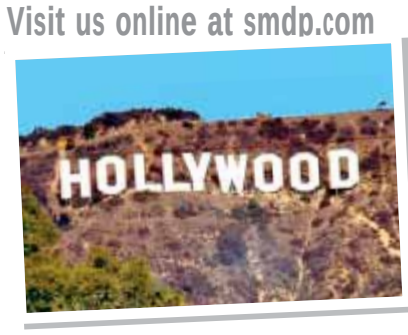
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Volume 9 Issue 35



Santa Monica Daily Press

WHO'S HURTING?
SEE PAGE 4

We have you covered

THE WOW ISSUE



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

ALL EYES: **Community crime prevention members Michael Cveyich (right) and Peter Picanso man the information booth on the Third Street Promenade Monday. The booth serves as a shoplifting deterrent and volunteers provide shoppers with tips on how to protect themselves from thieves.**

Volunteers help deter crime

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN As holiday shopping crowds have swarmed the Third Street Promenade in recent weeks, the Santa Monica Police Department has beefed up its Downtown presence, thanks in part to a handful of volunteers.

Graduates of the department's "citizens academy" have been staffing an information booth on the promenade since Thanksgiving. While their official task is to hand out pamphlets on safety, they also act as a deterrent to would-be shoplifters.

"That's a great byproduct. If people are coming down there to commit criminal acts and see that there's additional Santa Monica Police Department affiliates, then maybe that'll deter it," said Sgt. Jay Trisler, a spokesman for the SMPD.

While the volunteers, who are overseen by the department's community relations division, don't have any law enforcement authority, Trisler said there's been "positive feedback" from merchants on the promenade who have noticed the booth.

At cosmetics retailer Sephora, store manager Kristina Conrad said shoplifting is a constant problem that the police department volunteers have helped to curb.

"When people see that there's a police booth they're less likely to come in and potentially shop lift," she said.

There's no set schedule for the booth, which will be on the promenade off and on through December. So far, the booth has been set up in several locations on the 1200 block and the 1400 block of Third Street, Trisler said.

"For us, it's about educating the public, and even educating the criminals that are out there," he said.

Jeffrey Glaser, the neighborhood resources officer in charge of Downtown, agreed the volunteers can help to limit crime.

"If a would-be suspect sees them out there they might think twice," he said.

But the volunteers, are just one aspect of the department's increased focus on Downtown during the holiday season, he added.

More officers have been assigned to the area in this month in an attempt to crack down during a period when crime is typically higher than normal. Two goals were to limit bike thefts and car break-ins, which had been on the increase, he said.

"It is making an impact compared to what we were trending for the rest of the year," Glaser said.

At Sephora, Conrad said she's noticed the increased officer presence.

SMPD officers regularly conduct store "walkthroughs," she said, adding that "they've really increased the frequency this month."

nickt@smdp.com

City Council to consider SMO emission levels

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

SUNSET PARK City Council in January could direct city staff to begin working with federal and state agencies to promote research on "ultrafine particles" — tiny pollutants generated by planes that some Santa Monica neighborhood groups have urged City Hall to deal with for years.

The goal would be to play a role in creating federal or state regulations for the particles, which scientists have only recently begun to study but which could cause nega-

SEE SMO PAGE 10

Red Cross launches emergency disaster project for seniors

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

BROADWAY The local chapter of the Red Cross and WISE & Healthy Aging are teaming up with local merchants and residents to provide emergency disaster kits to homebound and low-income seniors.

People are encouraged to donate items to fill the disaster kits.

"With a major earthquake poised to strike Southern California in the years to come, the elderly are particularly at risk," said AmeriCorps' Elizabeth Adams, who is spearheading the project for the American Red Cross of Santa Monica as a volunteer. "These emergency kits, coupled with a disaster plan, will serve as the foundation for disaster readiness."

People can donate items for the disaster kits by placing them in specially designated red bins at three Santa Monica locations: Bob's Market at 1650 Ocean Park Blvd., Red Cross of Santa Monica at 1450 11th St. and WISE & Healthy Aging

SEE RED CROSS PAGE 11


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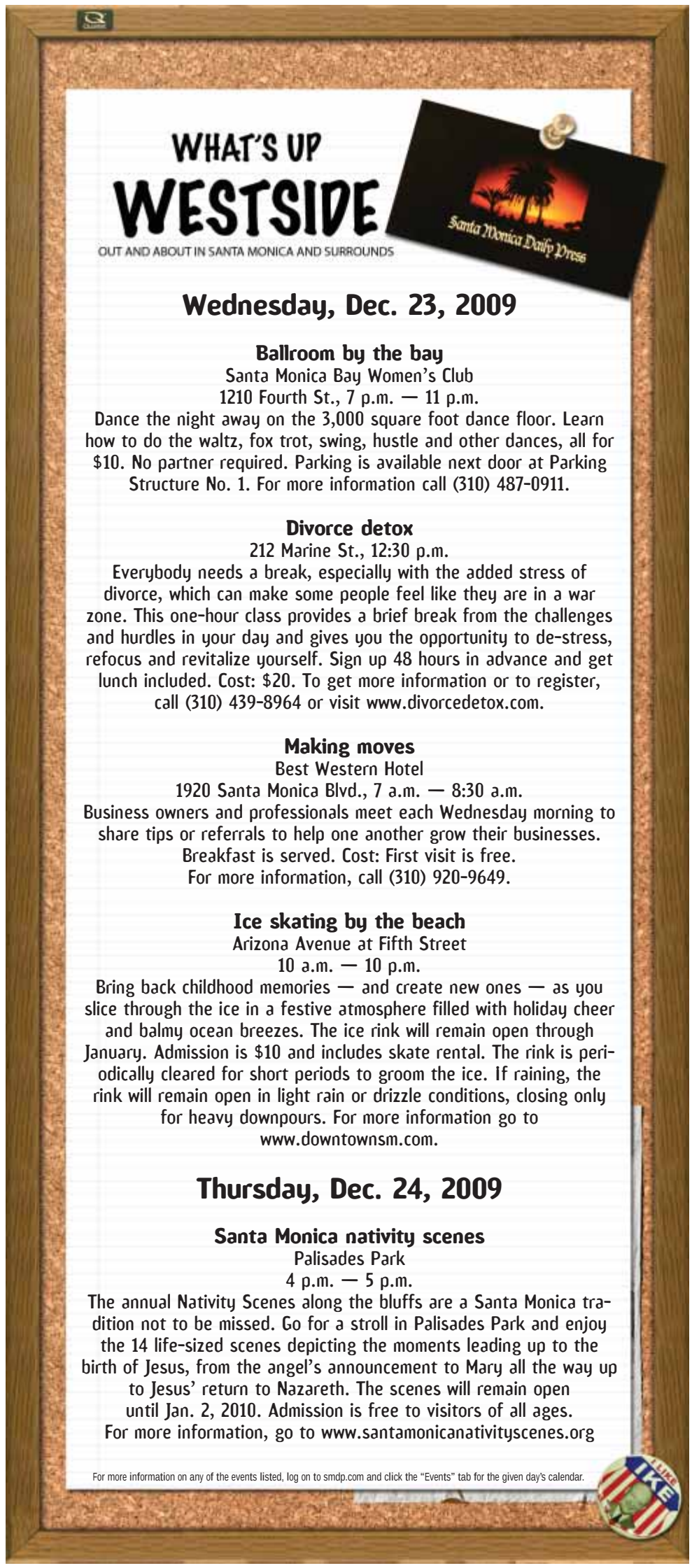
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Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2009

Ballroom by the bay
Santa Monica Bay Women's Club
1210 Fourth St., 7 p.m. — 11 p.m.
Dance the night away on the 3,000 square foot dance floor. Learn how to do the waltz, fox trot, swing, hustle and other dances, all for $10. No partner required. Parking is available next door at Parking Structure No. 1. For more information call (310) 487-0911.

Divorce detox
212 Marine St., 12:30 p.m.
Everybody needs a break, especially with the added stress of divorce, which can make some people feel like they are in a war zone. This one-hour class provides a brief break from the challenges and hurdles in your day and gives you the opportunity to de-stress, refocus and revitalize yourself. Sign up 48 hours in advance and get lunch included. Cost: $20. To get more information or to register, call (310) 439-8964 or visit www.divorcedetox.com.

Making moves
Best Western Hotel
1920 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 a.m. — 8:30 a.m.
Business owners and professionals meet each Wednesday morning to share tips or referrals to help one another grow their businesses. Breakfast is served. Cost: First visit is free.
For more information, call (310) 920-9649.

Ice skating by the beach
Arizona Avenue at Fifth Street
10 a.m. — 10 p.m.
Bring back childhood memories — and create new ones — as you slice through the ice in a festive atmosphere filled with holiday cheer and balmy ocean breezes. The ice rink will remain open through January. Admission is $10 and includes skate rental. The rink is periodically cleared for short periods to groom the ice. If raining, the rink will remain open in light rain or drizzle conditions, closing only for heavy downpours. For more information go to www.downtownsm.com.

Thursday, Dec. 24, 2009

Santa Monica nativity scenes
Palisades Park
4 p.m. — 5 p.m.
The annual Nativity Scenes along the bluffs are a Santa Monica tradition not to be missed. Go for a stroll in Palisades Park and enjoy the 14 life-sized scenes depicting the moments leading up to the birth of Jesus, from the angel's announcement to Mary all the way up to Jesus' return to Nazareth. The scenes will remain open until Jan. 2, 2010. Admission is free to visitors of all ages.
For more information, go to www.santamonicanativityscenes.org

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

AP Enterprise: Feds mull regulating drugs in water

JEFF DONN
AP National Writer

Federal regulators under President Barack Obama have sharply shifted course on long-standing policy toward pharmaceutical residues in the nation's drinking water, taking a critical first step toward regulating some of the contaminants while acknowledging they could threaten human health.

A burst of significant announcements in recent weeks reflects an expanded government effort to deal with pharmaceuticals as environmental pollutants:

— For the first time, the Environmental Protection Agency has listed some pharmaceuticals as candidates for regulation in drinking water. The agency also has launched a survey to check for scores of drugs at water treatment plants across the nation.

— The Food and Drug Administration has updated its list of waste drugs that should be flushed down the toilet, but the agency has also declared a goal of working toward the return of all unused medicines.

— The National Toxicology Program is conducting research to clarify how human health may be harmed by drugs at low environmental levels.

The Associated Press reported last year that the drinking water of at least 51 million Americans contains minute concentrations of a multitude of drugs. Water utilities, replying to an AP questionnaire, acknowledged the presence of antibiotics, sedatives, sex hormones and dozens of other drugs in their supplies.

The news reports stirred congressional hearings and legislation, more water testing and more disclosure of test results. For example, an Illinois law goes into effect Jan. 1 banning health care institutions from flushing unused medicine into wastewater systems.

The EPA's new study will look for 200 chemical and microbial contaminants at 50 plants that treat drinking water. The list includes 125 pharmaceuticals or related chemicals. This research will help federal water officials decide if regulations are needed.

In the first move toward possible drinking-water standards, the EPA has put 13 pharmaceuticals on what it calls the Contaminant Candidate List. They are mostly sex hormones, but include the antibiotic erythromycin and three chemicals used as drugs but better known for other uses.

They join a list of 104 chemical and 12 microbial contaminants that the EPA is considering as candidates for regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act. No pharmaceutical has ever reached the list in its 12-year history, but medicines now make up 13 percent of the target chemicals on the latest list "based on their potential adverse health effects and potential for occurrence in public water systems," the EPA said.

They take a place beside such better-known contaminants as the metal cobalt, formaldehyde, the rocket fuel ingredient perchlorate, and the disease germ E. coli.

"I think this does signal a change in the regulatory and research approaches," said Conrad Volz, a University of Pittsburgh scientist whose research raises questions about the risk of eating fish from waters contaminated with sex hormones. "What's happening is pretty amazing."

Several scientists within and outside government tied the stronger focus on human health to the Obama administration and the president's appointment of Lisa Jackson, a highly regarded former head of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, to run the EPA.

"I think we are trying to be as aggressive as we can. We understand it's a major national issue. We understand it's a major public concern," said Peter Silva, the new water administrator at the EPA.

However, making the candidate list provides no assurance that a chemical will reach full-blown regulation. In fact, no chemical

SEE **WATER** PAGE 9



IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Kept warm in a Christmas stocking, newborn Jack Mills is held by his mother Jennifer and father Michael at the UCLA-Medical Center nursery on Monday morning.

Board OKs waste facility

NOAKI SCHWARTZ
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES A county board in central California approved the expansion of the largest toxic-waste dump in the West, despite concerns about an increase in birth defects in a nearby farming town.

The Kings County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday upheld an earlier decision to allow Chemical Waste Management to expand its 1,600-acre facility near Kettleman City in the San Joaquin Valley.

The proposal still needs state and federal approval.

Community members in the largely Spanish-speaking town about three hours north of Los Angeles urged the board to reject the expansion after discovering an alarming increase in birth defects and infant deaths.

The dump's owners say there's no evidence linking the facility to the birth defects.

"I think the board vote today shows that they feel like the facility is safe and has been thoroughly reviewed throughout this long process," said Katherine Cole, spokeswoman for Chemical Waste Management.

Environmental activists and residents in the

SEE **FACILITY** PAGE 12

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

In disagreement

Editor:

A couple of comments on the letter from Ms. Jefferies proposing privatization of the Third Street Promenade and surrounding streets ("Privatization is the way to go," Dec. 21). First, but not necessarily in importance, public art performance is never meant to have the same character or even quality as what one would expect at Disney Hall. What it does have is the special quirkiness and vitality that gives life to public spaces in cities 'round the world.

Second, we should never cease to be ashamed that people remain homeless and ill with nowhere else to go than our public venues.

Finally, a person vomiting with the force of Krakatoa or another one urinating gallons at a time, both reported as being "true stories," would be worthy public performances – if not so sad. City Hall has done much to mitigate homelessness and should be commended for doing so and supported in its efforts to do still more.

Katherine McTaggart
Santa Monica

Chess program should be restored

Editor:

My son, Miller Moss, has been playing chess at the Santa Monica Library Fairview Branch since he was 4 years old. The program is superlative, run by chess masters of various ages and backgrounds. It is the only true multicultural experience we have had in Los Angeles; people from the ages of 4 to 90, from Los Angeles to Pakistan, to Russia, very poor to very wealthy, coming together to play chess, to learn the game and teach the game – a truly unique and beautiful program. My son has learned more about sportsmanship, winning graciously, losing gracefully, strategy, anticipation, and logical consequences at the chess program than he has at his private school or club soccer team. That this self-supporting program would be tossed aside due to laziness and other pathetic excuses is unconscionable. We need to take action to right this egregious misstep.

Emily Kovner Moss
Santa Monica





Word in Edgewise

Kenny Mack — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Hollywood sure isn't hurting

IN THE MIDDLE OF A FINANCIAL CRISIS, Hollywood is poised to gross $10 billion at the box office this year. The global economy may have melted down in 2009, but the Hollywood economy has never been stronger. The previous record of $9.68 billion, set in 2007, was eclipsed about two weeks ago — before James Cameron's game-changing "Avatar" earned almost a quarter-billion dollars worldwide over the weekend — and before this year's Christmas releases hit theaters. The bottom line is that people will spend $10 to take a detour from their reality and get lost in an on-screen fantasy for a couple of hours. Films like "Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen" and "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," which had domestic box office earnings of $400 million and $300 million respectively — and even "The Hangover" and its $275 million — show that the movie business is truly recession-proof.

The studios will still spend another year crying broke, however, and this year's successful Christmas releases will again be the templates for projects that will be green-lighted in 2010. Last year, "Benjamin Button" paved the way for this year's big-budget fantasy flicks, "Valkyrie" shelved any planned historical biopics, and "Bedtime Stories" made Adam Sandler turn down stupid scripts (for once) and only do "Funny People."

For my many Jewish friends and their time-honored Christmas night tradition of Chinese food and a trip to the multiplex, here are this year's offerings and where they'll finish the weekend:

"Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel" is the children's movie released this weekend. Even if I had kids, this hot mess wouldn't be on my radar. Never mind the fact that it starts with the Chipmunks' guardian being hospitalized, it follows his accident with kindly Aunt Jackie falling down a flight of stairs and dying in the hospital. Alvin and the boys go back to school and find the music program is being cut and the solution to this problem pits the pop star rodents in a battle of the bands with another group of singing chipmunks called "The Chipettes," voiced by Christina Applegate, Anna Faris, and Amy Poehler. There is also some kind of revenge scenario where the girls' manager kidnaps them or something — I couldn't follow the plot summary — and Alvin saves the day on a motorcycle. This stinker will finish in fourth place.

"It's Complicated" stars Alec Baldwin, Steve Martin, and Meryl Streep as a woman who has an affair with her ex-husband (Baldwin) who is cheating on his much-younger wife. Written and directed by chick-flick auteur Nancy Meyers, it's billed as a comedy about "love, divorce, and everything in between," but strikes me as a movie by a middle-aged white woman about a middle-aged white woman who lives in a world populated entirely by white people — not that there's anything wrong with that. If you are a middle-aged white person or enjoy stories about them, then I'm sure you'll get your 10 buck's worth out of this talented filmmaker and the incredible cast she has assembled. A third-place finisher.

It's no surprise that Guy Ritchie would turn an intellectual private detective into a metrosexual action hero in "Sherlock Holmes," but the trailer still threw me for a loop. There was no sign of the iconic deer-stalker hat that Holmes made famous and way too much of Robert Downey Jr.'s naked body. I understand the need to put butts in seats compels Ritchie to add a little beefcake, blow some stuff up, and have Holmes make a three-story dive into the river Thames, but I hope he doesn't try to make this 18th century British private detective into a bad ass crime fighter. If so, this movie needs to be a one-off and not a franchise (sorry, Jude Law). It finishes the weekend in second place.

The top draw this Christmas will be the last film of the late Heath Ledger, "The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus," also starring Christopher Plummer in the title role, written and directed by Terry Gilliam. It tells the story of the doctor and his traveling show that offers people the chance to travel beyond reality through a magical mirror he uses to guide their imaginations. He has this power because of a deal he made with the devil (called Mr. Nick, played by the great Tom Waits), who granted Parnassus eternal life. Later, when he meets his true love, the doctor makes a different deal and trades his immortality for youth — on the condition that at 16 years old, his first-born would become property of Mr. Nick. As Valentina Parnassus' 16th birthday approaches, Mr. Nick appears. But the deal is re-negotiated into a head-to-head battle between the doctor and the devil to see who can seduce five souls first. This movie has the added draw of Johnny Depp, Jude Law, and Colin Farrell finishing Heath's work on the film in tribute and giving their salaries to Heath's daughter, Matilda.

As usual, the over/under on good speaking black parts is 1.5 for all of these movies — and the under is a safe bet. Merry Christmas!

KENNY MACK is a multi-platform content provider with four-quadrant crossover appeal who will be seeing "Dr. Parnassus" this weekend. His past columns are archived at www.ifyoumissedit.com and he can be reached at kennymack@gmail.com.

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Going Postal

Steve "the Mailman" Breen
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

God is laughing at you

ON NOV. 30, 2009, JOHN WHITEHEAD of That Rutherford Guy posted a column in the Daily Press entitled "Have we forgotten God?" His observations of religious values and faith being supplanted by "rampant materialism" jangled like winning a big metaphysical money hand of Texas Hold 'em.

This "God" stuff though really torques these retro-hippies' hip huggers into a proctological pucker print, eh? There hasn't been this much liberal angst since a rich ball player cheated on his wife. Wow, like that's never happened.

Speaking of Tiger, I think that we're all in agreement that, as Elin was in Valkyrie-mode overload while chasing Tiger down the driveway, Tiger was probably praying feverishly in Michael Jackson falsetto, "Oh, please dear God, keep that crazy Viking from sending my stupid, skinny butt off to Valhalla! Jesus Christ, where'd that tree come from?"

Numbskulls like Tiger only "get religion" when there is a reasonable assumption that their jilted mate is about to book them on a one-way cruise down the river Styx. Quite frankly, I'm glad that karma has supplied Tiger a steep tsunami to surf on his marital ripcurl.

Folks, there isn't a single person out there with half a brain stem intact that hasn't had some intramural bull session over jugs of cheap red whine [sic] while postulating some suppositorial editorial on the toroidal nature of transcendental deity. The funny part is that everybody invariably gets it all wrong, so please pardon my elbows.

First of all, our human frailty always gets in the way of our divine immanence. Some people get this notion narcissistically backwards. Now I've always been of the opinion that everybody is entitled to their own silly superstitions regarding their personal relationship with their "imaginary friend." (My favorite imaginary friend is Tyler Durden.) Even atheists believe in God. During a catastrophe or an orgasm, which can sometimes be the same thing for atheists, they don't howl, "Oh, nobody! Oh, nobody!"

OK, which month is "Atheist History Month?" Name a famous atheist holiday. Is it April Fools' Day? If, according to liberal atheists, people of faith are stupid, is the Rev. Martin Luther King therefore a moron? OK, maybe Ghandi was. He always wore a shower curtain in public.

Secondly, God does have a sense of humor. Just look in the mirror. The joke is in front you especially when you're naked. Just point and laugh. After all, only us semi-sentient simians on this little blue cosmological marble called Earth can engage in that peculiar activity. God is also a crappy design engineer. If the only activity of which we seem to be truly capable is waging war then why did God attach a man's most vulnerable appendage dangling out in front?

What more proof do you need? God's a funny dude.

Speaking of jokes, in a recent SMDP Letter to the Editor entitled "Religion is evil," one reader deciduously deconstructed that, "Religion ultimately leads to a dead-end to actually understanding the immense universe with hundreds of billions of galaxies, each with hundreds of billions of stars as well as dark matter and energy, etc."

OK, to answer this "Carl Sagan moment," is it an inconvenient truth that our heliocentric world was first postulated by a Polish Catholic priest named Copernicus? That the "Big Bang" theory is credited to Belgian Catholic priest/particle physicist, Monsignor George Lemaître? Why does the theology of Augustinian priest Gregor Mendel, the father of modern genetics, seem to drag its knuckles across the misanthropic mental cesspit of modern liberalistas? Can the name of English clergyman Joseph Priestley, the discoverer of "dephlogisticated air" now known as "oxygen," ever effervesce through liberals' intellectual hypoxia? Do atheists know that there are better things to do on the Internet than playing "Farmville" on Facebook. Are those cyber-chickens any less real than the God that atheists profess to disavow?

My farm has Mexican ninjas! I'll send you some.

Please note that mytho-poetic religion and empirical science aren't mutually exclusive. Look at the canoodling whackadoodles of "global warming." While it's delightful to fluff up the ether-filled eclair of one's questionably liberal education, it's an entirely different cupcake to actually squeeze out the soft squishy stuff from the center of one's intellectual vacuity as an exercise in public stupidity. Stupidity's not a virtue unless you have an "Obama '08" sticker parked on your Prius. Tom Hayden recently peeled his off and his IQ jumped 10 points!

To the pro-atheist goon platoons, most of this information that I've conveyed is found in these devices known as "books." And is it the most inconvenient of truths that the first book printed by Johannes Gutenberg in 1455 was a bible?

STEVE BREEN believes in the "Cosmic Carrot Muffin" because it keeps him regular and is still "the best looking mailman in the U.S. Post Office." He can be reached at dulcamarax@yahoo.com.

The Q Line

Working 9 to 9

Santa Monica Police Chief Tim Jackman recently extended for one month a pilot program in which patrol officers work 12.5-hour shifts, three days a week instead of the traditional 10 hours, four days a week. Officers on the 3-12 schedule must also work an additional 10 hour day, once a month.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:

What are your thoughts on the 3-12 switch? Should the schedule be made permanent?

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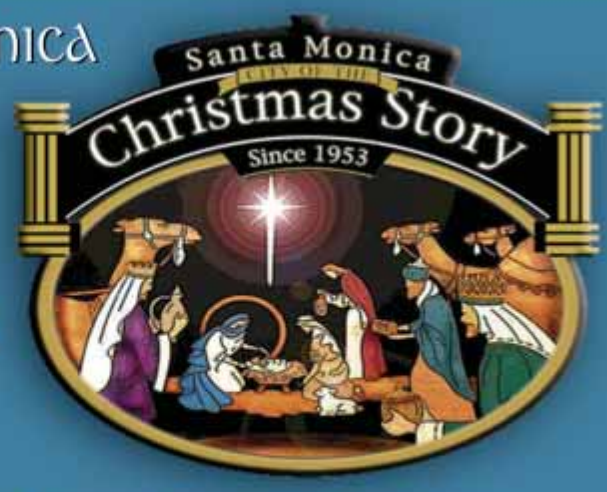
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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SANTA MONICA HOUSING AUTHORITY
ADMINISTRATIVE PLAN

The City Council/Housing Authority Board of the City of Santa Monica will hold a public hearing to receive comment and adopt the proposed revisions to the Santa Monica Housing Authority's Administrative Plan. The Administrative Plan establishes oversight policies to operate the Santa Monica Housing Authority's (HA) housing rental subsidy programs in a manner consistent with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. Copies of the Administrative Plan are now available for review during the 45-day public comment period ending February 8, 2010. Copies are available at the Santa Monica Housing Authority Office at 1901 Main Street, 1st Floor, Suite A, Santa Monica, CA 90405 and on the web at www01.smgov.net/housing/section8.htm. Please send your written comments to the above address, Attn: Admin Plan, by February 8, 2010.

The Public Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, March 9, 2010
At 5:45 p.m. in the City Council Chambers
located at 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica

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Recovery not as strong as previously thought

JEANNINE AVERSA
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON The economy grew at a 2.2 percent pace in the third quarter, as the recovery got off to a weaker start than previously thought. However, all signs suggest the economy will end the year on stronger footing.

The Commerce Department's new reading on gross domestic product for the July-to-September quarter was slower than the 2.8 percent growth rate estimated just a month ago. Economists were predicting that figure wouldn't be revised in the government's final estimate on third-quarter GDP.

The main factors behind the downgrade: consumers didn't spend as much, commercial construction was weaker, business investment in equipment and software was a bit softer and companies cut back more on inventories, according to Tuesday's report.

Despite the lower reading, the economy managed to finally return to growth during the quarter, after a record four straight quarters of decline. That signaled the deepest and longest recession since the 1930s had ended, and the economy had entered into a new fragile phase of recovery.

Many analysts believe the economy is on track for a better finish in the current quarter.

The economy is probably growing at nearly 4 percent in the October-to-December quarter, analysts say. If they're right, that would mark the strongest showing since 5.4 percent growth in the first quarter of 2006 — well before the recession began. The government will release its first estimate of fourth-quarter economic activity on Jan. 29.

Yet even such growth wouldn't be enough to quickly drive down the unemployment rate, now at 10 percent. High unemployment and tight credit for both consumers and businesses are expected to continue to weigh on the economic recovery. Many economists predict the economy's growth will slow to a pace of around 2 or 3 percent in the first three months of 2010.

Growth in the final quarter is expected to be driven by companies restocking depleted inventories. Stocks of goods were slashed at a record pace during the recession. So even the smallest pickup in customer demand will force factories to step up production and boost overall economic activity in the final quarter.

Stronger sales of exports to foreign customers, as well as spending by U.S. consumers and businesses, also will help underpin fourth-quarter growth.

It's been a wild ride for the economy this year. In the first three months, it shrank at a pace of 6.4 percent — its worst downhill slide in 27 years.

The recession eased in the second quarter, with the economy dipping at a pace of just 0.7 percent. The economy returned to growth in the third quarter.

But much of the third quarter's growth was supported by government stimulus spending. The Cash for Clunkers rebates and an $8,000 tax credit for first-time home buyers buoyed sales of cars and homes. The clunkers program ended in August, though the tax credit has been extended and expanded beyond first-time buyers.

The government makes three estimates of GDP, which measures the value of all goods and services produced in the United States, for a given quarter. Each estimate is based on more complete data. The government's initial estimate for the third quarter was more energetic, showing the economy's growth at a 3.5 percent pace. Subsequent estimates, however, showed the recovery was actually slower.

Tuesday's report showed consumer spending grew at a 2.8 percent pace, slightly weaker than the 2.9 percent pace previously estimated and one of the factors behind the lower overall reading.

Retail sales, however, showed decent momentum in October and November, raising hopes that holiday sales would fare better than last year, which was the worst in nearly four decades.

Still, unlike previous economic recoveries, consumers, whose spending accounts for 70 percent of overall economic activity, aren't expected to solely power this one. Businesses and the government are having to pitch in more.

A trouble spot for the economy — the commercial real-estate market — was clearly visible in Tuesday's report.

Builders slashed spending on commercial building projects at an annualized pace of 18.4 percent in the third quarter. That was sharper than the 15.1 percent pace previously estimated and contributed to the GDP downgrade.

Business spending on equipment and software, meanwhile, grew at a 1.5 percent pace, less than the 2.3 percent growth rate estimated a month ago.

Furthermore, businesses cut inventories more deeply, by $139.2 billion in the third quarter. However, with inventories at rock-bottom levels, businesses are starting to replenish them, which should support the economy.

It's unclear how the recovery will fare once the government withdraws stimulus programs put in place to combat the financial crisis and the recession. If consumers pull back on spending, the economy could tip back into recession.

Economists at Capital Economics predict the recovery will slow, with the economy's growth fading to just 1.5 percent in 2011.

Against that backdrop, the Federal Reserve pledged last week to keep interest rates at a record low to help the recovery gain traction.

Faced with the prospects of high unemployment well into the 2012 presidential election year, President Barack Obama wants the government to take further steps to put Americans back to work. The House last week passed some provisions that Obama has pushed to aid job growth. But it didn't include new tax breaks for small businesses that hire.

The administration credits its $787 billion package of tax cuts and increased government spending with improving employment, though Republicans argue it did not help much.

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
CHECK OUT THE HOROSCOPES ON PAGE 13!

REAL ESTATE

Tax credit drives home sales

ALAN ZIBEL
AP Real Estate Writer

WASHINGTON Extraordinary government efforts to stabilize the housing market are paying off. What happens when the help runs out is anyone's guess.

Sales of previously occupied homes surged in November to the highest level in nearly three years, spurred by federal subsidies for starter homes and a massive Federal Reserve push to drive down mortgage rates.

The strong figures were driven by a race to take advantage of a tax credit of up to $8,000 for first-time homebuyers. The credit has since been extended to next spring, but the government initially planned to end it Nov. 30.

"It was like the end of the world," said real estate agent Stephanie Somers of Re/Max Access in Philadelphia. "All the first-time buyers converged onto that one month."

The pace of home sales is now up 46 percent from its bottom in January and still 10 percent shy of its peak from four years ago, according to data released Tuesday by the National Association of Realtors.

The real estate recovery depends not only on taxpayer dollars but also on the health of the economy at large, which grew at a less robust pace in the third quarter than previously thought.

The economy grew at a 2.2 percent annual pace from July to September, down from an initial reading of 2.8 percent, the government said Tuesday.

Experts think the economy is even stronger now than it was last quarter, but they expect it to ebb again early next year. And that's when the tax credit will wind down and the Fed plans to stop buying mortgage-backed securities, which could raise mortgage rates.

Whether the real estate rebound can continue without the help remains to be seen.

"The housing market recovery can't continue if the overall recovery in the economy doesn't persist," said Michelle Meyer, an economist with Barclays Capital.

While prices for homes in many parts of the country are still falling, analysts said the tax credit clearly helped the volume of sales.

"In the short run, it's an effective stimulus," said John Ryding, chief economist at RDQ Economics. "If you give someone money to spend on something, they will spend it."

With April 30 as the new deadline, experts forecast sales will drop during the winter and pick up again in the spring. Without the looming deadline, "buyers have no sense of urgency now," said Gary DeRosa, an agent with ZipRealty Inc. in Seattle.

About 2 million homebuyers have taken advantage of the credit so far, the Realtors group said. It expects 2.4 million more to use it by the middle of next year. First-time buyers made up about half of all transactions last month, driving sales up 44 percent above last year's levels, a record.

Overall, sales of existing homes rose 7.4 percent in November to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 6.54 million, up from 6.09 million in October. That was far stronger than the 6.25 million forecast by economists surveyed by Thomson Reuters.

The inventory of unsold homes on the market shrank about 1 percent to 3.5 million. That's a healthy supply of about six and a half months' worth, the smallest in three years.

That home prices are still falling shows one government housing program, an effort to get lenders to prevent foreclosures by lowering monthly payments for hundreds of thousands of borrowers, isn't working as well as the Obama administration would like. Only about 31,000 borrowers have completed the process so far.

In the meantime, high unemployment is causing homeowners to default on their loans in record numbers. Banks are unloading foreclosed homes, driving prices down in many areas, particularly Arizona, California, Florida and Nevada.

Nationwide, the median sales price was $172,600 in November, down 4 percent from a year earlier, but flat from October.

Many experts warn that lenders have millions of properties in the foreclosure pipeline that have yet to come on the market, suggesting prices could fall even further. Plenty of traditional sellers are also keeping their homes off the market.

"When they start thinking they can sell them, we could see a surge in homes for sale," wrote Joel Naroff, president of Naroff Economic Advisors.

In the meantime, homebuyers can take advantage of record-low mortgage rates, deeply discounted prices and federal incentives. Besides the tax credit for first-time buyers, owners who have lived in their homes for at least five years can now claim a tax credit of up to $6,500 if they relocate. To qualify, they have to sign a purchase agreement by April 30.

Real estate agent Tim Surratt of Grenwood King Properties in Houston said activity has remained healthy this month, even only days before Christmas. "The window to purchase where the prices are right and the interest rate is right is closing," he said.



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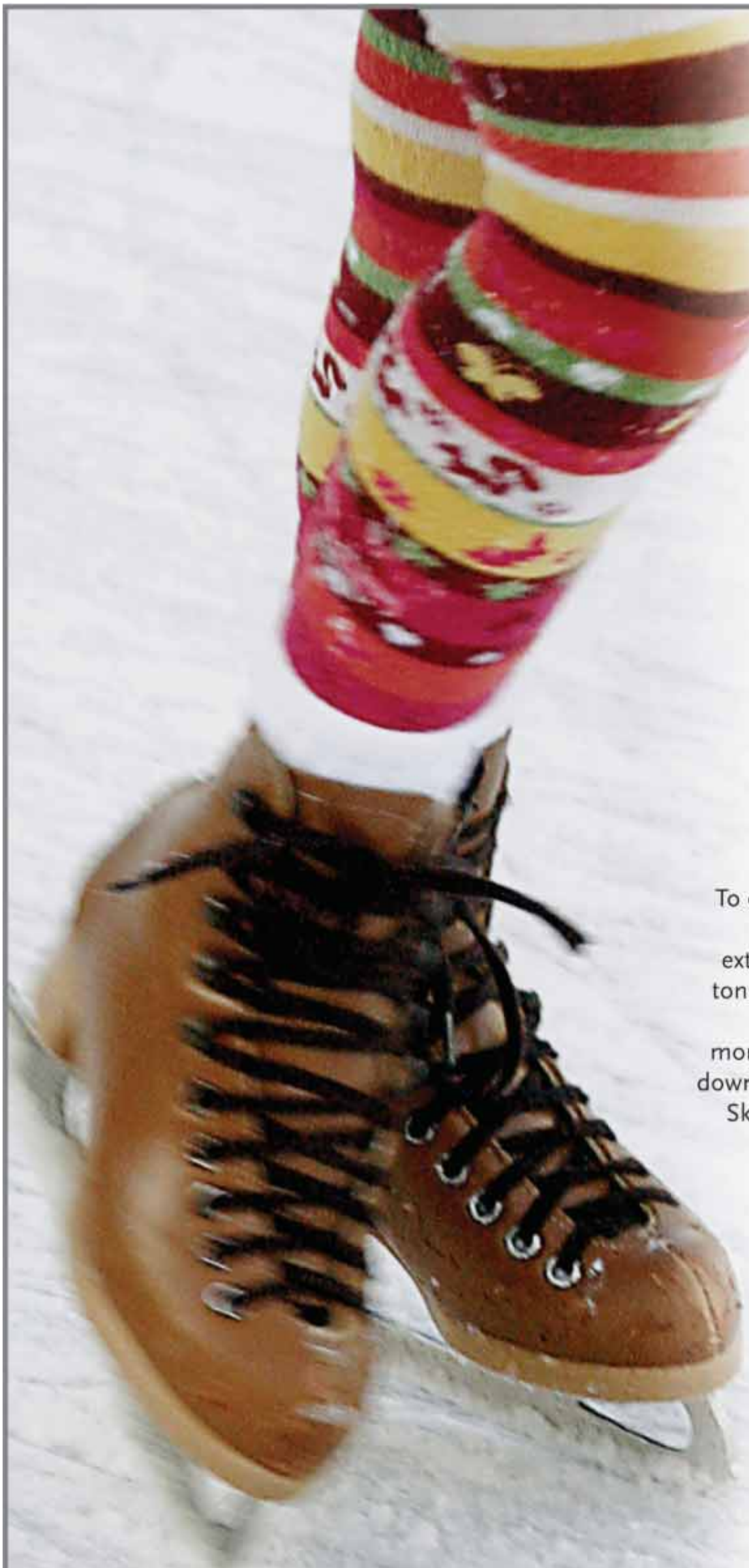
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Pharmaceuticals found in water

FROM WATER PAGE 3

on the list has ever been made subject to a national water quality standard, EPA officials acknowledge. They intend to make preliminary decisions on some of the latest contaminants by mid-2012.

"They've made a lot of good first steps, so now were waiting to see those carried through," said Nneka Leiba, a researcher at the Environmental Working Group in Washington.

Water utilities and drug makers are wary of the federal moves. Difficult scientific questions remain over the possible threat posed to humans by minuscule concentrations in drinking water, where drugs are typically found in parts per billion or trillion. That's way below medical doses.

However, some researchers fear that very small daily amounts of unwanted drugs in water could do cumulative harm to people over decades, possibly in combination with other drugs or in sensitive populations like children or pregnant women.

Alan Goldhammer, a vice president of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, said such trace amounts "really do not pose a human health issue."

"We do get concerned if we think that somebody is going to require that the consumers spend money and not get any health benefit," added Tom Curtis, a lobbyist for the Denver-based American Water Works Association.

The U.S. Geological Survey first began taking notice of pharmaceutical contamination several years ago. But until now the federal government has focused on the presence of pharmaceuticals in rivers and streams.

A recently released EPA study found more than 40 pharmaceuticals — everything from antibiotics to heart medicine to antidepressants — at nine publicly owned wastewater treatment plants. The drugs appeared in concentrations measured in parts per billion and trillion. Many passed right through the plants.

Linda Birnbaum, who is director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and also oversees the National Toxicology Program, said some program research is focusing on how much environmental pharmaceuticals can reach animal blood and tissues and how that might compare with humans.

Waste pharmaceuticals reach the environment when people take medicine and excrete the unmetabolized portion. Millions of pounds of waste drugs also escape into waterways from hospitals, drug plants and other factories, farms and the drains of American homes, the AP has reported.

On its new list, the FDA, which regulates medicines, says only 10 active ingredients in controlled-substance drugs need to be flushed to keep them away from children, abusers and pets.

At the same time, the agency announced it is working with partners to develop programs to return unused drugs instead of flushing them down the drain. The agency wants "to encourage their development and future use for all drugs," declared Dr. Douglas Throckmorton, deputy director of the FDA's Center for Drug Evaluation and Research. Returned drugs are usually incinerated, which destroys most active ingredients. Community drug takeback programs have increased considerably since the AP's PharmaWater reports.

SEE WATER PAGE 11

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Task force to discuss airport emissions again in March

FROM SMO PAGE 1

tive health effects at high concentrations.

The particles are spewed out by private jets and planes landing at Santa Monica Airport and get blown into residential neighborhoods and parks, groups like Friends of Sunset Park and Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution have said.

City Councilman Kevin McKeown said he placed the airport pollution item on the agenda for Jan. 12 following a meeting of City Hall's Task Force on the Environment he attended Monday night.

During the meeting the panel considered a recent study led by UCLA scientists that measured pollution at Santa Monica Airport and concluded that ultrafine particle levels in nearby neighborhoods are on average 11 times higher than baseline measurements, and peak at several hundred times higher than normal levels.

The task force didn't formally recommend that council take action on airport pollution, but McKeown said the panel's discussion of the research into ultrafine particles made it clear that City Hall could play a constructive roll in helping create state or national standards for regulating the pollution.

He pointed to comments by Susan Mearns, an environmental scientist who sits on the task force. Mearns said studies have shown possible risks of exposure to high levels of ultrafine particles, but emphasized that to establish regulations for the pollutants, scientists will need to develop a thorough understanding of the particles' precise "toxicity." Knowing the particles' toxicity would allow an agency to regulate exposure similarly to how the government regulates exposure to substances like lead.

"The concerns are real. I think that they have been heard by regulatory agencies, I think they've been heard by the city, I think they've been heard by the task force," she said. Efforts to regulate the particles are held up, though, because "there is a key piece of information which is the toxicity data, which is lacking," she said.

Mearns estimated the cost for a toxicity study at around $1 million.

"This has to be at the state or federal level, but what we can be is the activating agent to get this done," McKeown said.

The task force is expected to further consider making a detailed recommendation to City Council on airport pollution in March, after a study on the airport's impacts by the South Coast Air Quality Management District becomes public.

Ping Ho, a member of Friends for Sunset Park who has championed City Hall involvement in addressing airport population, said she believes momentum is building to begin to regulate ultrafine particles.

"Now science has actually picked up on this and it's going on its own," she said. "I actually think that we are looking at the possibility of having some health standard within the foreseeable future."

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FROM **RED CROSS** PAGE 1

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"Seniors are some of our most vulnerable neighbors," Adams said. "By providing them with the emergency kits, it will help us all in the event that a disaster strikes."

The emergency kits will provide many at-risk seniors with the basics to start their own readiness plans and survive an earthquake or similar devastating occurrence, Adams said.

Donated items will be received through mid-February, 2010. Plans call for the emergency kits to be assembled and distributed in late February. The Red Cross will add additional locations to receive donated items over the next few weeks.

For additional information on senior preparedness information contact Adams at (424) 203-1115. For information on how you can best prepare for emergencies, contact the Red Cross of Santa Monica at www.redcrosssofsantamonica.org or call (310) 394-3773 during business hours.

news@smdp.com

Environmentalists want bold action

FROM **WATER** PAGE 9

The recent announcements have been striking in their speed and breadth. Just last year, Ben Grumbles, Silva's predecessor at the EPA Office of Water under President George W. Bush, said only one pharmaceutical was under consideration for the list of candidates for water standards. And it was the heart medicine nitroglycerin, better known as an explosive.

Yet some environmentalists say the government should take even bolder action. "Identifying the nature and scope of the problem is not the same thing as addressing the causes of the problem," said George Mannina, an environmental lawyer in Washington.

He said the EPA should do more to keep drugs out of the nation's water supplies and not rely on expensive filtering systems at water treatment plants.

Jon Holder, a vice president at Vestara, a seller of equipment to manage waste drugs, said the EPA should be more aggressive about enforcing hazardous waste laws that already apply to some drugs used by hospitals.

"We applaud the light that's being shined on it, but we also recognize that the simple enforcement of existing law would go a long way," he said.

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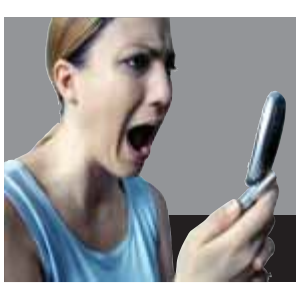


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Santa Monica Daily Press
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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 59°

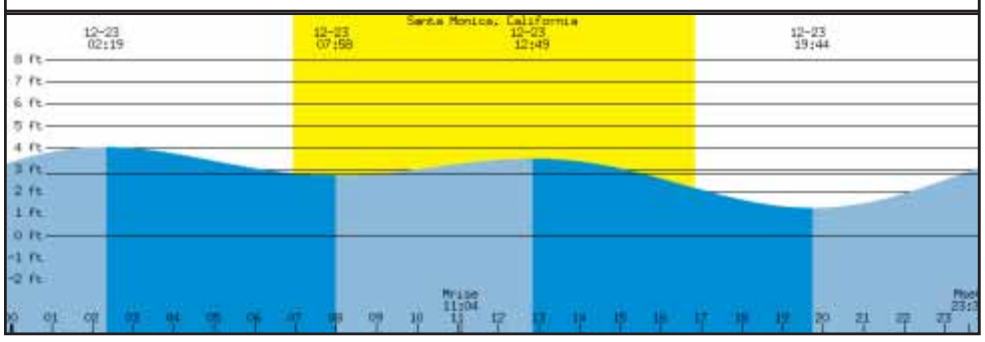
Swell Forecast

Swell should back off but there could still be head high+ peaky wind swell waves at times around west facing breaks in the early AM.

Long Range Synopsis

Looks smaller, perhaps just waist high most everywhere.

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 15, 2009**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 28 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 9
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 37 / 16
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 5 / 23

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation; simplehuman; SIMA

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

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.

Dump's owners support study

FROM FACILITY PAGE 3

town of 1,500 called the vote disappointing.

The board said the county and state have the authority to revoke the permits if a link is shown between the birth defects and the waste site. The board previously asked the state to conduct a health investigation.

"That's ridiculous," said Maricela Mares-Alatorre, who heads the group People for Clean Air and Water. "That's like that expression closing the barn door after the horse has been let out. The investigation could take six months to two years."

About 400 truckloads of waste are hauled to the dump each day. In 2007, the last year for which complete statistics were available, that totaled more than 3 million pounds of lead compounds, nearly 2 million pounds of asbestos and more than 118,000 pounds of arsenic, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. It's the state's only facility that accepts cancer-causing PCBs.

Most of the waste comes from California, with smaller amounts from other states and even Mexico.

Of 20 children known to have been born in Kettleman City between September 2007 and November 2008, five had a cleft in their palate or lips, according to a health survey by activists. Three of those children have since died.

Statewide, clefts of the lip or palate routinely occur in fewer than one in 800 births, according to California health statistics.

Along with those health problems, activists point to the high asthma and cancer rates in the community.

The dump's owners support a health study and have even offered to pay for one. Other potential health culprits include pesticides sprayed on nearby fields, discolored drinking water and exhaust from traffic on Interstate 5, the West Coast's major north-south highway that borders Kettleman City.

After years of fighting the waste company, activists have become distrustful, accusing it and public agencies of holding meetings at inconvenient times and places and refusing to translate documents into Spanish.

They have also threatened to sue if supervisors approved the project.

Chemical Waste Management is Kings County's biggest business, providing as much as $3 million a year to the county general fund. Kettleman City community leaders complain that little of the money comes back to the town, which has no sidewalks or stop signs.

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121: one to one ADR: any day now AFAIK: as far as I know AFK: away from keyboard **A/S/L: age, sex, location** B4: before B4N: bye for now B4N: back at the keyboard BBIAB: be back in a bit BBL: be back later BBR: bye bye now BBS: be back soon BEG: big evil grin **BF: boyfriend** BFN: bye for now BG: big grin BL: belly laughing BMTIPG: brilliant minds think in parallel gutters BRB: be right back BTA: but then again BTW: by the way BWL: bursting with laughter BWTHDIK: but what the heck do I know C&G: chuckle & grin CiD: crying in disgrace CWP: continued (in my) next post CP: chat post CRBT: crying real big tears CSE: chuckle, snicker, grin CU: see you CUL: see you later CYO: see you online DBAB: doing business as usual DIKU: do I know you? DL: dead link DLTBBB: don't let the bed bugs bite DQMOT: don't quote me on this EE: evil grin EMFBI: excuse me for butting in EMSG: email message EOT: end of thread F2F: face to face FC: fingers crossed FISH: first in, still here FMTEWTK: far more than you ever wanted to know FOMCL: falling off my chair laughing FTBOMH: from the bottom of my heart FUD: fear, uncertainty, and doubt FWIW: for what it's worth G2G: got to go G: grin GA: go ahead GAL: get a life GD&R: grinning, ducking, and running GF: girlfriend GFN: gone for now GIWIST: gee, I wish I'd said that GMBO: giggling my butt off GMTA: great minds think alike GOL: giggling out loud GTRM: going to read mail GT2F: glad to see you H&K: hug and kiss HAGN: have a good night **HDOP: help delete online predators** HHIS: hanging head in shame HTH: hope this helps HUB: head up butt IAC: in any case IANAL: I am not a lawyer (but) IC: I see IDK: I don't know IHA: I hate acronyms IIRC: if I remember correctly ILU: I love you IM: instant message IMHO: in my humble opinion IMXSHO: in my not so humble opinion IMO: in my opinion IOW: in other words IPN: I'm posting naked IRL: in real life IWALU: I will always love you ITSWM: if you see what I mean JIC: just in case JK: just kidding JMO: just my opinion JTLYK: just to let you know K: okay KIT: keep in touch KOC: kiss on cheek KOL: kiss on lips KOTC: kiss on the cheek KWIM: know what I mean? LDR: later LD: later, dude LDR: long distance relationship LLTA: lots and lots of thunderous applause **LMIRL: let's meet in real life** LMSO: laughing my socks off LOL: laughing out loud LSHMBB: laughing so hard my belly is bouncing LTM: laugh to myself LTNS: long time, no see LTR: long-term relationship LULAB: love you like a brother **LULAS: love you like a sister** LUWAMH: love you with all my heart LY: love you M/F: male or female MOSS: member of same sex MOTOS: member of the opposite sex MSG: message MTF: more to follow MUSH: miss you so much NAUT: not a darn thing NFFOC: naked in front of computer NP: no problem NRN: no reply necessary OIC: oh I see **OLL: online love** OM: old man OTF: off the floor OTOH: on the other hand OTTOMH: off the top of my head P2P: peer to peer PDA: public display of affection PEBCAK: problem exists between chair and keyboard PLZ: please PM: private message PMFJI: pardon me for jumping in but POAHF: put on a happy face **POS: parent over shoulder** PU: that stinks QT: cutie RL: real life ROTFL: rolling on the floor laughing RPG: role playing games RSN: real soon now SAL: spam for life SEYE: smiling ear to ear SMCOond: shoot hot coffee out of nose SMD: slaps head in disgust SF: surfer friendly SNERT: snot nosed egotistical rude teenager SO: significant other SOMY: sick of me yet? SOT: short of time STR: search the web SWAK: sealed with a kiss SWL: screaming with laughter SYS: see you soon TA: thanks again TCOB: taking care of business TDTF: take care of yourself TIA: thanks in advance TILII: tell it like it is TMI: too much information TPF: thinking of you TTFL: talk to you later UTR: you're welcome WB: welcome back WFM: works for me WIIFM: wouldn't it be nice if **WTGP: want to go private?** WTG: way to go WU: what's up WUF: where are you from? YBS: you'll be sorry YL: young lady YM: young man

Every day, children are sexually solicited online.

Ad Council. You don't know what your kids are saying online. Or who they are saying it to. A lot of times neither do they. So get involved. To protect your kid's online life or report an incident, call 1-800-THE LOST or visit cybertipline.com. **HDOP: help delete online predators**
National Center for Missing & Exploited Children



MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
(323) 466-FILM

Call theater for information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade

2012 (PG-13) 2hr 38min
12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:20

The Hurt Locker (R) 2hrs 11 min
1:40, 7:30

Fantastic Mr. Fox (PG) 1hr 27min
10:15 a.m., 12:25, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:35

The Messenger (R) 1hr 45min
11:00 a.m., 4:45, 10:30

Ninja Assassin (R) 1hr 39 min
10:20 a.m., 12:40, 3:00, 5:25, 7:50, 10:15

AMC 7 Santa Monica
1310 Third St.
(310) 289-4262

Brothers (R) 1hr 50min
10:45 a.m., 1:50, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00

Princess and the Frog (G) 1hr 35min
11:00 a.m., 1:45, 4:15, 6:45, 9:30

Princess and the Frog (G): Closed Captions 1hr 35min
12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15

Up in the Air (R) 1hr 49min
11:15 a.m., 1:00, 2:00, 3:45, 4:45, 6:30, 7:30, 9:15, 10:30

Avatar 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 40min
10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 2:15, 3:15, 6:00, 7:00, 9:45, 10:45

Laemmle's Monica Fourplex
1332 Second St.
(310) 394-9741

Precious (R) 1hr 59min
1:40, 4:30, 7:20, 10:00

An Education (PG13) 1hr 55min
1:55, 4:40, 7:30, 10:00

Home (2009) (PG-13) 1hr 24min
1:30, 7:10

Police, Adjective (Politist, adj.) (NR) 1hr 55min
1:30, 4:20, 7:10, 9:55

Mann's Criterion Theatre
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

The Blind Side (PG-13) 2hrs 6min
12:20, 1:10, 3:30, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

Did You Hear About the Morgans? (PG-13) 1hr 43min
11:30 a.m., 12:30, 2:00, 3:00, 4:30, 5:30, 7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 10:30

The Twilight Saga: New Moon (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40

Invictus (PG-13) 2hrs 12min
1:20, 4:20, 6:30, 7:20, 9:20, 10:20

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

Let the fun begin, Scorpio

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ In some fashion, you might feel as if you are in the midst of your last hurrah. Could this be true? No way. But as the week fades into the holiday, fatigue marks your behavior. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Zero in on what you want. Don't sell yourself short. If you don't put out what you want, you won't have as much of a chance to make it so. Surprises stem from friends and come from out of left field. Tonight: Where the action is.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ A must appearance allows you to show off your stuff. You know what you want and what to expect. Listen to your instincts regarding an older relative. This person needs more attention. A little doting goes far. Tonight: A must appearance.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Put on a favorite piece of music as you finish off holiday details. You will have a lot to smile about. Reach out to those at a distance who are special. Listen to your inner voice with a partner. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Work with others directly. Your attention is greatly appreciated, more than you know. Start delivering packages or holiday thoughts, as time is running short. A special card for a close loved one makes all the difference. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Continue to let another person remain dominant -- that is, if you would like to get the closeness and trust you want. Nevertheless, the unexpected sends lightning bolts in your direction. Tonight: Just defer to another.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Easy works, especially as there are so many people pushing hard. Don't let the frenzy get the best of you; keep your sense of the Christmas spirit. Unexpected surprises surround you left and right. Tonight: Finish off any errands.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Others want and need your attention. Your restful behavior adds smiles to your life. The unexpected pops. You can get stuck and uncomfortable or you can get into the moment. Tonight: Let the fun begin.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Spend more time at home dealing with different issues. You could be uncomfortable having to remain in one spot so long. When you decide to split, for whatever reason, it might be hard to contain you. Tonight: Remain spontaneous.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You could be surprised by what happens. Whatever feels right will be how you respond. A child or loved one could surprise you. Enjoy the moment rather than try to control what is uncontrollable. Tonight: Hang out.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Last-minute expenses could be inordinately expensive if you move too quickly and/or don't stop to think. Everyone has limits, you included. Honor your budget. Tonight: Go along with plans, but don't worry if they fall apart.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ You could surprise people with your actions and decisions. Maintain a high profile, and don't let a momentary or passing upset get the best of you. Given time, this too will pass. Tonight: All smiles.

Happy birthday

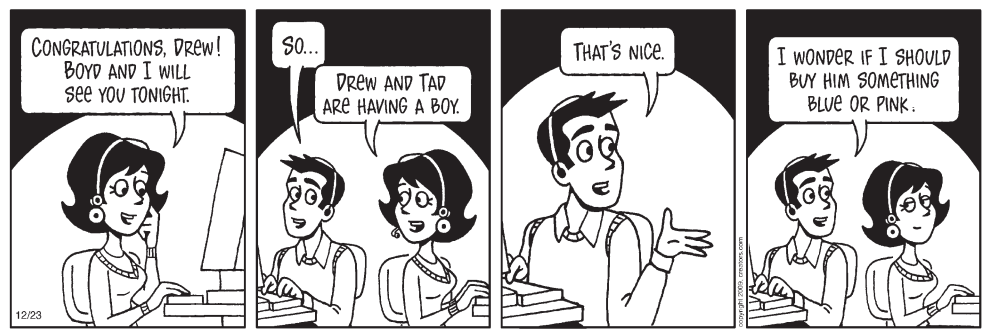
This year, unexpected events often occur. Part of the purpose of this disruption is to point to what area of your life is no longer functional. That same issue might encourage you to change. Whether you're conscious of it or not, you also might need more change and excitement in your life. On a psychic level, you could be pulling that energy in. Remember and honor that need to transform your day-to-day life, and you could experience more excitement, but in an easier, more serene manner. If you are single, you draw many different people to you. The act of choosing the right person could make all the difference. If you are attached, the two of you need to charge your life together, or else you could cause a major disruption to your bond. PISCES thinks you make a great buddy.

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

Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



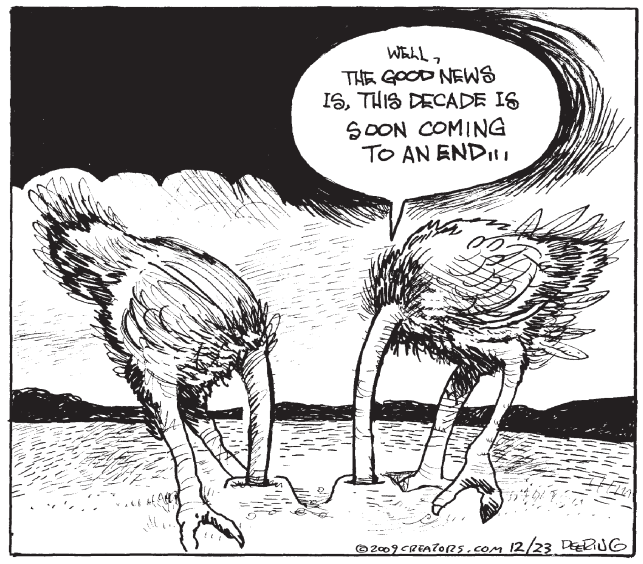
The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



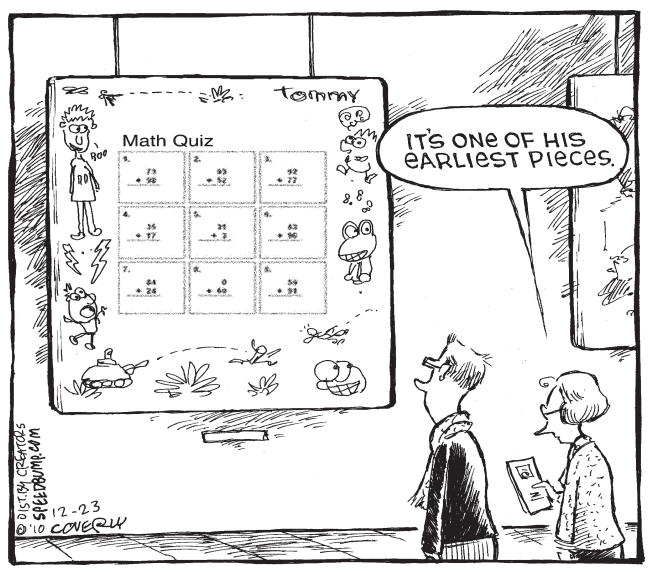
Garfield
By Jim Davis



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



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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 ★★★

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

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise *brandonw@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*.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 — Frost
5 Man's title
11 Lotion ingredient
12 Moon-struck
13 With no particular reason
14 Hurt
15 Boy
16 Make finer
17 Ham's assent
19 USO audience
22 Disreputable
24 Marley's, for one
26 Past due
27 Friend
28 Neighborhoods
30 Almanac section
31 By the unit
32 Holiday visitor
34 Smell awful
35 Gibbon or gorilla
38 In excess
41 Full range
42 On the liner
43 Wolfish look
44 Stab in the back
45 Writer Bombeck

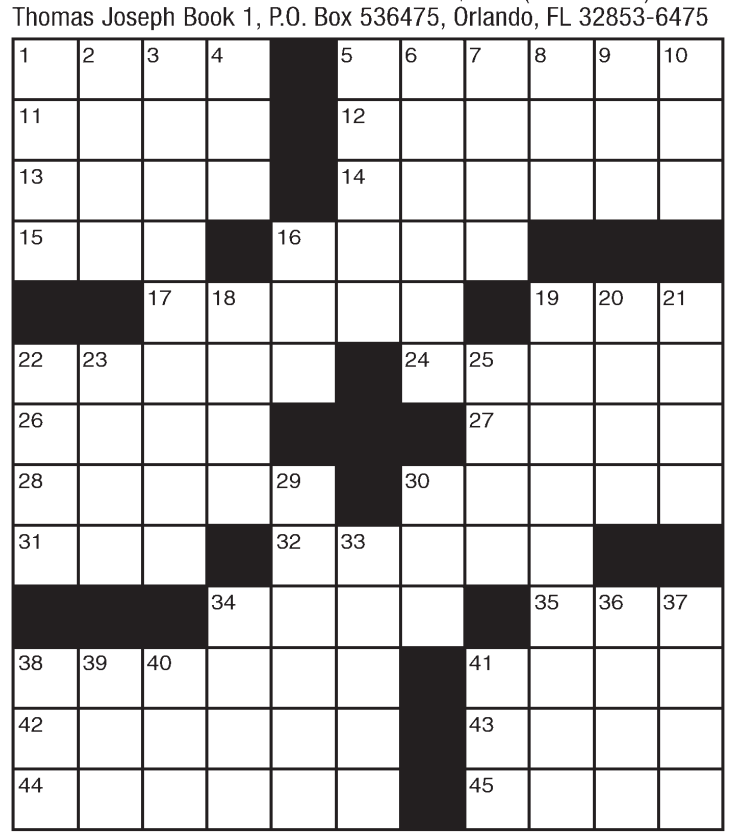
DOWN

1 Cooler
2 "M*A*S*H" star
3 Washer choice
4 Crucial
5 Copy
6 Confused
7 Narrow cut
8 Cruise, of the movies
9 December 24, for one
10 Santa suit color
16 Crafty
18 Inkling
19 Loser to Johnson
20 Vacation spot
21 Underworld river
22 Strike
23 Long-eared runner
25 Tennis star Mandlikova
29 Rugged range
30 Sort
33 Poor
34 Crowd sound
36 Frost creation
37 Financier Cornell
38 Talker's gift
39 Tad's dad
40 Auction unit
41 Tavern quaff

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

Yesterday's answer

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



12-23

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 10 20 30 44 49
Meganumber: 24
Jackpot: $162M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 19 30 37 40 44
Meganumber: 6
Jackpot: $47M

Fantasy 5: 7 11 20 24 33

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 3 0 3
EVENING: 3 1 8

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 07 Eureka
2nd: 12 Lucky Charms
3rd: 03 Hot Shot
RACE TIME: 1.49.74

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

■ Fine Lawyering: Jacob Christine, 21, acting as his own lawyer at an October hearing, denying charges that he severely slashed a fellow inmate at an Easton, Pa., prison, offered his own view of whoever the perpetrator was: "Whoever attacked (the victim) had a high regard for life," said Christine, because the cut "isn't deep at all. It's on his neck. It's not on his face."

■ When Minnesota's Riverview Community Bank opened for business in 2004, founder Chuck Ripka claimed divine inspiration -- that God had told him to "pastor the bank" and, in exchange, that He would "take care of the bottom line," leading Ripka to use "prayer" as a theme in the bank's promotions. In October 2009, Riverview became only the sixth bank in the state to be shut down by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. Riverview acknowledged that it had invested aggressively in real estate.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1893 The opera Hänsel und Gretel by Engelbert Humperdinck is first performed.

1913 The Federal Reserve Act is signed into law by President Woodrow Wilson, creating the Federal Reserve.

1914 World War I: Australian and New Zealand troops arrive in Cairo, Egypt.

1916 World War I: Battle of Magdhaba – Allied forces defeat Turkish forces in Egypt's Sinai peninsula.

1921 Visva-Bharati University is inaugurated.

1936 Colombia becomes a signatory to the Buenos Aires copyright treaty.

1937 First flight of the Vickers Wellington bomber.

1938 Discovery of the first modern coelacanth in South Africa.

1940 World War II: Greek submarine Papanikolis (À-2) sinks the Italian motor ship Antonietta.

1941 World War II: Japanese Imperial Army occupies Wake Island.

WORD UP!

collude \kuh-LOOD\ , intransitive verb; 1. To act in concert; to conspire; to plot.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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1244 Euclid 2+1 upper unit #10 stove, fridge, marble bathroom floors, carpets blinds, free standing balcony, parking, pets OK with deposit .$1675/mo (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

1248 11TH st.unit A 2bdrm/1 1/2bath, lower carpet stove, blinds, laundry, vinyl flooring, balcony parking, no pets.on site manager $1625.(310)393-6322 www.jkwproperties.com

12500 CULVER Blvd., near Marina 1+1 $975 Includes parking, laundry , elevator, gated MUST SEE Call Lenny (310)822-7282

2712 ABBOT Kinney, in Venice parking, laundry, gated. All utilities included 1+1 $1150, single $895. Call Doug (310)577-9609

833 5TH St. SM upper unit 206 single $1395 stove, carpet, blinds, swimming pool, laundry, granite countertops, wood/tile floors, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets. (310)393-2547 www.jkwproperties.com

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L.A. GROVE area 428 N Orange Grove unit 101 1+1 stove, fridge, blinds, tile bathroom separate tub/shower hardwood/ vinyl floors, on-site laundry no pets $1175/mo $700 off move-in (310) 578-7512 jkwproperties.com

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1+1, st, hdwd, pkg, lwr **$1100**
2842 Exposition Blvd, 'B'
2+1, st, -fns, w/d hkp **$1400**
2344-A Ocean Park Blvd
Sgl, st, fr, lwr **$875**
1831 Pearl Street, #5
3+1_, st, fr, fp, Berber cpt, carport-1, upr **$2200**

WEST L.A.
1920 Manning Ave #6
2+1_ , st, fr, hdwd **$1500**
3024-C Exposition Blvd
2+1, st, fr, new kitchen & cpt, 1-car gar **$1600**
1657 Federal Ave, #12
Bach, sm, fr, htpl, ldry, separate bath **$775**
1766_ Malcolm Ave
Sgl, st, fr, pkg, cpt, ldry **$800**
1766 Malcolm Ave
2+1, st, fr, cpt, pkg-1, ldry **$1500**
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MAR VISTA 12450 Culver Blvd. Unit 213, Single stove, fridge, blinds, carpet, tiling, flooring, granite counter tops, with utilities, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets. $895/mo (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA 12766 Matteson Ave #8 2+2 $1375/mo stove, fridge, tile and vinlyn floors, blinds, parking, laundry, no pets call between 5:30-7:30pm units shown by appt.only $500 off move-in (310) 439-1928 jkwproperties.com

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(310)869-7901

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1037 5th St. #6 North of Wilshire 2+2 Recently refurbished $2395

1214 Idaho Ave. #8, 2+1 1/2 Townhouse, avail Jan 1, $2595

Please visit our website for complete listings and information on vacancies in Santa Monica and the Westside
www.howardmanagement.com
rentals@howardmanagement.com

L.A. 1523 Holt Ave unit 1+1 large lower unit stove, fridge, hardwood, parking, cat OK with deposit, $1125, $500 off move-in (310) 578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA 3976 Inglewood Blvd. , 2+2 lower $1375/Mo stove, fridge, blinds, carpet, laundry, parking, no pets. $500 off move-in (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA near Marina. Quiet area $1000/mo 1bd+den 1ba, carpet, blinds, stove, refrigerator, laundry, parking, no pets. 310-456-5659.

MAR VISTA: 11932 Courtleigh Dr. unit 9, $1025/mo. 1+1 stove, fridge, carpet, blinds, carpet, utilities include, intercom entry, laundry, gated, parking, no pets. $500 off move-in (310) 737-7933 jkwproperties.com

MAR VISTA: 12434 CULVER Blvd. unit 1 2+2 stove, fridge, AC, carpets blinds, laundry room, intercom entry, gated parking, no pets.$1375/mo $500 off move-in (888)414-7778 www.jkwproperties.com

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PALMS 2+1 3633 Keystone ave #1 stove, blinds, tile flooring, carpets, ceiling fan, laundry,parking, AC, no pets. $1375/mo $500 off move-in (310)578-7512 www.jkwproperties.com

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	Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
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North of Montana	$2,795,000	$1,397,500
Between Wilshire & Montana	$2,400,000	$677,000
South of Wilshire	$865,000	$624,000
Sunset Park	$1,249,000	$650,000
Ocean Park	$1,365,000	$599,000

Statistics Updated Every Monday

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