what is happening. You might need to make a special effort toward a co-worker or someone you care about. Though you cannot change this person's mood, you can make him or her grin more easily. Tonight: Last-minute holiday details.

## LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ You are in the mood for celebration and good times. Others encourage you to go with your whims, as that gives them permission to do the same. The unexpected plays a big role in your plans and decisions. Spontaneity seems like the right path. Tonight: Act like a teenager.

## VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Your mind is on family and hearth. You could be distracted, while at the same time, a friend or loved one at a distance might need attention. Excitement surrounds a child, friend and/or loved one. You are in the holiday mood. Tonight: Head home.

## LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Your words make all the difference to key loved ones. Even co-workers appreciate your ideas and potential. A key person in your life adds to your already good humor. Tonight: Just be available. You don't need to go far.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Be aware of someone's possessive streak. You laugh, and another person relaxes. Someone could act in a surprising manner and throw you off balance. You could find that plans dissolve, but the day takes a potentially more interesting twist. Tonight: Finish off as much as you can.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Put your efforts where they count. You don't always have the kind of control you might like. Today might be an example. Use good sense with spending. Your instincts guide you more than your intellect. You can make an argument for any side. Tonight: Your wishes count.

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ You know what works. The problem is that you might not be up for putting in the effort. You see situations far differently than in the past. A friend proves to be unusually supportive, allowing you to be less uptight. Tonight: Get some extra zzz's if you can.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You probably know a little too much. The trick is to be discreet. A meeting points in the correct path. Use your resilience to move in a new direction. Others naturally support you, especially a roommate or loved one. Tonight: Where your friends are.

## PISCES (Feb.19-March 19)
★★★★ Your sunny manner attracts many people. You do need to be willing to establish boundaries, even if you don't want to. Reach out for others at a distance, making sure you have time for a chat with this person before Christmas. Tonight: Take the lead.

## Happy birthday

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

You might remind others of a cat with nine lives this year. Don't push Lady Luck too far. An element of excitement also runs riot in your next year. Flex, detach and maintain a sense of humor. Stay grounded and realistic. If you are single, you could meet someone very important to your life's history. After this year, look at this tie more seriously. If you are attached, the two of you really care about each other. Domestically, one element could shake up the status quo. SAGITTARIUS makes a great doctor for you! ....

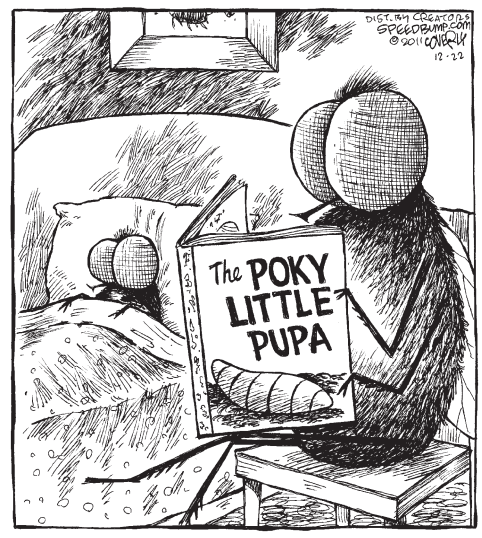


# MYSTERY PHOTO

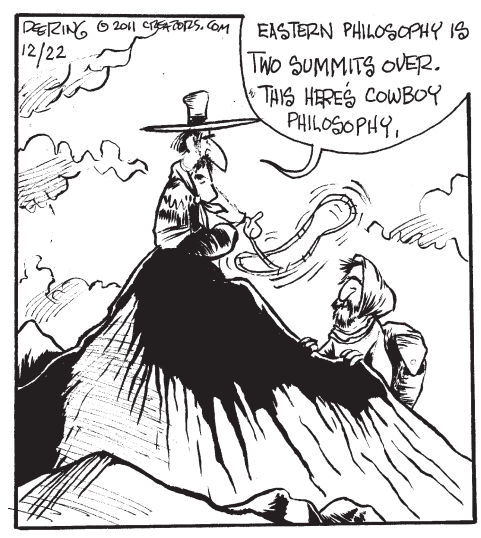
Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

**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.**

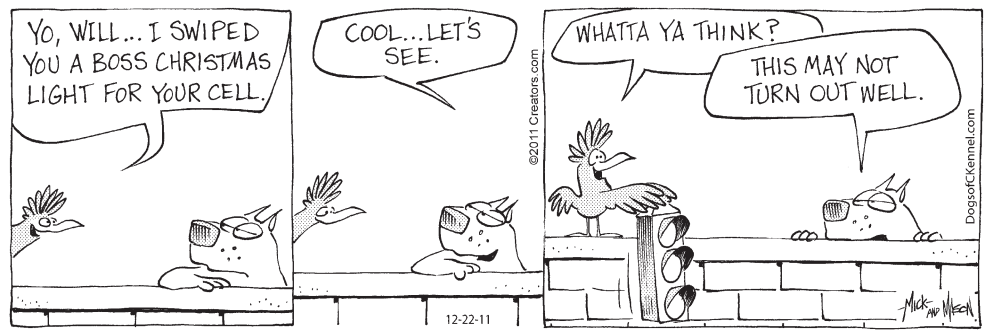
## Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



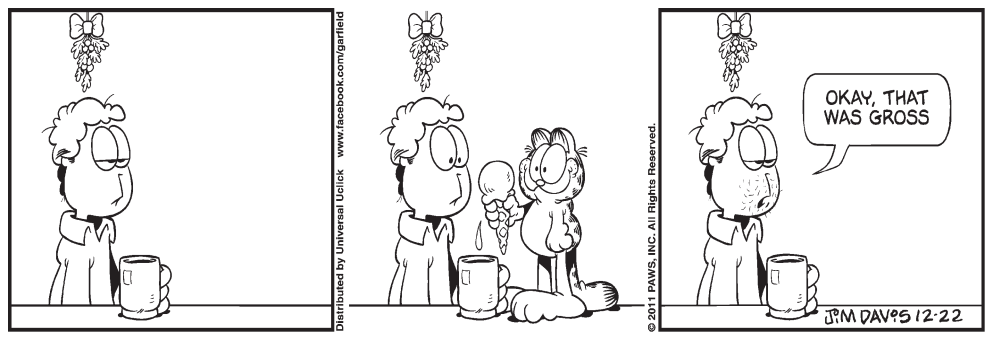

## Strange Brew
By John Deering




## 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 ★★★

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

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


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## CROSSWORD

**By THOMAS JOSEPH**

**ACROSS**

**1** Zorro accessory
**5** Church services
**11** Writer Paton
**12** Skiing variety
**13** Fellow
**14** Good witch of Oz
**15** Effort
**17** Kicker's aid
**18** Cardiff's land
**22** Rubber source
**24** Snoozed
**25** Gold (Sp.)
**26** Garden visitor
**27** Dancer's boss
**30** Crooked
**32** Sword material
**33** Frat letter
**34** School records notations
**38** Deodorant target
**41** Discussion
**42** Arizona resort
**43** Mother of Ares
**44** Flock leader
**45** Just

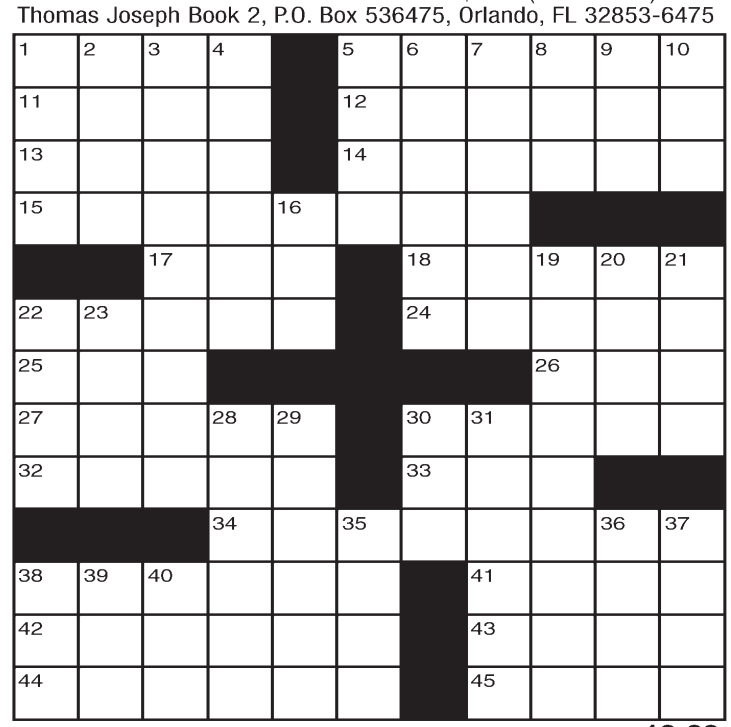
**DOWN**

**1** Jail cell
**2** TV's Trebek
**3** Rich Christmas bread
**4** Menu choice
**5** Christmas travelers
**6** Permits
**7** Of the backbone
**8** Major no-no
**9** Goal
**10** Vast expanse
**16** Singer Ritter
**19** Hard Christmas cookie
**20** Foil's kin
**21** Hearty dish
**22** Red-ink amount
**23** Smell — (suspect foul play)
**28** Brewing aid
**29** White rat, e.g.
**30** Finished off
**31** Don Quixote's pal
**35** Christmas tree topper
**36** Rank above viscount
**37** Remain
**38** Nile snake
**39** Stephen of "The Crying Game"
**40** Hosp. workers

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

**Yesterday's answer**

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



12-22

## ARITHMO™

CrossMath + × − ÷

**– Arithmo Crossmath – Reclaim Your Brain**

• 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.

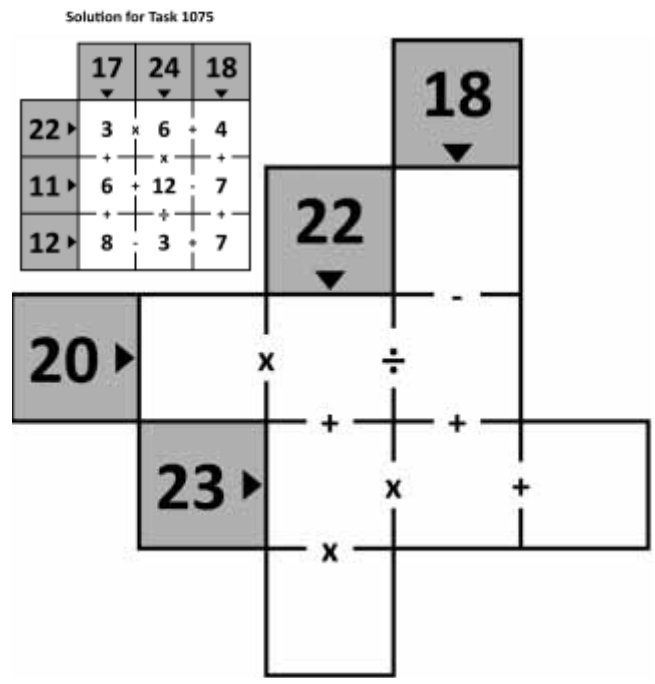
• Remember to multiply or divide before you add or subtract.

**Go to www.zokigames.net for more fun and challenging games and links to our mobile phone apps.**

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

**2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 10, 12**

Solution for Task 1075




## DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 20 24 27 45 51 Meganumber: 31 Jackpot: $173M

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

Fantasy 5: 2 16 19 30 33

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 8 6 4 EVENING: 2 4 4

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 01 Gold Rush 2nd: 05 California Classic 3rd: 03 Hot Shot RACE TIME: 1:43.02

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

■ Proportionality: (1) Daniel Vilca, 26, was ordered to prison for the rest of his life (without possibility of parole) following his conviction in Naples, Fla., in November for having pornographic photos of children on his computer. He had no previous criminal record, nor was there evidence of any contact with children. The judge computed the sentence by multiplying a five-year term by the 454 photos police found. (2) A week earlier, a judge in Dayton, Ohio, sentenced former CEO Michael Peppel, 44, for defrauding his shareholders by overstating revenue in a company that went on to lose $298 million and cost 1,300 employees their jobs. Sentencing guidelines recommended an 8- to 10-year term, but federal judge Sandra Beckwith ordered Peppel to jail for seven days.

■ Dog walker Kimberly Zakrzewski was found not guilty in October of violating the poop-scooping ordinance of Fairfax County, Va., despite photographic "evidence" of dog piles submitted by neighbors Virginia and Christine Cornell (who had previously been feuding with Zakrzewski). The jury chose to give greater weight to testimony by the dog's owner that the photographed piles were bigger than anything she had ever seen from "Baxter." The owner also revealed that she had brought to court one of Baxter's actual piles but decided to leave it in her car.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

**1864** Savannah, Georgia falls to General William Tecumseh Sherman, concluding his "March to the Sea".

**1885** Ito Hirobumi, a samurai, became the first Prime Minister of Japan.

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

**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.

## WORD UP!

**brogue**
**\ brohg \ , noun;**
1. Any strong regional accent.
2. An Irish accent in the pronunciation of English.

Santa Monica Daily Press

# Classifieds

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## Name Changes

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Case No. LS021913
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Petition of MARYAM GHAVAMI JAZAYERI for Change of Name
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner or Attorney: MARYAM GHAVAMI JAZAYERI filed a petition with this court for a decree of changing names as follows: MARYAM GHAVAMI JAZAYERI to MARYAM GHAVAMI - JAZAYERI. The court orders that all persons interested in this matter shall appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted.
Notice of Hearing:
Date: January 11, 2012 Time: 8:30am, Dept. D
The address of the court is 6030 Sylmar Ave., Van Nuys, CA
A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county: Santa Monica Daily Press.
Date: 11/1/2011
RICHARD H. KIRSCHNER, JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

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Santa Monica LITTLE LEAGUE established 1950

Average Price of **ALL** Santa Monica Properties
From **ALL** agents in **ALL** companies
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| | | Single Family Homes | Condos & Town-homes |
|---|---|---|---|
| Santa Monica Canyon | = | $1,900,000 | $2,995,000 |
| North of Montana | = | $3,195,999 | $1,074,500 |
| Between Wilshire & Montana | = | $1,985,000 | $799,500 |
| South of Wilshire | = | $799,000 | $499,000 |
| Sunset Park | = | $1,150,000 | $499,000 |
| Ocean Park | = | $1,399,000 | $1,149,000 |

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