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TUESDAY
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Volume 15 Issue 29

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Ethics review approved for $420,000

BY MATTHEW HALL
Daily Press Editor

You could argue that ethics and morality are priceless qualities but for the City of Santa Monica, an independent review of its ethics rules will cost $420,000 plus a 5 percent contingency.

The City Council approved a scope of work by attorney John Hueston at their Dec. 15 meeting with an expectation that the work will be completed with 90 days.

The Council authorized hiring an independent advisor in November to address concerns about the way the city has handled ethics complaints related to the Oaks Initiative and the hiring/firing of Elizabeth Riel. In both cases, local advocates have argued the City's actions have eroded public trust and potentially violated standards of behavior.

Hueston was chosen from among several potential candidates. He is a former division chief and assistant U.S. attorney. In his application, he said he had investigated Enron as part of a national task force, worked on corruption cases for the county of San Bernardino that resulted in criminal prosecutions, and has worked for multiple other municipal agencies.

His first task was to define his scope of work and the proposal approved last week included itemized charges for different tasks.

Hueston has asked for $125,000 to review the entire Riel termination case including analysis of documents, appropriate laws and witness interviews. Another $125,000 is attributed to an analysis of the Oaks Initiative including review of the laws strength, enforcement options, record keeping, violation reporting mechanisms and any proposed changes or amendments.

Hueston is charging $90,000 to identify municipal best practices.

"In light of any deficiencies identified in Parts I and II of the engagement as described above, we will research best practices as adopted by other municipalities and will interview city officials and community members to refine choices and determine potential fit," said his proposal.

There is a $35,000 estimate to draft the formal report for public dissemination and $25,000 to

SEE ETHICS PAGE 7

Report: Used car deals abound in Santa Monica

Average prices lower than in other California cities, study finds

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff Writer

If you live in Santa Monica and are looking to buy a used car, you might not need to travel far to find the best deal.

That's according to the results of a new study by online car sales aggregator Autolist, which concluded that a used vehicle is more than $700 cheaper in Santa Monica than it would cost in the average California city and more than $1,000 cheaper than in an average city across the country.

SEE CAR PAGE 7

Panel could guide SMMUSD bond projects

School board considers creation of new facilities committee

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff Writer

As the Santa Monica-Malibu school district uses millions of dollars in bond money to upgrade its campuses, it's probably going to need community input.

That's where a new facilities panel could come in.

The local Board of Education could soon approve a new committee that would guide the district on projects backed by the $385-million Measure ES, which voters passed three years ago.

The looming creation of a facilities panel comes amid broader discussions within SMMUSD about the role of its advisory committees, some members of which have expressed frustration about a lack of direction, clarity and responsiveness from board and district officials.

The new, broader facilities committee would replace the existing Measure BB advisory group,

SEE BOND PAGE 6











CANDY CANE

Courtesy Photos

On Dec. 19, public safety employees and their families volunteered their time to escort Santa to various locations throughout the City as part of the Candy Cane drive.


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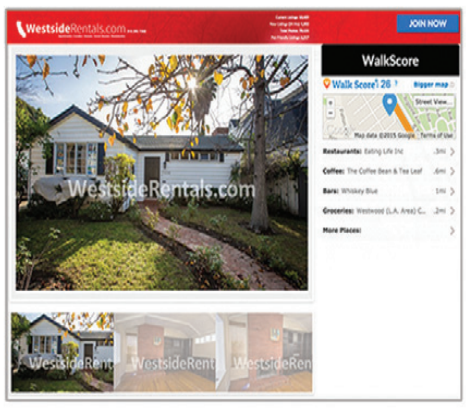
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, Dec. 23

Santa Monica Certified Farmer's Market (Downtown - Wednesday)
One of the largest and most diverse grower-only CFM's in the nation. Some nine thousands food shoppers, and many of Los Angeles' best known chefs and restaurants, are keyed to the seasonal rhythms of the weekly Wednesday Market. 3rd Street Promenade, 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Gallery
Exhibit: Art Bank: Selections from the City's collection; Open through Jan 12 in Event House Gallery. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Baby Time @ Montana Branch
Story time series for babies 0-17 months. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 2601 Main St., 10:15 - 10:35 a.m.

Movie Screening: Inside Out (2015)
Riley's emotions try to guide her through a difficult, life-changing event. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd., 3:30 - 5:15 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 24

Library Closed
All library locations are closed today.

Annenberg Community Beach House
The Beach House site will close at 12 p.m. 415 PCH.

Friday, Dec. 25

Library Closed
All library locations are closed today.

Annenberg Community Beach House
Closed for Christmas. 415 PCH.

For help submitting an event, contact us at **310-458-7737** or submit to editor@smdp.com



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Week of December 21, 2015

EXPO LIGHT RAIL LINE:

For this week, please note the following activities:
Train Testing This Week - The Expo Light Rail Line extension from Culver City to Santa Monica is scheduled for train testing activities in Santa Monica this week and will continue for several months. The trains are now operated on their own power. Testing will be ongoing along the entire alignment in Los Angeles and Santa Monica. The testing activity will test train clearances, the Overhead Catenary System which powers the trains, the crossing gates and traffic signals, and all related systems before the project is turned over to Metro for pre-revenue operations.
A more detailed notice is online at http://goo.gl/AMLPxq
Colorado Avenue between 5th & 18th Streets - Expect westbound and eastbound street closures during daytime hours. Alleys on the North side of Colorado between 6th and 18th Street will have limited access at Colorado.
Olympic Blvd. between 20th St. and Stewart St. - Eastbound and Westbound lane closures daytime hours Monday to Saturday.
17th St. between Olympic Blvd. and Broadway.- Northbound and Southbound lane closures during daytime hours.
20th St. between Olympic Blvd. and Colorado.- Northbound and Southbound lane closures during daytime hours.
Cloverfield Blvd. between I-10 Freeway and Broadway .- weekend lane closures 24 hours per day.
Stewart St. between Olympic Blvd. and Exposition Blvd.- Northbound and Southbound lane closures during daytime hours.
For more information about the Expo Line project, visit BuildExpo.org or call (213) 922-EXPO (3976).Traffic control measures will be employed in all work zones.

COLORADO ESPLANADE:

For this week, construction work on Colorado Ave. will continue daytime Monday thru Friday. Pedestrian access is accommodated by use of temporary barricaded pathways marked with signage. Please use caution when navigating through the work zones on Colorado Ave. at 4th St., Main St., 2nd St., and Ocean Ave. Traffic control will be set up for northbound traffic on Ocean Ave. Expect minor delays at the intersection of Colorado and Ocean Ave. For more information contact Gene Higginbotham, Project Manager, at (310) 458-8729.

CALIFORNIA INCLINE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT:

The California Incline will be closed until Summer 2016 while construction crews demolish the existing structure and build the new bridge and roadway. Motorists are advised to use Ocean Avenue (via Moomat Ahiko Way) and Lincoln Boulevard as alternate routes. For more information on this project, please contact: (888-303-6026 or incline@smgov.net).

WASTEWATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT:

For this week, the contractor will continue removal and replacement of the sewer main on 22nd Court between Georgina Ave and Carlyle Ave. The contractor will not be working the week of December 28, 2015 and will resume on January 4, 2016. Should you have any questions, please contact Carlos Rosales (310) 458-8721 ext. 2620

SAN VICENTE PUMP STATION EMERGENCY GENERATOR

For this week, the contractor will continue with the installation of the new engine driven standby generator and begin trench excavation on 25th Street for installation the street improvements on the south side of San Vicente Blvd and 25th Street. Should you have any questions, please contact Carlos Rosales, Project Manager (310) 458-8721 ext. 2620

SANTA MONICA SWIM CENTER



On December 22nd, about 400 feet of the northbound traffic lane, bike lane, and sidewalk of 16th street will be closed just south of Pico starting at 8 a.m. As part of the Santa Monica Swim Center Deck Replacement Project, a concrete boom truck will be staged in the right of way at this location, and will pump about 80 cubic yards of 4500 psi concrete to the small pool deck. Traffic flow should return to normal in the afternoon sometime. Should you have any questions, please contact: Sebastian Felbeck, Public Works Construction Specialist (310) 458-2205 ext. 2336

Visit KBUG, our Facebook page, SMConstructs, and construction notices at: www.facebook.com/SMConstructs or www.smgov.net/departments/publicworks/civeng_kbug.aspx

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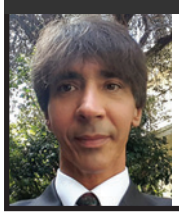


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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

An unexpected Christmas gift

IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME AND FOR ME that means a trip to Mexico where I get to hang poolside, and do some intensive relaxing as I consider the course for the coming year. To me, being able to step back and see what the last year has brought me, and what I accomplished, and what I want to accomplish is an important part of life. This is also the time of year when I can submerge myself in those books that I wanted to read all year - and for me this year's first book was written by a couple of friends of mine and fellow podcasters, Jared Easley and Kimanzi Constable.

Last Wednesday I was preparing to leave town, so I was rushing about picking up laundry, getting the dog groomed at Pet Affaire, and grabbing a last minute workout at the Loews Hotel and throughout the day I was Facebook messaging with Jared and Kimanzi about their book and setting a time for them to come on my podcast to talk about it, yadda yadda yadda, all that stuff that's involved when you try to coordinate three busy people's lives - it's like herding cats, but not as simple.

So finally the day is over, I get to LAX, it's a freaking zoo a week before Christmas so I'm really happy that I've upgraded my flight to Guadalajara on Delta business class (It was a $40 upgrade so I couldn't say no!)

I've always been told that you should always fly business class because the people you meet along the way are more likely to be the movers and shakers in the world, and if you look it as an investment rather than an expense it softens the pain of the higher price.

One of the benefits of business class is access to the lounge area which has food, drinks, internet access that is better than the airport Wi-Fi and is a quieter environment to be in. It's also safer for when you need to step away from your bag, you don't feel that it's going to be stolen, plus the seats are tremendously more comfortable.

Flying internationally requires more time at the airport, so I arrived way ahead of my scheduled flight time. Of course that means I sail through security because that's the way the world works. If I was running late, it would be delays and patdowns at TSA.

I get to the lounge, grab a seat, get ready to go have some snacks and a coffee, and I look over, and who do I see but Jared and Kimanzi! It was an unexpected Christmas gift. As I walk up them, Jared's face bursts into his giant smile and he's like "No way! we were just talking about how much of a coincidence it was that WE met here." Jared and Kimanzi didn't know that each of them would be in the Delta lounge either, so they were surprised to see each other, and then I walk up to add to the serendipity of the night.

Happy events like running into a friend in a lounge when neither of you expects to see the other, is one of the great joys in life, and makes for a great story. It's one of those moments that all involved will remember.

I've known Jared for a few years now, he is host along with Kimanzi of the Starve The Doubts podcast. Their show is about moving past your fears and doubts and pursuing your dreams. Jared and I met in Dallas a couple of years back at the inaugural Podcast Movement which is a conference for podcasters that I was lucky enough to attend when Jared and his partner Dan Franks did a crowdfunding campaign to see if there was enough interest to bring together podcasters. It was such a successful campaign that they had to move the conference to a larger space.

That conference is a testament to the true message that Jared and Kimanzi share on their podcast and in their new book Stop Chasing Influencers. The book is a step by step guide to creating your own success story and not relying on the Blanche DuBois principle of "the kindness of strangers." In it they share their experiences at pursuing business development, what worked and what didn't.

Stop Chasing Influencers is one of the best business and motivation books that I've read in quite awhile, because it's authentic and true. The authors share where they came from, one owed $180,000 in back taxes, and one was burned out on his career - places that are real and will resonate with the reader - so when they share their path to success it's an honest and open tale of the effort it took to succeed.

Right now they have a crowdfunding campaign on kickstarter and their premiums are some pretty awesome options. If you know someone who is looking to start an online business and could use a good game plan, or is just looking to make some life changes, this is the stocking stuffer to get them. It's available at www.stopchasinginfluencers.com/ks

You can hear Jared and me talk about his book and the path to his success on my podcast, which you can download from iTunes, Men's Family Law or the Men's Family Law Website at www.mensfamilylaw.com/

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S/he

by Margarita Rozenbaoum

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

What to do if you failed your holiday diet (and every other goal you've had all year)

DECEMBER RELIABLY BRINGS US TWO things: the Starbucks Gingerbread Latte and a deep sense of self-loathing. By now we have all, without a doubt, failed dramatically at whatever diet/workout plan we swore we would follow during the holidays; and we are definitely nowhere near where we said we'd be with our careers and relationships by the end of the year. So as the 1st looms, any hope of ending 2015 on a good note flickers and dies a little more with every miserable day. Merry Christmas, everyone!

The holidays are awful, am I right? I paid my gym $40 this month, just to walk right past it every day (on my way to Starbucks). I had chocolate for breakfast this morning. I mean, I hadn't even brushed my teeth yet-I just opened my eyes and reached for the half-eaten bag of Ghirardelli peppermint squares on my nightstand. And then I spent the day watching Star Wars and napping.

You know what I'm talking about. As a culture, we've all agreed that this is just what happens when the holidays come around. 'Tis the season to give up trying-at least until the New Year. And with every December, we lose a little more faith in our ability to ever make our goals a reality. As the cycle of determination and disappointment repeats, we slowly become resigned about the possibilities of life, until we finally settle for a numb, hopeless existence, alleviated only by the inevitable approach of death. Ho, ho, ho!

But what can we do? Last January, we said we wanted to be in nursing school by the end of the year. It's the end of the year, and we're not in nursing school. I mean, we can't deny that - it's just a fact. Pretending that we are in nursing school-that we achieved our goal-when we very plainly did not do so would be delusional. So, naturally, the chocolate.

Ah. But here, boys and girls, is where we are not correctly identifying the source of our suffering. We think that we are upset because we said we would be in nursing school and didn't do that. No-that is just a fact. The fact that we are not in nursing school doesn't bring us suffering. It is our judgment about the fact that we are not in nursing school that brings us suffering. Think about it. It's not that you failed. It's what you believe failing means about you. "I failed" doesn't make us suffer; "I failed and am therefore a loser," "I failed and am therefore worthless," "I failed and am therefore never going to succeed" makes us suffer. It's an important distinction. Why? Because if we think that failing is what destroys us, then we are at the complete mercy of every failure we have. It's not surprising that we give up when December rolls around. What else is there to do? We failed!

But if we see the truth-that what destroys us is our opinion about the failure and not the failure itself-then we begin to see that we have an opportunity to remove the weight of our judgments and keep moving forward-despite the failure. I know. It's a Christmas miracle.

The tricky part, of course, is letting go of our judgments about failing. Because it reaaaally feels like I'm worthless when I fail. I feel it all the way through my body, I experience all kinds of shame, I remember all the other times I've failed, images of disappointing my parents in the third grade swim into my mind-I mean, it's a real, justifiable feeling. And it doesn't work for me to deny that. I can't just say a bunch of positive affirmations to make that feeling go away, because my brain is smart enough to know that what I believe to be true is "I am worthless", not "I am successful! I am happy!"

What does work for me, though, is letting the judgments be what they are. Because I have now made the important distinction that they are judgments, right? So even if they're making me feel badly, I have correctly identified them-and not the actual failure itself-to be the source of my pain. It's like having a broken leg. If you don't know that it's broken, and you think it just stopped working and will never work properly again, you'll be confused, overwhelmed, and immobilized. But once you understand that it's just broken, you can grab some crutches and keep moving. It still hurts, of course, but at least you know it's not because there's something fundamentally wrong with the leg. And you can still get wherever you want to go.

So right now, you have to keep it moving. Even if you failed at every single goal you set for yourself since 1999; even if you're crying about it in your Hello Kitty pajamas, with peppermint smudges on your chin, you keep moving. All you have to do is take one action in line with your goal. Right now. Just grit your teeth and do it-and watch how you instantly feel re-aligned with your purpose.

Aristotle said, "Man is a goal-seeking animal. His life only has meaning if he is reaching out and striving for his goals." If that's true, the path to feeling good about yourself can be a short one. Objectively, it doesn't matter that it's December 20th, and you still haven't submitted your application to nursing school. It's only that you have some judgments about it.

So you can go cry about where you "should" be right now and how you're never going to amount to anything (just like your dad said). Nobody is trying to take away your right to do that. But in between sobs, walk to your computer, print the application to the nursing school, and start filling it out. If we keep waiting to take action until we feel good inside, we're never going to realize our dreams. We have to take action despite how we feel inside. If it's the sense that we are on our way to getting what we want that gives us a feeling of purpose and satisfaction, and the belief that we are not that causes the tantrum, then take an action, as big an action as you can muster through tears, immediately. Then take another. With every action you take right now, you'll feel yourself come back to life.

Then you can watch all the Star Wars you want without hating yourself. And that's the true spirit of Christmas.

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BOND

FROM PAGE 1

which has guided district expenditures tied to the $268-million bond that voters approved in 2006.

"The real purpose is to get a committee that's going to represent the community, to give an outside look," said Steve Massetti, the district's recently hired bond program manager. "This is to get real, useful information and recommendations from community members on which projects should be done, which should be put off. ... We want to solicit opinion on the impact of these projects on classroom learning."

Pending board approval, the district could begin accepting applications for the committee by next month and establish the group by February.

The 18-person board would have two subcommittees, one with 11 members focusing on Santa Monica projects and the other with seven members specializing in Malibu upgrades.

Massetti and other officials said they hoped representatives from Santa Monica and Malibu city governments would serve on the committee.

The panel would meet several times a year, advise officials on project priorities and attempt to ensure equity across the district. It would seek input from other stakeholders and regularly report to the board on its progress.

"I would like us to be as clear as possible about what our expectations are for people who are going to serve on this committee before they apply so they know what they're walking into," board president Laurie Lieberman said.

Lieberman noted that errors in communication and direction likely contributed to the installation of a flawed sustainable cooling system at Edison Language Academy.

"We're now living with where that went," she said.

Massetti would not be a member of the panel, he said, but he would work with its leaders to establish an overarching agenda.

Massetti said the members of the committee would be able to provide architects and other district consultants with insights and information on site details. He added that teachers, house principals, athletics officials and other stakeholders would likely be helpful resources on specific projects.

"The people who are passionate, who care about our schools ... they're able to give us that advice early on when we need it," Massetti said.

Board member Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein said he was somewhat nervous about creating a new panel as the district hashes out its vision for advisory committees.

"We really are trying to make a transition and trying to make these things more effective," Lieberman said.

JEFF@smdp.com



BOLD BITES. BIG FLAVOR. BLUE SKIES. BAY B



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ETHICS

FROM PAGE 1

participate in a public presentation of the findings.

Councilman Terry O'Day was the lone vote against the contract. O'Day has opposed hiring an advisor from the start saying the cost is too high for what amounts to a review of documents that are already publicly available.

"At this cost, we're looking at almost half the total cost of the incident that inspired this concept in the first place. Versus what we might have done which might have been a policy review and recommendation that would have been a tenth of the cost," he said. "This is an extraordinary amount of money to spend on not a lot of insight."

City Manager Rick Cole said he believes Hueston will do everything he can to stay within the budget but warned it's entirely possible the cost could increase down the line.

"I want to make clear on his behalf that the scope is by no means exhaustive of everything that he will look at, these are the primary issues that he has identified," said Cole.

EDITOR@smdp.com

CAR

FROM PAGE 1

The analysis puts Santa Monica at No. 7 on a list of the most affordable used car destinations in California. The beachside city trails only Redondo Beach, Aliso Viejo, Daly City, San Bruno, Hawthorne and South San Francisco.

On a list of the cities in the nation with the best deals on used vehicles, Santa Monica came in at No. 140.

"Santa Monica's vehicles are likely cheaper because of dealer density," said Alex Klein, vice president of data science for Autolist. "In the used car market, more competition means lower prices, and the high volume of dealers bodes well for consumers in the Santa Monica area."

Los Angeles was determined to be the fifth-best county for pre-owned vehicle deals in the state, ranking behind San Francisco, Marin, Orange and San Mateo counties.

Autolist's study relied on nearly three years of data starting in late 2012 and is based on examinations of price fluctuations for more than 56 million unique vehicles.

According to Klein, other pricing authorities would likely include Santa Monica in a broader regional category without exploring variances within a given region.

"It is shocking because studies like this that look at price differences on the micro level have never before been conducted in the used car industry," he said. "Our study has demonstrated that there are more granular differences than previously acknowledged. By looking at scores of data over an extended time period, we have been able to show that there are actually differences on the micro level that could result in meaningful savings for buyers."

California leads the nation in licensed drivers (24.2 million), registered vehicles (close to 13 million) and miles traveled (roughly 326 billion), according to 2012 data compiled by the federal Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

There were about 36.8 million used vehicle sales across the country in 2010, according to the bureau. The average price of a used car that year was $8,786.

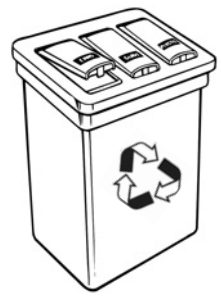
"Residents in Santa Monica may not want to migrate to buy a car, as is the case for individuals living in more rural areas with fewer dealers," Klein said. "However, residents should expect other people from within the state to begin to flock to Santa Monica used car lots as data such as ours begins to become common knowledge."

Prospective buyers should gather as much data as possible before making a decision, Klein said.

"The power of big data is that it can illuminate trends that are not apparent to the naked eye, or in this case, to someone browsing the local used car lots in their town," he said. "People can save hundreds — if not thousands — of dollars simply by collecting ample data on the car they are looking to purchase."

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SURF REPORT



SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP:**61.2°**

FRIDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** Knee to chest high
More NW windswell for exposures. WNW-NW swell mix holds. Minimal SSW swell. Breezy winds.

SATURDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** Knee to chest high
NW windswell. WNW-NW swell mix eases. Minimal SSW swell. Watching the winds.

SUNDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** thigh to chest high
More WNW-NW swell due. Watching PM winds. .

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 **January 12, 2015**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 14
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 33 / 20
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 5 / 19

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: SIMA, Swain Barber Foundation

Heal the Bay reminds you not to swim or surf within 100 yards of any flowing storm drain or for at least 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 Lachusa and Los Aliso creeks.		
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	B	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	F
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	F	A+
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	F
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	F	A+
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach.	A+	D
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A+	F
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	F
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	A	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	ns	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	F
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	B
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	ns	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	B	F
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	B	A+

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	B	B
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	F
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	C	C
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	D
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	A+
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A+	B
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	F
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	F	A+
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	D
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	F	B
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	ns	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A	F
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	B	B
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	F
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	A+

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'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.

Heal the Bay

Heal the Bay is a nonprofit environmental organization making Southern California coastal waters and watersheds, including Santa Monica Bay, safe, healthy and clean. We use science, education, community action and advocacy to pursue our mission.

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CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF



Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ON DECEMBER 10 AT APPROXIMATELY 1:15 P.M.

Santa Monica police officers responded to 424 Pico Blvd, regarding a man who was acting strange and performing karate-type movement in the rear parking lot. When officers arrived, they found the suspect standing in the lot. The suspect refused to look at the officers and refused to answer any of their questions. The officers told the suspect at least fifteen times that he needed to leave the property, because the owner and his employees were afraid of what he might do. The suspect refused to acknowledge the officers, and instead rolled up his sleeves and put his glasses in his pocket; appearing as if he was preparing to fight them. Additional officers responded, but the suspect still refused to speak to them or leave. The property owner then agreed to sign a private person's arrest form and the suspect was taken into custody without incident.
Justin Michael Olguin, 28, of Richardson, TX, was charged with Assault & Battery. Bail was set at $1,000.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department responded to 275 calls for service on Dec. 20.

HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

Disturbance, 1300 block Euclid, 1:12 a.m.
Burglary, 1300 block 16th, 1:26 a.m.
Burglary, 1900 block Arizona, 1:37 a.m.
Trespassing, 600 block Ocean, 1:49 a.m.
Public intoxication, 1200 block 2nd, 1:51 a.m.
Car crash, 2300 block 4th, 2:18 a.m.
Trespassing, 2600 block Main, 3:02 a.m.
Indecent exposure, 1500 block Ocean, 3:11 a.m.
Disturbance, 1400 block 17th, 3:13 a.m.
Attempted burglary, 2600 block 5th, 4:57 a.m.
Vandalism, 2000 block 19th, 6:29 a.m.
Trespassing, 1400 block Lincoln, 8:04 a.m.
Disturbance, 400 block Ocean, 8:06 a.m.
Disturbance, 700 block California, 8:33 a.m.
Burglary, 500 block Raymond, 9:24 a.m.
Disturbance, 2100 block Santa Monica, 10:03 a.m.
Petty theft, 1100 block 7th, 10:24 a.m.
Identity theft, 400 block Montana, 10:54 a.m.
Vandalism, 1800 block Colorado, 11:06 a.m.
Petty theft, 1900 block 3rd, 11:25 a.m.
Disturbance, 500 block Broadway, 12:08 p.m.
Vandalism, 1000 block Euclid, 12:21 p.m.
Trespassing, 1800 block Lincoln, 1:01 p.m.
Petty theft, 1300 block Wilshire, 1:27 p.m.
Disturbance, 1200 block 3rd, 1:54 p.m.
Identity theft, 400 block Raymond, 2:09 p.m.
Public intoxication, 1100 block 9th, 2:50 p.m.
Drinking in public, 900 block California, 3:04 p.m.
Hit and run, 3300 block Ocean Park, 3:11 p.m.
Identity theft, 2200 block 23rd, 2:32 p.m.
Disturbance, 2400 block Lincoln, 4:59 p.m.
Urinating/defecating in public, 400 block SM Pier, 5:05 p.m.
Disturbance, 800 block Wilshire, 5:21 p.m.
Disturbance, 2400 block Lincoln, 5:52 p.m.
Car crash, Main/Pier, 6:09 p.m.
Hit and run, 1100 block 26th, 6:18 p.m.
Petty theft, 1800 block 11th, 6:22 p.m.
Disturbance, 1800 block Lincoln, 6:56 p.m.
Burglary, 1700 block Ocean, 7:22 p.m.
Vandalism, 1300 block 18th, 7:30 p.m.
Strongarm robbery, 1300 block Wilshire, 11:08 p.m.
Disturbance, 1300 block 20th, 11:41 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department responded to 34 calls for service on Dec. 20.

HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

Emergency Medical Service (EMS), 1500 block beach, 12:35 a.m.
EMS, 1600 block Georgina, 12:51 a.m.
EMS, 800 block Broadway, 1:24 a.m.
EMS, 4th/Strand, 2:22 a.m.
EMS, 1300 block 16th, 2:57 a.m.
EMS, 3000 block Paula, 3:44 a.m.
EMS, 2200 block 29th, 4:17 a.m.
EMS, 900 block 3rd, 5:33 a.m.
ESM, 700 block Hill, 7:09 a.m.
Hazardous materials, 500 block Hollister, 8:26 a.m.
EMS, 1400 block 2nd, 9:27 a.m.
EMS, 200 block San Vicente, 10:22 a.m.
EMS, 600 block Raymond, 10:47 a.m.
EMS, 500 block 15th, 10:54 a.m.
Hazardous materials, 1000 block 5th, 11:32 a.m.
EMS, 400 block Santa Monica, 11:54 a.m.
EMS, 2900 block Glenn, 12:43 p.m.
EMS, 900 block 3rd, 1:13 p.m.
EMS, 1300 block 11th, 1:55 p.m.
EMS, 31st/Ocean Park, 3 p.m.
Broken water main, 1300 block 2nd, 3:06 p.m.
EMS, 1900 block 20th, 3:09 p.m.
EMS, 300 block Santa Monica, 3:24 p.m.
EMS, 2400 block Ocean Front Walk, 3:25 p.m.
EMS, 1400 block 4th, 4:43 p.m.
EMS, 1300 block Euclid, 5:03 p.m.
EMS, 1600 block Santa Monica, 5:44 p.m.
EMS, Main/Pier, 6:09 p.m.
EMS, 1100 block 7th, 6:26 p.m.
Automatic alarm, 600 block Broadway, 6:51 p.m.
EMS, 1200 block Wilshire, 7:45 p.m.
EMS, 400 block 7th, 9:04 p.m.
EMS, 3000 block Margaret, 9:24 p.m.
EMS, Lincoln/Olympic, 9:36 p.m.

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

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

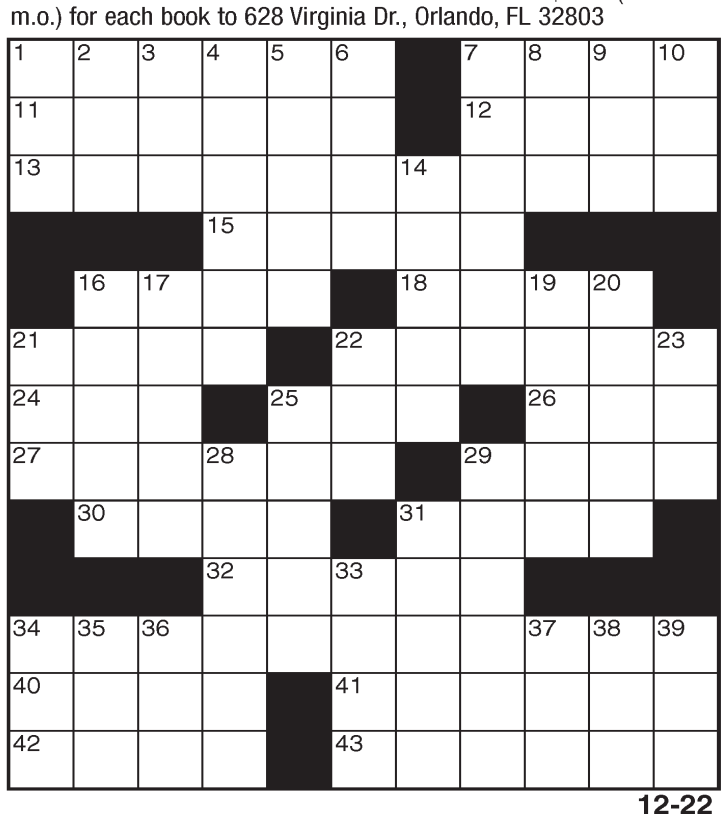
ACROSS
1 Approached menacingly
7 Present
11 Grove fruit
12 Land unit
13 Christmas treat
15 Central
16 Easter lead-in
18 Bike part
21 Inlet
22 Seasonal spice
24 Wisdom bringer
25 Tim, to Bob Cratchit
26 Pollen collector
27 One of Santa's team
29 Top-rated
30 Put away
31 "Chestnuts roasting on an open —"
32 King or czar
34 Christmas treat
40 Wee bit
41 Old English coin
42 Yuletide
43 Shells out

DOWN
1 Gear tooth
2 Tycoon Onassis
3 Fellow
4 Car part
5 Deal maker
6 Small seabird
7 Top story
8 Rink surface
9 Monk's title
10 Baseball's Williams
14 Started
16 Company symbols
17 News item
19 Fossil resin
20 Baseball's Pee Wee
21 Heel
22 And not
23 Acquire
25 Conclude successfully
28 Ordinary
29 One under par
31 Disgusted
33 Big galoots
34 Seamstress' aid
35 Old card game
36 Salt Lake City player
37 Where there was no room
38 Homer's neighbor
39 Methane, for one

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

Yesterday's answer

THOMAS CROSSWORD BOOKS 1-8! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) for each book to 628 Virginia Dr., Orlando, FL 32803



12-22

MYSTERY PHOTO

Matthew Hall *matt@smdp.com*



The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. The photo is located near a publicly owned building. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*.

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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 ★★

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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

King Features Syndicate



TODAY IN HISTORY

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

1885 – Itÿ Hirobumi, a samurai, became the first Prime Minister of Japan.

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

1891 – Asteroid 323 Brucia becomes the first asteroid discovered using photography.

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.

1939 – Indian Muslims observe a "Day of Deliverance" to celebrate the resignations of members of the Indian National Congress over their not having been consulted over the decision to enter World War II with the United Kingdom.

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

1942 – World War II: Adolf Hitler signs the order to develop the V-2 rocket as a weapon.

HUNGER READS THE MORNING PAPER, TOO.
1 IN 6 AMERICANS STRUGGLES WITH HUNGER. TOGETHER WE'RE FEEDING AMERICA
Ad Council
Hunger is closer than you think. Reach out to your local food bank for ways to do your part. Visit FeedingAmerica.org today.

Invite a friend over, Pisces

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You have an unusually grounded way of handling a parent. You know how to tell this person to chill out. Your efforts play a bigger role in others' lives than you realize. A partner could become timid. Try not to fall victim to the pressure of the holidays. Tonight: Hang in there.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You will draw someone in a lot closer than you'd thought possible. Your imagination will provide you with ideas for last-minute gifts. Remember, what pleases you might not please someone else. Walk in each person's shoes. Tonight: Forget tomorrow and find the mistletoe.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★ You might be slow to get started, but you'll be a force to be dealt with once you get moving. You are able to make a big difference in a partner's life just by offering a helping hand. Your creativity soars, and you'll manage to achieve what you desire. Tonight: You make the call.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Allow others to demonstrate how much they care by letting them do what they want to do. You like to take control of holiday events, especially if they are at your home or involve cooking. However, let someone else take over this year. Tonight: Play it low-key.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Take care of your responsibilities first. Some of you might choose to visit with a friend who lives out of town but is around for the holidays. You could be overwhelmed -- not by what you have to do, but by what you want to do! Prioritize! Tonight: Where you want to be.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Make calls and check your email once more before making plans. You could be taken aback by everything you want to get done. Take responsibility for making your schedule work. Clear out as much as you can before you go to holiday happenings. Tonight: A must appearance.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Deal with a friend or loved one on a one-on-one level, especially if you see a misunderstanding brewing. Try to clear up a problem quickly. Make plans that involve someone at a distance, or go listen to some holiday music. Tonight: Favorite place, favorite people.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Defer to a loved one who seems to be able to accomplish much more than you can. You might feel as if you are leaning heavily on this person. Nearly everyone you know wants some time with you. Allow yourself to be flattered. Tonight: You will be happier if you're not around crowds.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Handle what is happening in a matter-of-fact kind of way. Relax, and you will be much more productive. You could be delighted by a call or an unexpected visit. A friend might drive a hard bargain, but he or she just wants to be with you. Tonight: Go along with a suggestion.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ A situation with a loved one will change. Do not interfere with this person's natural flow. Focus on a last-minute project and perhaps some calls that need to be returned. You could be surprised by what comes down the path. Tonight: Do not push yourself too hard.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Try not to dig in your heels over a problematic matter; otherwise, you might have to backtrack later and revoke a statement. A child or new friend seems to want to spend time with you. Balancing everything that is happening will take some skill. Tonight: Get into the holiday spirit.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Return calls and keep to your schedule. Do what you need to do, and curb socializing. You won't want to promise to get together with someone only to cancel later. Keep your plans as loose and easy as possible until you have a better sense of time. Tonight: Invite a friend over.

Tuesday, December 22, 2015

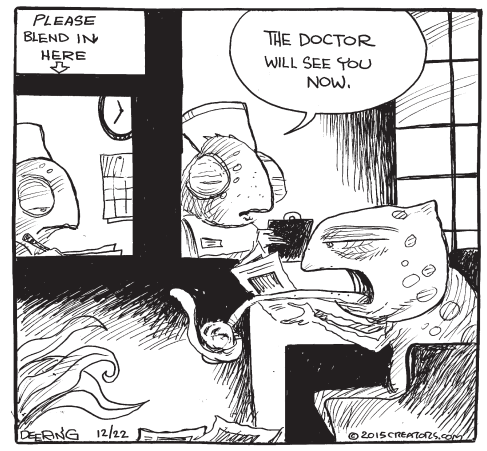
This year you will greet some positive changes in your life. You'll need to learn to look at the big picture more often. Your ability to learn comes out as you adapt to new ideas, cultures and perhaps new developments in your chosen field. If you are single, you might connect with someone who is very different from the type of suitor you have chosen in the past. This experience will be a real eye-opener for you. If you are attached, you find that more acceptance and trust builds between the two of you. Your in-laws could play a significant role in your life. GEMINI might wear you down with his or her constant chatter.

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

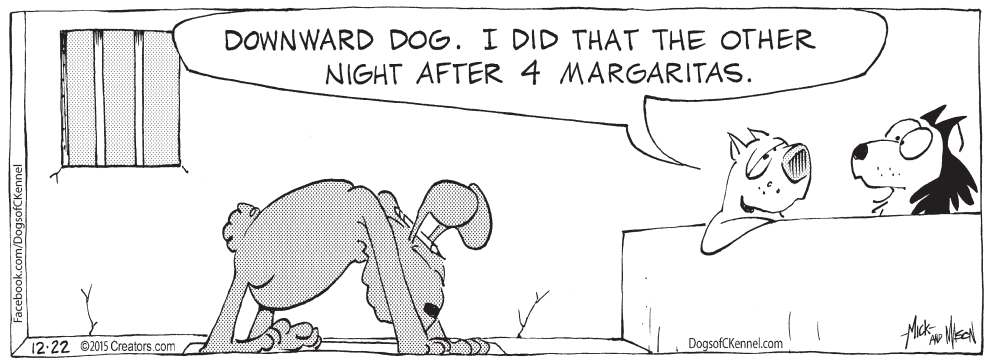
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



Strange Brew
By John Deering



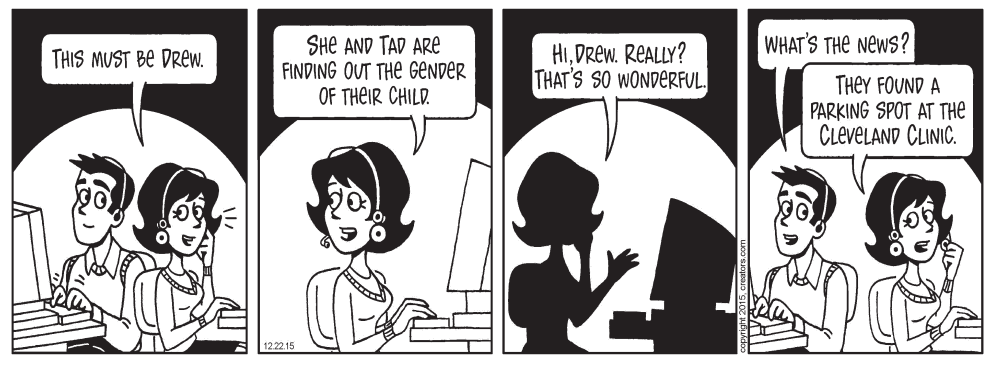
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



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Announcements

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Santa Monica 1 BEDROOM, 1 BATH, FULL KITCHEN APARTMENT No Parking, Paid water & trash, Rent $1,600.00 to Per Month, Deposit 1600.00, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=726415

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