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smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2010
Volume 10 Issue 35



Santa Monica Daily Press

ALL ABOUT VEGGIES
SEE PAGE 3

We have you covered

THE ABOUT TO PARTY ISSUE

Armenian taxi drivers allege discrimination, sue City Hall

L.A. County judge issues injunction, temporarily putting franchise plan on hold

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN A Los Angeles County judge has issued an injunction against City Hall's recently adopted taxi cab franchise system in response to a lawsuit alleging civil rights violations filed by five Armenian-American-owned cab companies that failed to win franchises.

A hearing in Downtown Los Angeles is set for Jan. 7 to determine whether the injunction will stay in effect as the litigation proceeds. City Hall had planned to begin enforcing the new franchise system in January.

In a complaint filed on Tuesday, the cab companies, represented by the Los Angeles firm Geragos & Geragos, accused Santa Monica officials of intentionally discriminating against Armenian-Americans and acting "arbitrarily, capriciously and erroneously" during the creation of the new system for regulating taxi cab operators.

SEE SUIT PAGE 8

Smoking rates decline across state, county

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE The prevalence of smoking among adults decreased 12.8 percent in California between 2005 and 2008 to 11.6 percent of the population, with tobacco use less common in Los Angeles County than statewide, according to a report released this week by the California Department of Public Health.

In L.A. County, the 2008 smoking rate was 10.5 percent. San Diego and Alameda counties also had rates below the state average, while San Francisco and Sacramento counties had rates above the average, at 13.5 and 14 percent, respectively.

In general, people living in rural, low-density counties were more likely to smoke than those living in denser urban areas.

In a section of the report that was of particular note to locals, the survey showed that public support is increasing for bans on smoking in public places — an area where Santa Monica's City Council has been a leader, banning smoking in a long list of venues, including beaches, restaurant and bar patios, bus stops and apartment common areas and apartment balconies.

"I don't think it's a coincidence that smoking is down in California, because if you look across the state, local government and the state government are taking a hard line on smoking and it's beginning to pay off," said Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom.

Bloom said regulating secondhand smoke could continue to be a topic for the City Council.

"I think we've covered most of the ground," he said. "I think the next frontier is how do we provide protection for people who are living in close quarters with people

SEE SMOKING PAGE 8



WELCOME SIGHT

Photo courtesy Jeffrey Vaughan Jr.

A rainbow peeks out from behind the clouds over Pico Boulevard on Wednesday following yet another major rainstorm. Forecasters predict no rain on Thursday with temps in the low 60s.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Samohi Vikings end tourney with big win

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

PHOENIX, Ariz. Despite a slow 0-2 start at the elite Nike Tournament of Champions, Santa Monica High School's girls' basketball team finished strong, winning its final two games to take home 13th place in the field of 16 teams from across the nation and Canada.

The Samohi Vikings wrapped up play Wednesday by defeating Oakland Bishop O'Dowd, 53-39, at Perry High School in Phoenix. Bishop O'Dowd is considered one of the top teams from Northern California.

"It was our best defensive performance of the year," Head Coach Marty Verdugo said. "We really made it difficult for them to score."

Samohi's Bianka Balthazar, who has signed to play for Long Beach State next season, led the Vikings with 14 points. Sophomore Briana Harris added 11 despite leaving the game in the first half following a hard fall after forcing a Bishop O'Dowd player to commit a charging foul. Verdugo said she was woozy following the spill and decided to hold her out for the remainder of the game.

The victory was the second in two days for Samohi. The Vikings dispatched Ontario Canada's St. Mary's on Tuesday after dropping two games to open the tournament.

The Nike Tournament of Champions Joe Smith Elite Division featured seven of the top 25 teams in the country, according to the USA Today poll. Samohi faced just one of those top teams in Bolingbrook of Illinois, which entered the game ranked No. 2 in the nation. The Vikings lost, 59-48, but the showing gave the Vikings, ranked No. 6 in the latest California Interscholastic

SEE SAMOHI PAGE 9

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Emmanuel!

Christmas Liturgy Schedule

Christmas Eve, Friday, Dec. 24, 2009
4:00 p.m. Children's Mass – Gymnasium
4:00 p.m. Mass – Church
6:00 p.m. Mass – Church
9:00 p.m. Mass – Church

Midnight Mass
12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass – Auditorium
12:00 a.m. Midnight Mass – Church

Additional Parking is available on Christmas Eve from 4:00 p.m. – 1:30 a.m. at the Crown Parking Lot, 1211 7th St., south of Wilshire.

Christmas, Saturday, Dec. 25, 2009
7:30, 9:30, & 11:30 a.m., and 1:15 p.m.
Church

Please note - there will not be a 5:30 p.m. Mass on Christmas.



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WHAT'S UP WESTSIDE

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



Thursday, Dec. 23, 2010

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

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

Friday, Dec. 24, 2010

Last Fridays
Main Street
After dark
Main Street businesses will stay open late for this special promotion. Stores host special events and offer discounts the last Friday of every month. For more information, call mainstreetsm.com.

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

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

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

OCEAN AVENUE

Fairmont voted best travel hotel

The historic Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows, situated atop the scenic Palisades Park bluffs overlooking the Santa Monica Bay, was named best hotel for business travelers in Los Angeles County by the readers of Travel + Leisure magazine.

Business travelers staying in the hotel's signature bungalow accommodations may take advantage of their own personal assistant, who is available on a complimentary basis around the clock to make copies, run errands, and assist with any general requests, according to a spokesman from the hotel. An additional unique service offering available to the business traveler is the "Business Bento Box," a lunch or dinner meal delivered through room service in a convenient, compact and efficient tray, eliminating the typical extensive room service set-up that may otherwise clutter their workspace.

"We're honored to be recognized in this way by our guests," said General Manager Wolfgang Jonas. "Business travelers account for a significant percentage of guests visiting the hotel, and we're thrilled to be able to meet – and exceed – their expectations on every visit."

Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows is also the only hotel in Santa Monica to offer access to an ultra-high-speed fiber-optic network, Jonas said. This cutting-edge technology provides business travelers visiting the city the ability to connect to the Internet at a speed of 100 megabits/second, approximately 20 times faster than the average home connection.

High profile guests can also arrange for their own private dark fiber allocation during their stay, making the hotel the ideal destination for international diplomats and high profile executives. Corporate guests meeting for a power breakfast have the ability to review their presentations, update projects, and e-mail everything from last minute data changes to large files with business class broadband connections on their laptops.

In addition to extensive space for meetings and events, the business facilities within the hotel offer state-of-the-art and innovative technology, including web cams for online conferences and electronic SMART meeting boards for meetings room or in-room use.

The hotel features a total of 302 guest rooms and suites, along with Santa Monica's famous Moreton Bay fig tree, which was planted by Sen. John P. Jones in 1879. Jones co-founded Santa Monica.

DAILY PRESS



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

DISHING THE VEGGIES: **Server Rosa Gil (left) makes her way with orders of vegetarian specials at the new Veggie Grill vegetarian and vegan restaurant on Wilshire Boulevard. Most of the produce is organic or locally purchased.**

Trying to please meat lovers, vegetarians

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

WILSHIRE BLVD When the owners of the mini restaurant chain Veggie Grill were planning on opening their fifth location, they had their sights set on Santa Monica. They felt the health-conscious community known for its fresh Farmers' Markets and dedication to living healthy lifestyles would make a good fit for the fast-casual restaurant that features classic American comfort food with a twist — there's no meat included.

"We basically look to situate in areas where there is a high population of progressive people who care about themselves and are open to trying new things," said T.K. Pillan, one of three co-founders of the Orange County-based company, which opened its first restaurant in 2006.

Instead of beef, chicken or pork, the chain relies on a special blend of natural proteins derived from plants, along with secret marinades for bold flavors, to create their sandwiches, salads and … yes, burgers.

"People are really shocked when they try our burgers and find out how flavorful they are," Pillan said. "We're about sandwiches and burgers that you can feel good about eating."

The Santa Monica location, which opened on Monday, replaces a Sizzler steakhouse on Wilshire Boulevard near 18th Street. The decor is very crisp and clean with bright lime and orange colors throughout, along with smooth wood tables and booths. Pillan said the idea is to create a space where customers feel energized and have fun.

There are plans to open two more Veggie Grill restaurants in the new year, one at the Rolling Hills Plaza near Palos Verdes and another at the Los Angeles Farmers' Market on Third Street.

news@smdp.com

Obama fulfills promise, ends 'don't ask, don't tell' policy

PAULINE JELINEK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Declaring that members of the U.S. military will no longer be asked to lie, President Barack Obama fulfilled a campaign promise Wednesday and signed a landmark law repealing the ban on gay men and women serving openly in the armed services.

The signing ceremony was a breakthrough moment for the U.S. gay community, the military and for Obama himself. The president vowed during his 2008 campaign to repeal the law and faced pressure from liberals, a significant base in his Democratic party, who complained he was not acting swiftly enough.

The new law is the second of three expected victories in what has turned out to be —

SEE MILITARY PAGE 9

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Be careful what you wish for

Editor:

I have read many of the articles over the years regarding the complaints about Santa Monica Airport. Recently an article stated that there will be discussion in the coming years if the airport should be closed or not. The idea of this sent chills of panic through me as my first thought is of the developers who are salivating, if not the forces behind this idea.

Do the complainers about the airport noise and pollutants think that closing the airport will make their lives more peaceful and with fewer pollutants? Please. Judging by the current rate of construction in Santa Monica, the development of the area into hundreds or thousands of homes, condos and office buildings is inevitable. Instead of some planes flying overhead, thousands of cars and trucks will be incessantly driving in your otherwise peaceful neighborhoods.

The writer of a recent letter to the editor stated that he lives near the Santa Monica Freeway and he is constantly barraged by the noise and pollutants and he has no expectation that they'll close the freeway because he doesn't like those nasty cars racing by his house 24 hours a day. When you live near an airport there are costs involved and you make that choice when you decide to live there.

General aviation is a part of life and of communities. I often drive through the airport to reach Culver City because it's pleasant and not built-up. If going to businesses, parks, restaurants or classes there, you can easily find a place to park – a rare and wonderful thing in Santa Monica.

In recent years, homes around LAX were provided with doubled-glazed windows to help mitigate the noise factor. There is more than one way to deal with big city issues. Let's not throw out the baby with the bath water and keep our airport.

Carol Hastings
Santa Monica

Don't be a Grinch

Editor:

I wonder about Jack Norris ("Where's the Christmas spirit?" Letters to the Editor, Dec. 20) and others who think some folks, whom they decline to name, have declared war on Christmas because they don't see "Merry Christmas" signs in store windows along the Third Street Promenade. It's puzzling, especially when I realize that never have I heard anyone accused of declaring war on Chanukah, or war on the Winter Solstice or war on Kwanzaa. Did Mr. Norris patronize stores with "Happy Chanukah" signs in their windows? And did he spend a hundred bucks in them? He didn't say.

Joan Walston
Santa Monica



Life Matters



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

10 simple steps to finding career success in 2011

THE END OF THE YEAR IS THE PERFECT time to begin thinking about what's important to you and what you want to focus on over the coming year. Whether you are looking for a new career or looking for ways to secure or advance your current one, there are a number of things that you can do to make sure that 2011 is your year of career success.

Step 1: Find the motivation. Start by listing some of the things you accomplished in 2010. Look back over the past 12 months; review your computer for documents, reports, and e-mails from superiors. Scan your calendar for significant projects or meetings. Write down 10-15 accomplishments you are really proud of. Reflecting on your personal and career successes can help supply the motivation you need to establish strong goals and power through 2011.

Step 2: Be realistic. While it is common to think of big, longer-term goals, starting off with something small and attainable will allow you to achieve success. Once you determine your career goal, write it down. Individuals who write down their goals and share their thoughts with others are more likely to make that aspiration a reality.

Step 3: Nurture your network. Now is the perfect time to reconnect with those that you have lost touch with. Send out a new year's greeting card and update your former contacts with your most recent happenings. It is also the perfect time to make a plan to stay in touch with lost friends and colleagues. Commit yourself to doing something different this year, like having lunch with someone new each week or attending a networking meeting each month.

Step 4: Consider what it will take to be promoted within your current organization. When a firm considers promoting their current staff they often look at what each individual has done above and beyond their job description. Start by reflecting on your last performance review and focus on the areas of improvement. Find ways to make your efforts visible to management and your immediate supervisor. If you are looking to make the leap to an advanced position within your current organization, find out what training and experience the current management team has. If you find it difficult to ask about this, try looking them up on LinkedIn, you can often review their academic credentials and work experience just by searching their name.

Step 5: Consider the value of new training or skills on your job prospects. Explore whether professional seminars or skills training will help you gain the skills necessary for advancement. In some cases an advanced degree will help you reach your goals. Many local universities offer part-time MBA or other graduate degree or certificate programs designed to fit around your work hours. Talk with your HR department to find out if your current organization provides tuition assistance for an advanced degree.

Step 6: Find ways to collaborate. Teamwork is one of the most sought after skills when a corporation looks to hire or promote. Treat your colleagues as if they were your customers. Being the trusted, go-to person on your staff will help management to see that you are the type of team player that they want leading others.

Step 7: Update your resume. Even if you are not actively seeking a new position it is always wise to have your resume updated and ready to share. Focus on your accomplishments and the skills you have demonstrated rather than a simple listing of your job duties. Use the success list you created in Step 1 to get started.

Step 8: Read. Make sure that you are up to date on current events as well as specific happenings in your industry. Consider subscribing to an online news feed or setting your favorite news or industry site as your homepage. Simple steps can help you stay on top of new information.

Step 9: Take time for you. The most successful professionals are able to find ways to create balance between work and home. You will be a better employee if you take care of yourself. Schedule time for things you truly enjoy. If there is a slow time during the year, plan now for a short vacation or trip. Taking care of yourself is the key to attaining success.

Step 10: Secure a support network. No matter what you resolve to work on, find someone who will support your goals. If you do not already have a trusted mentor, you may want to consider finding an experienced professional to provide you with the guidance and motivation necessary to make 2011 your year of career success.

Best wishes for a prosperous New Year!

KATRINA DAVY is a professional career counselor holds degrees from Cornell and Columbia universities. Got something on your mind? Send your questions to newshrink@gmail.com. All questions will be kept anonymous; let us help you with your life matters!



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Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The long wait pays off for Princess Kate

IT'S THE TALE AS OLD AS TIME: Long-suffering, über-patient girlfriend waits around forever, threatens to leave at prescribed intervals, boyfriend keeps her hanging on with intermittent promises that a ring is imminent.

The ending varies, of course, but more often than not in classic literature (and on "Jerry Springer") he breaks the news to her via text that he's eloped with a younger, thinner and more successful version of her, and she immediately goes bar hopping with her book club, ingests an unfortunate mixture of vodka and Vicodin and passes out in a cab before the clock strikes 8:30. Eventually she reads one too many articles in "O," the Oprah magazine about the perils of not living her best life, gets a sperm donor, starts a blog, joins the local food co-op, and everyone lives happily ever after. You know, the typical Shakespeare (and Lifetime movie) plot.

For England's Kate Middleton, otherwise known as Waity Katie, it turned out OK in the long (long) run, albeit a bit differently than for most, as she actually got engaged to a Prince Charming (although hers has significantly less hair than most others).

Because her story genuinely ended on a high note (that is, until her commoner parents receive the guest list for the wedding from her future grandmother-in-law), and for a few other reasons (not the least of which is the ring she waited around for seven years to snag has carats in the double digits), Kate is proving to be a trailblazer.

The happy couple met at university, making her the first college graduate in line to become queen. And given Prince William's lineage, it's actually appropriately modern (as opposed to necessarily desperate) that she went gray lingering for the proposal. Look at his parents, for example, who were essentially introduced by Yente and practically met for the first time on their wedding day, she with sheet in hand. Not only did the relationship spectacularly not work out, but Charles will unfortunately be forever remembered as The Tampon Prince.

Kate's official engagement portrait was snapped by the same guy who's in competition with Juggs for the most topless photos ever taken. And she had more retouching done to the photos than Barbara Walters has Vaseline and gauze on the lens of any camera ever pointed at her.

But it's not all so contemporary. As princess, she'll still have ladies-in-waiting (which is almost certainly code for "When you throw your bra on the floor at night, we'll hand-wash it in Woolite, and we'll also be here to ensure you remember to wipe off your zit cream in the morning before you run down to the Buckingham Palace Road Starbucks." Either that or, "We guarantee you'll never have to go to the movies alone, because you'll need someone to watch your royal jacket when you sneak out to the concession stand for Jujubes").

KATE'S OFFICIAL ENGAGEMENT PORTRAIT WAS SNAPPED BY THE SAME GUY WHO'S IN COMPETITION WITH JUGGS FOR THE MOST TOPLESS PHOTOS EVER TAKEN.

Presumably when they wed she'll take the last name of her betrothed, which seems to be Prince (first name: The), although it could also be Wales, but that's either where he's from or where his father goes door to door to collect taxes from the commoners to pay the castle's heating bills. No one really knows for sure. She could very well just go last-nameless, like some of America's royalty: Madonna and Lindsay (although hopefully with more movement in her face and fewer stints in rehab, respectively).

And Kate might be the very first female in modern times over the age of 4 to be called "Princess" when it's not meant pejoratively.

But it's all good. When they're making souvenir tea towels commemorating you - and you're not the late Michael Jackson - that's good news.

Sure, starting now she'll never receive a new piece of jewelry (although presumably they'll close the Crown Jewels to tourists when she wants to go shopping for something sparkly), and anything she chooses will be emblazoned with "If found, please return to the Wales family. That includes you, Catherine."

And it doesn't seem to bode well that Wills keeps talking about how he's going to give his fiancée a chance to "settle in and see what happens on the other side," as if there's some kind of bait and switch planned for after they exchange rings, at which time they'll let go of the palace staff and she'll be handed the mop and toilet brush (sorry, the loo).

But in the long run, she'll easily be much better off than being any American princess, such as Princess Leia (although she's probably more intergalactic than American) or Snow White, who has some notable queen/mother issues.

Either way, best wishes to, all hail and long live the future queen!

More at meredithcarroll.com.

The Q Line

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Safe streets?

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

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

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

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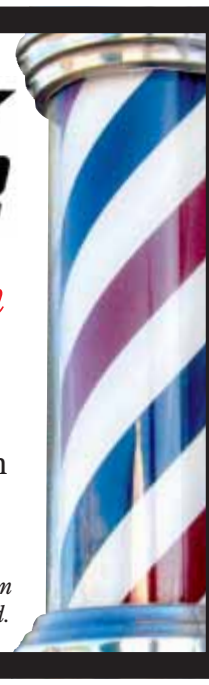
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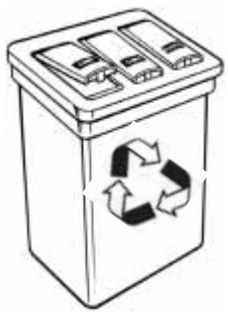
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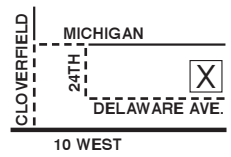
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City of Santa Monica

City of Santa Monica
Ordinance Numbers 2335-2338
(City Council Series)

The following are summaries of Ordinance Numbers 2335-2338, which were adopted by the City Council on December 14, 2010:

Ordinance Number 2335 (CCS) provides that certain violations, including riding bikes on sidewalks, which were formerly classified as misdemeanors can also be treated as infractions and clarifies that certain City workers have the power to issue citations.

Ordinance Number 2336 amends Section 6.49-040 of the Municipal Code in order to increase by 50 the number of taxicabs that may be operated pursuant to franchises within the City.

Ordinance Number 2337 (CCS) amends provisions of the Municipal Code relating to street performers by, among other things, adding a new limitation on amplified sound, new restrictions on performance locations, and new requirements relating to removing equipment in time of emergency; the ordinance also adds a new provision to the code restricting sex offenders contact with children.

Ordinance Number 2338 is an interim ordinance extending the City's existing construction rating program, which allows only one new multi-family construction project within a 500 foot radius in the multi-family residential districts and which establishes the maximum length of time that the rating program can delay a project.

These ordinances will become effective thirty days after their adoption. The full text of the ordinances is available upon request from the Office of the City Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, California; phone (310) 458-8211.

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Premature quadruplets heading home for holidays

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. A Sacramento couple is getting an early Christmas gift this year: Doctors say they're ready to go home with their quadruplets after more than two months in the hospital.

Danielle Holaday, 29, gave birth to the rare set of quads at just 26 weeks.

The baby boys are unique because three of them are identical and the fourth is a fraternal quadruplet. There have only been 100 such cases documents in the United States.

Holaday, a kindergarten teacher, and husband Ryan Holaday, a financial consultant, said they struggled to get pregnant before turning to fertility treatments. Their doctor implanted two embryos: One of them grew as expected — becoming Dylan — while other one split, then one of those split again — creating the identical Evan, Kaydan and Jordan.

"My wife calls me from the doctor's office bawling," Ryan Holaday, 29, told the Sacramento Bee, recalling how he got the news about the multiples. "I just froze. We were trying for one and got four. We were blessed."

After a difficult pregnancy, during which Danielle Holaday was hospitalized twice, the boys were born on Oct. 6, each weighing between 1.15 and 2.2 pounds.

Since then, they've dealt with a number of preemie issues, including infections and breathing problems. But doctors at Sutter Memorial Hospital said they're finally strong enough to head home. All of them weigh at least 4 pounds now.

"It's been tough for these guys," Sutter Women's Services medical director Dr. William Gilbert told the Bee. "It's been a long road."

Dylan was cleared to leave last week, and staff members in Sutter's NICU stood clapping as he left the unit that had been his first home. As the rest of the family prepares to go, the quadruplets' due date is still several weeks away.

"They were very, very early, so they're doing extremely well," nurse Jeanelle Willbee, who's been tending to the babies. "Some of that is genetics and some is luck. I'm a woman of faith, so I'm grateful they're doing so well."

EPA chief says agency will deal with tainted water

BY NOAKI SCHWARTZ
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES The head of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said Wednesday it would likely tighten drinking water standards to address potential health risks of a carcinogen recently detected in the tap water of 31 cities across the country.

EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson said she was troubled by the prevalence of the chemical hexavalent chromium, also known as chromium 6.

Jackson detailed a series of actions to be taken by the EPA, including working with state and local officials to determine how widespread the contaminant is and issuing guidance to all water systems on how to test for the carcinogen.

Jackson said the agency will likely tighten standards based on a draft chromium 6 risk assessment the agency released in September that is expected to be finalized next year.

"EPA has already been working to review and incorporate the groundbreaking science referenced in this report," her statement read. "However, as a mother and the head of EPA, I am still concerned about the prevalence of chromium 6 in our drinking water."

The Environmental Working Group released a study Monday that analyzed drinking water across the country and found the five cities with the highest levels of chromium 6 were Norman, Okla.; Honolulu, Hawaii; Riverside, Calif.; Madison, Wis.; and San Jose, Calif.

Following the report, Jackson met with 10 U.S. senators to discuss the issue. That same day U.S. Sens. Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein sent a letter to the EPA urging the agency to move quickly to set drinking water standards for the carcinogen.

The senators called the agency's current chromium standard outdated because it was set nearly two decades ago. The agency currently requires tests for total chromium levels in drinking water, but the results don't show precise amounts of chromium 6.

Boxer, a California Democrat who chairs the Senate environment and public works committee, welcomed the agency's new push.

"The EPA is being vigilant and acting properly to address the issue of chromium 6," Boxer said in a statement to The Associated Press.

Following the tap water survey, Boxer and Feinstein, another California Democrat, called on the EPA to move quickly to protect the public from hexavalent chromium.

The senators said they planned to introduce legislation that would set a deadline for the EPA to establish an enforceable standard.

Studies show that chromium 6 can cause cancer in people and has also been found to cause damage to the gastrointestinal tract, lymph nodes and liver of animals.

The federal government's current total chromium standard is 100 parts per billion. California has proposed a goal for safe limits for chromium 6 at 0.06 parts per billion.

Ken Cook, president of the Environmental Working Group, said he was surprised federal officials prioritized the issue during the busy end of the congressional session and the holidays.

"That signals that they're taking it quite seriously," he said.

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Storm causes hillside collapse, flooding in Southern California

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS & RAQUEL MARIA DILLON
Associated Press

LAGUNA BEACH, Calif. Axl Dominguez awoke early Wednesday to a bumping sound and looked out the window to a scary sight: Plastic trashcans floating down the flooded street.

And then the water came rushing into his house.

"We didn't have time to get anything. It happened really fast," the 15-year-old said, shivering in shorts, a mud-splashed sweat shirt and bare feet as he waited to go with his family to an evacuation center. "Water started coming in from all the walls. Then the wall fell and we got out through the window."

The tail end of a storm that dumped rain on Southern California for nearly a week gave the region one final lashing, burying houses and cars in mud, washing hillsides onto highways, flooding urban streets and threatening dozens of canyon homes.

Inflatable boats were used to rescue dozens of motorists and homeowners from flooded streets, hotels and hillsides, while others refused to leave their homes as filthy water and mud sliced through their neighborhoods.

The storm weakened as it moved eastward, but floods still washed away homes in Arizona and inundated parts of Nevada and Utah.

The low-pressure system could be in New Mexico by Thursday and could reach the Gulf Coast by Saturday with some rain, but not the deluge that hit Southern California, forecasters said.

The storm turned the final days before Christmas into a nightmare, and left some residents fearful that more and bigger mudslides could strike the wildfire-scarred hillsides in suburban Los Angeles even after the skies cleared.

Officials on Tuesday ordered evacuation of 232 homes in La Canada Flintridge and La Crescenta, suburbs of Los Angeles below steep hillsides that burned in 2009 and where mudslides inundated homes and backyards in February.

The area is where the Station Fire charred 250 square miles above suburbs tucked below the San Gabriel Mountains.

"The ground is so saturated it could move at any time" and the threat will remain for several weeks, said Bob Spencer, spokesman for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.

Olivia Brown, 45, left her Paradise Valley home in the La Canada Flintridge area around midnight.

"I'm worried about a rock coming down on the house," Brown said at a Red Cross shelter. "My husband stayed home with two of our dogs. He had to be a man, you know, and hold down the fort.

"When he's nervous, it makes me nervous. I had to go," she said.

In Silverado Canyon, in the Santa Ana Mountains in eastern Orange County, Mary Adams and her husband got up in the middle of the night to check for mudslide danger as rains pounded the hill above them.

They had just crawled back into bed at 3:30 a.m. when they heard a low, dull roar and then echoing boom of boulders tumbling into a creek.

Adams, 54, jumped from bed to see a small river of mud, rocks and debris sweep past her side door, whisking the couple's travel trailer 100 feet down the hill and filling their garage and succulent garden with thick ooze.

On Wednesday morning, the rain was still coming down hard as Adams surveyed the damage. The sound of falling rocks still rang out every few minutes as the rain poured down outside.

Like Adams, dozens of her neighbors had refused to evacuate and worked with shovels to clear debris from storm drains and divert rivers of water and muck from their homes and cars.

"If we can get the truck out, then maybe we can leave but I'm not going to be away from my house and just be sitting in an evacuation center three blocks down the road," said Adams, who has lived in the canyon more than 30 years.

In San Diego, the first floor of the Premier Inn in the city's Mission Valley flooded, forcing guests to the second floor where lifeguards were sent to rescue them, police said. SeaWorld San Diego closed for the day as waters rose in the nearby San Diego River, but it was expected to reopen on Thursday.

Sixty people were rescued and more than 30 homes evacuated when water surged through Dove Canyon, a gated Orange County community.

In Highland, about 65 miles east of Los Angeles, two creeks overflowed, swamping as many as 20 homes in up to 3 feet of mud. Up to 40 homes and around 100 residents have been evacuated.

"This mud flow moved cars, picked them up, stood them up on their nose at 45-degree angles, buried them," said Bill Peters, a spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

In far northwestern Arizona, homes along a flooded wash teetered on the edge as residents scurried to gather belongings with the threat of even more structures being swept away.

"It is a mess," Beaver Dam resident Lois Rolfsmeyer said. "The water is going to take our next-door neighbor's house and the one behind us, and it's eroding under our house."

Five vacant homes were lost because of flooding in the rural area. Nearly two dozen homes were damaged — some already partially collapsed and submerged — and at least three of those could be swept away, officials said.

Forecasters said the Virgin River, which cuts through that part of the state, is expected to crest Thursday morning.

In nearby Utah, floods threatened to swallow a bridge. The flooding forced the closure of Zion National Park on Tuesday. The south entrance and the visitor center opened on Wednesday afternoon.

In southern Nevada, a state of emergency was ordered after rain-swollen creeks closed some roads in the Las Vegas area and snow disrupted electricity to about 300 customers on nearby Mount Charleston.

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D.U.I. Do's & Don'ts For The Holiday Season

The holiday season is officially upon us, and thank goodness for that! With a slumping economy, ensuing global conflicts, and our own personal dilemmas this holiday season brings with it a wanted escape for many. But before you go adding extra drops of rum to that eggnog make sure you are aware of some new laws and issues that may drastically affect your driving privileges. California has some of the toughest DUI laws in the country, and while no one plans to get arrested for DUI this holiday season, here 5 helpful tips to remember if you find yourself at the wrong end of a checkpoint:

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

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

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

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

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

JACOB GLUCKSMAN IS A CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY AND FORMER PROSECUTOR IN LOS ANGELES SPECIALIZING IN DUI DEFENSE AND ALL OTHER MISDEMEANOR AND FELONY OFFENSES. MR. GLUCKSMAN CAN BE REACHED THROUGH LEGAL GRIND AT (310) 452-8160.

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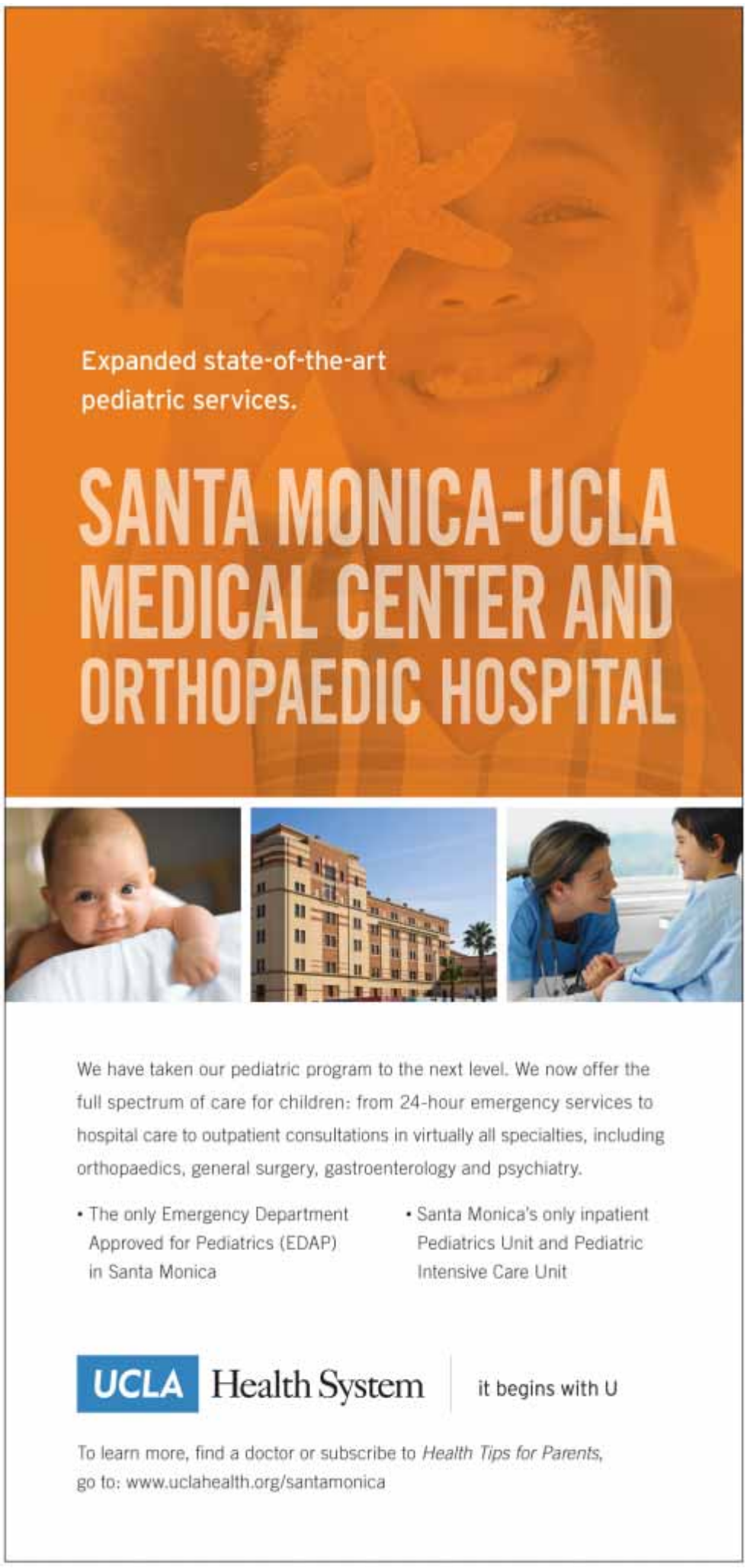
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5:00-6:00pm	Small Business-startups, Non-profit law, Green & Sustainable Business Practices, Corporations, Contract Drafting, Business Litigation and Employment Law with Attorney Becki Kammerling
5:00-6:00pm	(1st & 3rd Monday/Month) Tenant Rights, Auto accidents, Products Liability, Insurance & Business Disputes, Personal Injury & Small Claims with Attorney Mark Palmer
TUESDAY	
9:00-12:00noon	Patent, Trademark and Copyright Law with Attorney Marcus Risso (By appointment only)
1:00-4:00pm	Employment Law: Wrongful Termination, Sexual harassment, Disability Accommodation, Leave Law, Discrimination, Retaliation, Whistle Blower, Wage & Hour disputes with Attorney Sara Eliot
WEDNESDAY	
5:30-7:00pm	Divorce and Legal Separation; Domestic Partnerships; Child Custody, Support and Visitation; Spousal Support; Prenuptial Agreements & Mediation with Family Law Specialist Attorney Elizabeth Fields
THURSDAY	
1:00-3:00pm	Immigration and Family Law with Attorney Galorah Keshavarz
5:00-6:00pm	Chapter 7 and 13 Bankruptcy Filings, Debt Negotiation and Personal Injury cases with Attorneys Paul Mankin and/or Jeff Hughes (By appointment Only)
FRIDAY	
4:00-5:00pm	(2st & 4th Friday/Month) Criminal, DMV & Traffic Law: Felony and Misdemeanor Crimes with former Deputy D.A. and Attorney Jacob Glucksman
SATURDAY	
10am-12noon	(1st, 3rd, & 5th Saturday/Month) Estate Planning, Trust & Will Contests Probate, Elder Law, Business Litigation, Formation & Dissolution, Contracts, HOA & Personal Injury with Attorney Richard Ruman

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SUIT
FROM PAGE 1

The taxi cab overhaul, given final approval by the City Council this month, was set to replace the open entry system with a franchise-based system where five selected companies would be given the right to operate between 58 and 63 cabs each within Santa Monica's city limits.

Previously, at least 44 cab companies had been in business in the city, with no limit on the number of cabs each one could operate. City officials were concerned about the effect the open system had on traffic and the environment, as well as taxi drivers' wages. City officials said too much competition created a system in which drivers were not able to earn a living wage.

Five Armenian-American-owned companies were among the 13 franchise applicants, but none were selected.

"Under the guise of [the taxi cab overhaul] the defendant has cast out all Armenian-American taxicab owners and operators from the city," the complaint stated.

At City Hall, officials defended the process they followed in recommending which companies should receive the franchises.

Don Patterson, the official who oversaw the work of the selection committee, said each application was evaluated on its merits.

Mayor Richard Bloom on Wednesday said he was "supremely confident that there's been no discrimination in our process."

"On the merits of the case, I believe the city is going to prevail," he said.

Tamar Arminak, an attorney with Geragos & Geragos, said City Hall had skewed its evaluation process to ensure that no companies owned by Armenian-Americans were selected, a violation of the U.S. Constitution's 14th Amendment, which guarantees equal protection and due process under the law.

"Nothing they did was above board," Arminak said of the City Hall selection committee, which included city staff and a representative from the city of L.A. "They did everything behind closed doors and they only released the full criteria of evaluation after they had reviewed the applications and after they had announced their recommendations of the five companies that were going to get licenses."

Even based on the announced criteria, which included things like financial viability, operators' character and quality and efficiency of fleet, the Armenian-American-owned companies should have scored as well or better than the companies that were picked, Arminak said.

"The Armenian companies are more qualified, if not identical, to the current franchisees selected by the city," she said.

About 300 Armenian-American people would lose their jobs under the city's taxi cab overhaul, according to the complaint.

Kate Vernez, assistant to the city manager, said lawyers would file papers stating City Hall's position on the injunction by Jan. 3.

"The city did not discriminate in any way and so we're very comfortable with our legal position in this regard," she said.

nickt@smdp.com

SMOKING
FROM PAGE 1

who smoke and have to suffer the secondhand smoke effect. That's a tough issue and I think that the council over the next couple of years will continue to struggle with that issue."

Statewide, support for restaurant patio smoking bans increased to 44.3 percent in 2008, from 36.8 percent in 2002, according to the report. Support for banning smoking outside entrances to buildings rose from 44.5 percent in 2002 to 54.2 percent in 2008.

At the same time, Californians are increasingly complaining about exposure to smoke while in public.

"While California workers have enjoyed a decline in secondhand smoke exposure in the workplace and at home, there was increasing incidence of exposure from venues other than work or home," the report stated.

Esther Schiller, executive director of the non-profit Smokefree Air For Everyone, called the figures showing a lower overall smoking rate "very exciting" and said higher levels of support for public space smoking bans could prompt more jurisdictions to adopt smoking rules similar to the ones already in effect in Santa Monica.

A section of the report that said "90 percent of young adults would like to see the current smoke-free bar law kept as is, more strictly enforced, or extended to patios and outdoor sitting areas" was particularly encouraging, she said.

The city of Los Angeles, for example, has adopted a smoking ban for restaurant patios but opted not to extend the rule, which takes effect next year, to bar and night club patios, she said.

"Maybe this kind of report will help them look at the issue again," she said.

She said she was concerned about two points noted in the report: a slight increase in the rate of cigar smoking among males, and big increases among both men and women in the rate of hookah smoking.

"Hookah use is increasing faster than any other tobacco product, especially in young adults," the report stated.

The 2008 survey was the eighth time since 1990 that California has conducted a statewide report on tobacco usage. More than 22,000 households were contacted to gather the information, with more than 10,300 extended interviews conducted, according to the authors of the report.

Other key findings included:

• Californians buy about half as many packs of cigarettes per person (3.37 per month) compared with the rest of the country, where the per capita average is 6.42 packs per month.

• The smoking rate among the state's college graduates was 5.9 percent. Among men who did not graduate from high school it was 20.9 percent. Female college graduates were more likely to smoke (10.4 percent) than their counterparts who did not graduate from high school (8.7 percent).

• Smoking among African Americans has declined sharply, from 41 percent of adults in 1990 to 14.2 percent in 2008.

nickt@smdp.com



SAMOHI
FROM PAGE 1

Federation Southern Section Division 1 poll, reason to believe they could compete with the nation's — and Canada's — best.

Samohi leaves the tourney 10-2 overall as they prepare for a 10-day break.

The showing in Arizona was promising for Verdugo and his girls as they attempt to defend their CIF-SS championship from a year ago.

According to Verdugo's plan to play the toughest schedule possible this season, the Vikings have a big January ahead. They are scheduled to play Santa Ana Mater Dei on Jan. 8 on the road. They will also play Long Beach Poly on the road on Jan. 22. To make matters even more pressure-packed, the Vikings also open Ocean League play next month.

Mater Dei also played in the Nike tournament, but were defeated by Long Beach Poly in the quarterfinals. Poly played Brea Olinda for the tourney title on Wednesday night, but results from that game were not available at presstime.

As the Vikings move forward, Verdugo said he would have liked to have done better at the tournament, but found that his team "can play with anybody."

daniela@smdp.com

MILITARY
FROM PAGE 3

for Obama — a surprisingly productive post-election Congress. Weeks after his self-described "shellacking" in the Nov. 2 vote, he has won lopsided approval of a tax cut compromise with the opposition Republicans, and the Democratic-controlled Senate delivered Wednesday by passing Obama's top foreign policy goal, ratification of a new nuclear arms reduction treaty with Russia.

The new law affecting the military ends the 17-year-old "don't ask, don't tell" policy that forced gays to hide their sexual orientation or face dismissal. Its repeal comes as American public opinion on such issues as gay marriage and gay rights in general has grown more tolerant.

"I say to all Americans, gay or straight, who want nothing more than to defend this country in uniform, your country needs you, your country wants you, and we will be honored to welcome you into the ranks of the finest military the world has ever known," Obama said.

Pentagon officials must first complete implementation plans before lifting the old policy — and they must certify to lawmakers that it will not damage combat readiness, as critics charge. Opponents of the repeal also had said it would harm unit cohesion; could prompt some to leave the services or not to sign up in the first place, and be a distraction at a time when the armed forces are fighting two wars — all issues the Pentagon is treating carefully as it tries to come up with an implementation plan.

But Obama said: "We are not going to be dragging our feet to get this done."

The two events, signing the tax bill and ending the ban on gays in the military, however, could not have been more different in tone.



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Ohio county fights extreme pill addiction problem

BY ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS
Associated Press

PORTSMOUTH, Ohio Nearly one in 10 babies were born addicted to drugs last year in southern Ohio's Scioto County. Rehab admissions for prescription painkiller addictions were five times the national average. In a rare step, the health commissioner declared a public health emergency, something usually reserved for disease outbreaks.

The culprits putting the rural county at the forefront of a burgeoning national problem are not only the people abusing the painkillers, officials say. They blame at least eight area "pill mills" — clinics or doctors that dole out prescription medications like OxyContin with little discretion. At least two health care providers are facing criminal charges.

"I would describe it as if a pharmaceutical atomic bomb went off," said Lisa Roberts, a nurse for the health department in Portsmouth, an Ohio River city of about 20,000 with falling population and high unemployment.

Health officials say nine of every 10 fatal drug overdoses in Scioto (pronounced sy-OH'-toh) County are caused by prescription drugs. Of those drug deaths, nearly two-thirds of the individuals did not have prescriptions, meaning they bought the drugs illegally or got them from friends or family.

At least 117 people died of overdoses in the county between 2000 and 2008. Pictures of the dead fill a storefront in downtown Portsmouth that a grieving mother converted to a memorial to the epidemic.

Among them is a photograph of Leslie Dawn Cooper, who struggled with her addictions for years before dying at age 34 of an overdose of oxycodone, the key ingredient in OxyContin, on Oct. 3, 2009. The night before, she paid $250 in cash for the prescription at an alleged pill mill in Portsmouth, then took it to a pharmacy in Columbus, 85 miles away, because no local pharmacist would fill it.

On Cooper's way home she called her mother, Barbara Howard, and said she was going to church.

"I said, 'OK, I love you, and I'll talk to you later,'" her mother said. "I got the call the next morning at 8 a.m. that she was dead."

In January, Harold Fletcher, the pharmacist who filled Cooper's prescription, goes on trial on charges of illegally disbursing prescription painkillers, money laundering and filing false tax returns. His attorney calls the indictment overkill and says the government can't prove its case.

Records from the Drug Enforcement Administration show that Fletcher filled Cooper's prescription for 90 oxycodone tablets.

In March, Paul Volkman, a doctor who worked at the Tri-State Health Care and Pain Management clinic in Scioto County and has been linked to Fletcher, goes on trial on charges of helping distribute millions of highly addictive drugs that authorities said led to nearly a dozen deaths.

Volkman's attorneys have dismissed the charges as a case of "an inflated and irrational fear of the medical science of pain treatment."

Thanks to a thriving drug culture that breeds crime and intravenous use, Scioto County's per capita rates of murder, fatal overdoses and hepatitis C infections have in recent years been outranked only by Ohio's biggest urban areas. The DEA considers the county one of the worst places in the country for prescription painkiller abuse, with more people abusing per capita than almost anywhere else.

Health Commissioner Aaron Adam's public health emergency declaration nearly a year ago was a largely symbolic gesture but did allow the county to set up a military-style chain of command and could allow staffers from other health department divisions to work solely on the problem.

Portsmouth, the county seat and center of a region that also includes parts of West Virginia and Kentucky, has stopped issuing permits for new drugs-on-demand "pill mills."

Ohio Gov.-elect John Kasich, who visited Portsmouth Wednesday, said achievable victories were the only way to address a situation he called a "tsunami" overwhelming local residents.

"If you look for a silver bullet you're not going to find it, and you're going to spend your time spinning your wheels," Kasich told The Associated Press. "That's my fear."

Also Wednesday, federal prosecutors charged the owner and two employees of alleged pill mills in Columbus with illegally distributing painkiller prescriptions. Many of the customers at the pain management clinics came from Kentucky, West Virginia and other parts of Ohio, according to the government.

First marketed in the 1990s, OxyContin became a favorite of addicts because it could be crushed, destroying the mechanism that allows it to kill pain over time and providing immediate euphoria when snorted or injected.

In 2007, a federal judge ordered Purdue Pharma L.P., the maker of OxyContin, and three of its executives to pay a $634.5 million fine for misleading the public about the painkiller's risk of addiction.

Oxycontin's dangers and popularity are well-known nationwide, but especially in Appalachia, which scrapes across southeastern Ohio. Scioto County prosecutor Mark Kuhn said it's common to see Kentucky and West Virginia plates on cars lined up at the county's pill mills.

Overdoses surpassed car accidents in 2007 as the leading cause of accidental death in Ohio. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said last year that the same was now true for 15 other states.

Recovering painkiller addict Andrea Queen considers herself lucky to be alive. She started partying in high school, first with alcohol, then diet drugs, then pain pills.

Her addiction cost her a teaching job, led to felony theft charges for stealing checks to pay for drugs and almost killed her through an overdose. After jail time and a stint in rehab, she is off drugs and counsels addicts.

"I see, every day, a reason that I don't ever want to go back to doing it again," Queen said.

It used to be that people became addicted to the pain pills in their 20s and 30s, usually moving on from alcohol or marijuana, said Ed Hughes, director of the center where Queen gives counseling.

But the age of addiction is dropping. In late January, police were called to Valley Middle School in Scioto County where a junior high school girl had been caught with a plastic bag full of hydrocodone, a powerful painkiller. She had found the drugs at home and, with a fellow student, was distributing them to other classmates.

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Hollywood


Congress approves aid package for 9/11 responders

ANDREW MIGA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON After a last-minute compromise, Congress passed legislation Wednesday to provide up to $4.2 billion in new aid to survivors of the September 2001 terrorism attack on the World Trade Center and responders who became ill working in its ruins.

The House passed the bill on a 206-60 vote Wednesday about two hours after the Senate cleared it on a voice vote as lawmakers raced to wrap up their work before Christmas. President Barack Obama has said he is eager to sign the measure, though some supporters of the bill have criticized him for not getting more involved in the fight.

The package provides $1.5 billion to monitor the health rescue and cleanup workers and treat illnesses related to ground zero. It also reopens a victims' compensation fund with $2.7 billion.

Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., said the measure was long overdue. "It's the right thing to do, and it's the right time to do it," she said.

The bill was a product of a compromise involving Democratic Sens. Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand of New York and Republican Sens. Tom Coburn of Oklahoma and Mike Enzi of Wyoming. New York members of Congress had sought $2 billion more for the overall bill. They accepted the smaller amount in exchange for GOP critics dropping their opposition.

"The Christmas miracle we've been looking for has arrived," Schumer and Gillibrand said in a joint statement.

Schumer and Gillibrand had sought $6.2 billion and keeping the compensation fund open for 10 years.

"Every American recognizes the heroism of the 9/11 first responders, but it is not compassionate to help one group while robbing future generation of opportunity," said Coburn, who led a GOP blockade against the bill. "This agreement strikes a fair balance."

The bill gained momentum with help from cable TV personalities. Among the biggest supporters of the package were Fox News anchor Shepard Smith and comedian and activist Jon Stewart, who championed the bill and lashed its GOP foes on his Comedy Central TV program "The Daily Show."

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg praised Congress for finally working out a bill.

"As we look forward to the 10th anniversary of the September 11th attacks, I am encouraged that our elected representatives in Washington came together and stood by those who were there for America in its hour of greatest need," Bloomberg said.

The compromise was reached after Democrats scheduled a showdown test vote for Wednesday afternoon and Republicans countered by threatening to run a 30-hour clock before allowing final Senate and House votes on the bill. That would have required keeping both the Senate and House in session for votes on Christmas Eve.

Backers worried that the bill would face a much tougher fight in the new, more fiscally conservative Congress where Republicans will have a stronger hand.

"Any single senator can hold this up way past Christmas and we know that can kill the bill," Schumer said on MSNBC's "Morning Joe" program Wednesday.

Nearly 16,000 responders and 2,700 people living near ground zero are currently sick and receiving treatment, supporters of the bill said. More than 40,000 responders are in medical monitoring, backers said.

The bill would be paid for with a fee on some foreign firms that get U.S. government procurement contracts. The bill also calls for extending fees on certain firms that rely on H-1B and L-1 visas.

Researchers have found that people exposed to the thick clouds of pulverized building materials at the trade center site have high rates of asthma and sinus problems. Many firefighters also suffered a reduction in lung power.

Doctors aren't sure, though, exactly how many people are ill, and scientific doubt persists about just how many of the hundreds of illnesses are actually linked to the trade center dust. Doctors still don't know whether there is any connection between the dust and potentially fatal illnesses like cancer.

The legislation is named for James Zadroga, a police detective who died at age 34. His supporters say he died from respiratory disease contracted at ground zero, but New York City's medical examiner said Zadroga's lung condition was caused by prescription drug abuse.

Electronic info dominates George W. Bush's archive

JAMIE STENGLE
Associated Press

LEWISVILLE, Texas Archivists responsible for putting together the presidential library of former President George W. Bush are tasked with processing 80 terabytes of electronic information — 20 times the Clinton administration's four terabytes.

Bush's electronic archives contain more than 200 million e-mails, compared with about 20 million in former President Bill Clinton's. Bush's archives also include share drives, hard drives, scheduling systems and digital photography, which his administration switched to about halfway through his tenure.

The average size of a quality digital photo is about three megabytes, meaning just one terabyte can store more than 300,000 such pictures.

The Bush administration e-mails alone would take up an estimated 600 million printed pages, said Alan Lowe, director of Bush's presidential library and museum. Combined with 70 million paper documents, the haul far eclipses the 550 to 580 million printed pages Lowe estimates are in all other National Archives' presidential libraries.

"In the old days, the National Archives went in and packed up trucks and trucks full of paper," Lowe said.

The preponderance of electronic files presents new challenges, ranging from dealing with the sheer volume to ensuring consistent redacting of information in an e-mail chain that may have been sent back and forth dozens of times.

Lockheed Martin Corp. has created the Electronic Records Archives system for the National Archives that is specifically designed to preserve the federal government's digital records. Lowe said the system was designed to ensure digital files will be accessible as computer programs evolve.

"It's not dependent on any sort of operating system that we're using right now," he said.

Bush archivists already have the ability to search the system and retrieve documents. Now they must begin processing the data, reading through each document to decide what might need to be redacted for personal reasons.





SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP:** 61°

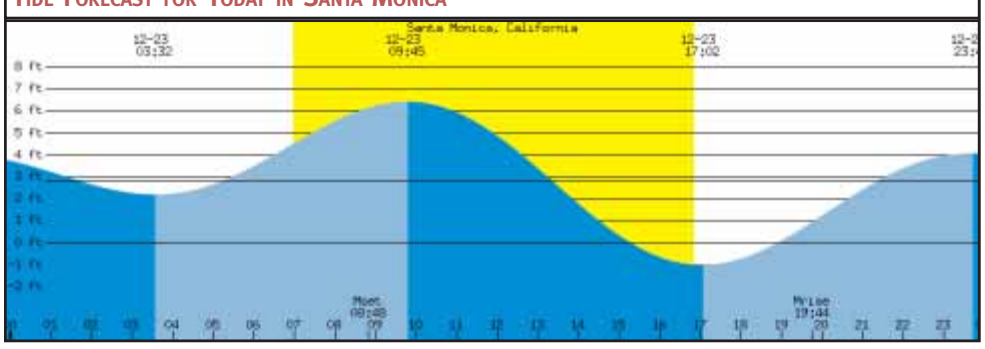
SWELL FORECAST

Looks rather small as well.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

WE COULD SEE WIND SWELL INCREASE TO CHEST HIGH AROUND WEST FACING BREAKS, BUT SLOPPY AND STORM DRIVEN.

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **December 14, 2010**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

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

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

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

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

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone

WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days

ns -- no sample taken

Heal the Bay'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.

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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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.

NCAA FOOTBALL

Auburn QB Newton wins AP Player of Year award

JOHN ZENOR
AP Sports Writer

AUBURN, Ala. Cam Newton lifted Auburn from the back of the Top 25 to No. 1 in the nation.

The Heisman Trophy-winning quarterback led the Tigers into the national title game against No. 2 Oregon with a mix of flair and poise and enough highlight reel plays to widely split the vote among a handful of coaches and teammates asked for their favorite.

Newton has already raked in the Heisman Trophy and Davey O'Brien and Maxwell awards for his spectacular season. He added AP Player of the Year to his collection on Wednesday.

An NCAA investigation into Newton's recruitment, which threw his eligibility into doubt during November, had no effect on how he played down the stretch — or the voting for the AP award. It was about as lopsided as the Heisman vote.

Newton received 51 votes from the 60-member AP football poll panel. Boise State quarterback Kellen Moore received three, Stanford quarterback Andrew Luck got two and four ballots went unreturned.

In less than a year, Newton has gone from the obscurity of junior college to helping transform a team that went 8-5 last season and started this one ranked No. 22 to a perfect Southeastern Conference championship.

It wasn't all about the big plays, though. Offensive coordinator Gus Malzahn said he was more impressed by Newton's leadership in repeatedly bringing the team from behind, including a 24-0 deficit at Alabama.

"The sign of a special quarterback is one that has the abilities to make his teammates better and make his teammates believe in things that maybe they wouldn't believe without him," Malzahn said. "We've faced some major adversity earlier in the year when we didn't know each other that well.

"We were down to Clemson 17-0 at home and it was ugly as all get out. But he didn't change then. He's a rock, as far as all that's concerned. Doesn't panic."

It doesn't hurt that Newton's 6-foot-6 and 250 pounds with deceptive speed, nifty open-field moves, power and a nice arm. He broke the single-season SEC rushing record for a quarterback in the eighth game, a 28-carry, 217-yard effort against LSU. Malzahn also says Newton has proven he's "not a good thrower, he's an excellent thrower."

As the season wore on, Newton's skills bloomed and not even a scandal could slow him.

He deftly played through an NCAA investigation into a pay-for-play recruiting attempt involving his father, Cecil, at Mississippi State. The NCAA said Cecil Newton sought payment from the Bulldogs, but there was no evidence that his son or Auburn knew about it.

The week before the SEC title game, the NCAA said Newton could play and he accounted for six touchdowns in a 56-17 victory against South Carolina. That locked up a spot in the BCS title game on Jan. 10 in Glendale, Ariz.

It's the second straight season Newton has led his team to the national championship game. He guided Blinn College in Brenham, Texas, to the JUCO championship last year — only few noticed.

"We probably have more people in this room here alone than the whole junior college national championship game," Newton said recently.

Auburn coach Gene Chizik was asked about the highs and lows of Newton's season. He confined his answer to the field.

"I don't recall a lot of lows with him, but I recall a lot of highs," Chizik said. "I'm just impressed with him period, both as a person on and off the field and the way he has progressed as a football player for us in this system week by week. Obviously, he's one of the huge reasons why we're here, along with many others."

A snapshot view Newton's on-the-field exploits includes a handful of plays that helped a player whose bio consumes a scant quarter of a page in Auburn's media guide become the biggest thing on The Plains since Bo Jackson.





MOVIE TIMES

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

Elf (PG) 1hr 37min
Bad Santa- Director's Cut (R) 1hr 31min
7:30pm

Call theater for more information.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

True Grit (PG-13)
11:00am, 1:35pm, 4:10pm, 6:45pm, 9:20pm

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

All smiles, Leo

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Open your eyes to a kid's mind-set. You will breeze through work and play with more spontaneity and happiness. Should someone toss a snafu in your path, it won't have an impact. Tonight: Get into the spirit. Go caroling, help decorate a tree or sip eggnog.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You might opt to finish up holiday details. At the last minute, you could take on a new project or rush out the door. Did you forget someone? Or is this dash the result of forgetting a work-related matter? Tonight: Close to home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Finally, you have the right words and others can hear you. Or do they? Someone quite close could act as if he or she hasn't heard you, but you can be sure that you hit the bull's-eye. You don't need to hammer in an opinion. Tonight: Start a round of gift-giving.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Those impulses that encourage you to go out and spend might attack again. Be sure this is what you really want to do. Pressure from a loved one or family member might be dealt with in another manner. Be creative. Tonight: Your treat.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Note a new sense of direction when you wake. Follow your instincts. Naturally, you seem to make an adjustment in problem situations, eliminating issues. Your personality and intellect meld. Others respond to your magnetism. Tonight: All smiles.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Be willing to observe. If you feel out of sorts or hurt by another person's comments, consider that you could be unusually sensitive. How much are you playing out an old wound? A child or loved one seeks you out. Tonight: Surround yourself with music.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Once more, pressure mounts. How much of this feeling is coming from your own judgments of what you need to do? No one else is pressuring you but you. In that context, you can make another choice. Friends help you let go. Tonight: And the party goes on.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Be aware of an older relative and his or her expectations. Communication affects your plans. Understanding evolves between you and others. Remember, you are going through a similar experience. Tonight: A must appearance.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Stop. Take five minutes to reflect on what must be done before Christmas, both personally and perhaps professionally. Don't forget someone who is often in your thoughts but not present. Tonight: Use your imagination.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ A partner's or dear friend's approach touches you. Let this person know how much you appreciate his or her support and caring. It is a good time to stop and share on a deep level. Tonight: Be as open as you can be.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You give friendship to those you care about. They in return express loyalty and deep caring. Don't fight this open exchange between you and others. You discover the true purpose of this situation. Tonight: In the whirlwind of living.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Listen to what is being shared between you and those who are part of your day-to-day life. Take time today to express your authentic feelings. That might be more important than the Christmas-present ritual. Tonight: Join a co-worker or friend for some holiday cheer.

Happy birthday

This year, open up to different ideas. You are processing and changing right in front of others. Some friends might not notice for a while, while others are amazed. As a result of these profound changes, those closely connected to you grow in new ways, making for stronger ties. Stress results from change. Take better care of your health. If you are single, the person you choose today might not be the person you would choose in a year. Try not to make any major life commitments this year. Simply get to know a special or new person better. If you are attached, the two of you will be breaking new ground, thus adding vigor and excitement to the relationship. LEO zeros in on what is important.

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



Garfield

By Jim Davis



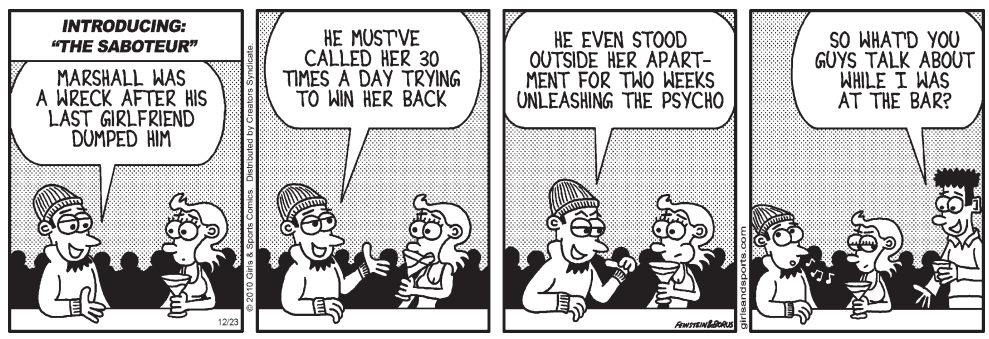
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

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

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



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Spice from nutmeg
5 Stable sections
11 — end (completed)
12 More cautious
13 Gift from 1-Down
14 Homes
15 Words of longing
17 Except
18 Felix's roommate
22 Flying monster of myth
24 Handle
25 According to
26 Blue
27 Carries
30 Ocean regions
32 Boat's back
33 Sphere
34 Winner of seven batting titles
38 Parliament setting
41 Long story
42 Tried to lose
43 School on the Thames
44 Reply to "Gracias"
45 Take it easy

DOWN

1 Star followers
2 Tiny particle
3 Fix a gauge
4 Finishes
5 Influence
6 No-nos
7 Stir up
8 Pot cover
9 Golf's Trevino
10 Fourth-yr. students
16 Pig's place
19 Throw a party
20 On the peak of
21 Theater feature
22 Millinery wares
23 Heaps
28 Book boo-boos
29 Deceived
30 Clinic nickname
31 Pencil part
35 Arp's art
36 They may clash
37 Desire
38 Unmatched
39 Even score
40 Toe count

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

Yesterday's answer

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12-23

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• Fill the grid with the set of given numbers (1 to 12) to satisfy the Equa demands (7 to 24) in the shaded boxes. The Equa demands represent the sum of the digits that you will insert into the empty squares.

• Each horizontal row has one Equa demand to satisfy; each vertical column also has one demand to satisfy. Each empty square in the grid dictates the math operation (addition +, subtraction -, multiplication X, and division ÷) that must be performed to meet the demands.

• You must follow the given math operations for each square and you must make sure all the numbers satisfy the demands in the shaded boxes when connected in adjacent threes and calculated together from left to right, and top to bottom.

• The numbers you insert into the grid must satisfy the Equa demands both horizontally and vertically.

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

3, 4, 8, 9, 9, 11, 11, 12

Solution for Task 1023

DAILY LOTTERY

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

Fantasy 5: 3 15 16 37 39

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 1 1 2 EVENING: 4 4 5

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 05 California Classic 2nd: 08 Gorgeous George 3rd: 06 Whirl Win RACE TIME: 1:42.48

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

■ What's Weird is That it's Legal: The pharmaceutical company Genentech makes both Lucentis (a $2,000 injection for relieving age-related macular degeneration) and Avastin (an anti-cancer drug that many retina specialists prescribe for age-related macular degeneration because it is just as effective yet costs about $50). Using Avastin instead of Lucentis saves Medicare hundreds of millions of dollars a year, reported The New York Times in November, and, obviously, every dollar's savings is a dollar less income for Genentech. In response in October, the company commenced a lucrative rebate program for physicians, worth tens of thousands of dollars, that apparently passes as legal according to Medicare guidelines, but said one Ohio specialist, "There's no way to look at that without calling it bribery."

■ (1) Cell phones and GPS devices have led national-park visitors to do "stupid" things, confident that they will be saved from themselves, a Grand Teton National Park spokesperson told The New York Times in August -- such as the lost, cold hiker who called rangers to ask for hot chocolate or the visitors flummoxed by cold weather who wanted a personal escort back to their campsite. In August, a party of hikers in Illinois called for (and received) three separate rescues in 24 hours. (2) The Milwaukee teachers' union filed an equal-rights lawsuit in August challenging health-insurance cutbacks by the budget-challenged Milwaukee Public Schools. The union was denouncing the elimination of Viagra as discrimination against men.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1783 George Washington resigns as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army at the Maryland State House in Annapolis, Maryland.

1793 The Battle of Savenay, decisive defeat of the royalist counter-revolutionaries in Revolt in the Vendée during the French Revolution.

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.

WORD UP!

lagniappe
\ LAN-yap \ , noun;
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Announcements

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

Layton

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

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

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

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

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

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 20101578729 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 11/03/2010 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as LIVE LANGUAGE LOS ANGELES; LIVE LANGUAGE L.A.. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: DEIRDRE CLARIDGE 2216 6TH ST, UNIT B S.M., CA 90405. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)05/27/2005. /s/: DEIRDRE CLARIDGE; OWNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/03/2010. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/02/2010, 12/09/2010, 12/16/2010, 12/23/2010.

ICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 10-1670925
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: GUEST GALOSHES, 1025 GRANDVILLE AVE. #17, L.A., CA 90049. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) SARAH WILSON, 1025 GRANDVILLE AVE. #17, L.A., CA 90049. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: SARAH WILSON. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 11/18/10. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Pub. Nov. 29 Dec. 06, 13, 20, 2010
Publish: Santa Monica Daily Press

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 10-1593652
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: PRIME PARKING SERVICE CO., 13904 CARFAX AVE., BELLFLOWER, CA 90706. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) JOSE VINTIMILLA, 13904 CARFAX AVE., BELLFLOWER, CA 90706. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: JOSE VINTIMILLA. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 11/05/10. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Pub. Nov. 15, 22, 29 Dec. 06, 2010
Publish: Santa Monica Daily Press

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 20101646752 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 11/16/2010 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as SCHOOL DAY CON-

DBAS

SULTING . The full name of registrant(s) is/are: JUDITH A. DAY 2029 GLENCOE AVE VENICE, CA 90291. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)10/30/2010. /s/: JUDITH A. DAY; OWNER . This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/16/2010. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/16/2010, 12/23/2010, 12/30/2010, 01/06/2011.



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