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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2011
Volume 11 Issue 36

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

LEARNING ABOUT THE SEA
SEE PAGE 3

THE SHOPPING FRENZY ISSUE

Regional homeless programs get nearly $75M

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

DOWNTOWN Nearly $75 million is going to 225 regional programs that help homeless people and families deal with challenges such as mental illness, disabilities and domestic violence.

The much needed cash is coming from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and will be distributed to local agencies like OPCC and St. Joseph Center by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA).

Of that money, roughly $11.8 million will fund 22 programs in Service Planning Area 5, which covers the Westside, including Santa Monica. Eleven of those programs include permanent housing, nine cover

SEE PROGRAMS PAGE 8

Menorahs have no problem in Santa Monica

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL While the war over space for nativity scenes in Palisades Park rages on, Santa Monica's Jewish community is having no problem finding spots to put up its menorahs.

The collection, another Santa Monica tradition right up there with the now-famous tune "Hanukkah in Santa Monica," is set up each year for the eight-day Festival of Lights celebration, and, unlike the nativity scenes, has sparked no controversy despite the fact that over 60 of the nine-pronged candleholders pop up throughout the city.

"Every year, we get at least one new one," said Rabbi Isaac Levitansky of Chabad in Santa Monica, the orthodox Jewish group that puts up the menorahs. "We've been doing it for over 30 years."

The new menorahs represent the lesson of Chanukah, which is to add light to the world every day in honor of a miracle that allowed a small quantity of oil in an ancient Jewish temple to burn for eight days instead of just one.

Volunteers put up all of the menorahs and ensure that each stay lit. None of the menorahs are electric.

"The miracle of Chanukah happened through oil, and with a wick," Levitansky said. "We use candles or oil or gas with a wick, just as with the miracle."

Hundreds of thousands of people will pass by the blatant spiritual messages every day, but unlike the nativity displays in Palisades Park, which became the source of

SEE MENORAHS PAGE 9



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

NICE VIEW: **A menorah sits atop the maintenance building on the Santa Monica Pier on Thursday.**

Airport flight schools promise to restrict hours

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMO Flight school owners voluntarily agreed to restrict the hours their planes spend flying over Santa Monica in an attempt to "be a better neighbor" to residents that live near the airport, city officials announced Thursday.

Under the new restrictions, renters and instructors will not fly repeated takeoffs and landings in the "pattern" around Santa Monica Airport after 8 p.m. between the months of November and March and after 9 p.m. the remainder of the year.

They also agreed to stop flying after 8 p.m. on Sundays throughout the year.

The changes will result in 15 fewer hours of pattern flying per week during daylight savings time and 21 fewer hours per week the rest of the year.

"Pattern flying" is a box-like route consisting of four legs within visual distance of the airport. Pilots use pattern flights to hone their skills and maintain their certifications, one of which requires pilots to fly at night.

Residents who live near the airport complain that planes are always in the pattern, subjecting them to constant, disruptive noise and raining lead and other hazardous chemicals upon them and their homes from the exhaust.

Martin Pastucha, director of the Department of Public Works with City Hall, characterized the agreement as "a step in the right direction."

"I think that it helps with the repetitive nature of the traffic, which is the main complaint that we've heard," Pastucha said.

The reduction will squeeze pilots who need to fly at night to get certificated, but the flight schools believe this is a good compromise to help address neighbor complaints, said Joe Justice, owner of Justice Aviation, the largest flight school at SMO.

Private pilots need to get three hours of night operation and 10 takeoffs and landings before they can get their certificate, Justice said.

Though the new restrictions will make that more difficult, flight instructors can

SEE SMO PAGE 10


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Friday, Dec. 23, 2011

Drink and be merry
Library Ale House
2911 Main St., all day
It's the Library Ale House's favorite time of year for beer. The weather cools down and the ABV goes up. It's as though the universe is telling us to stay in inside and sip strong, dark beers. To that end, the Alehouse announces its second annual Strong Ale Holiday Fest, running Dec. 19-31. For more information call (310) 314-4855 or visit www.libraryalehouse.com.

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

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

Saturday, Dec. 24, 2011

Christmas Eve children's mass
St. Monica Catholic Church
725 California Ave., 4 p.m.
This year's children's mass will be held in the newly renovated gymnasium. Bring the kids for a little Christmas spirit. For more information, visit www.stmonica.net.

Light the menorah
Palisades Park
Ocean and Arizona avenues, sundown
Chanukah continues each night with a lighting by Chabad of Santa Monica.

Adopt a feline
Centinela Feed and Pet Supplies
1448 Lincoln Blvd.,
12 p.m. — 4 p.m.
Rescue Me Pet Foundation has kittens and cats (of all ages) available for adoption. All animals are spayed or neutered and are up to date on their shots. For more information, call (310) 822-1884.

To create your own listing, log on to smdp.com/submitevent

For help, contact Daniel Archuleta at 310-458-7737 or submit to editor@smdp.com

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com/communitylistings



Gusty winds cause problems across region

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES The latest round of gusty winds to hit California toppled trucks and trees and fanned a small brush fire Thursday.

Gusts of Santa Ana winds topped 70 mph in the San Gabriel Mountains north of Los Angeles, but by midafternoon the region had escaped without a repeat of the millions of dollars of damage and huge blackouts caused by hurricane-force blasts three weeks earlier.

The brush fire was reported in a rural foothill canyon area near the small city of Santa Paula, 65 miles northwest of Los Angeles, said Ventura County fire Capt. Ron Oatman.

The blaze, believed to have started in a grove of avocado trees, spread across 10 acres but was not threatening any homes, he said. Several fire trucks and bulldozers were dispatched, and the fire was 30 percent contained early Thursday evening.

The National Weather Service said the Santa Anas, generated by a strong high-pressure system over the Great Basin, would continue through Friday morning in southern California, but no "red flag" warnings for fire danger would be issued because fuel conditions were not at critical levels.

Gusts faster than 70 mph were recorded at Warm Springs and Chilao in the Angeles National Forest.

Several tractor-trailers blew over on wind-prone routes in the inland region east of Los Angeles, and video cameras recorded a huge tree in suburban Glendale losing its hold on the earth and collapsing across a street. Another tree fell on a residential building in Santa Ana, KCAL-TV reported.

Weather was also blustery in other parts of California.

Sustained winds of 25-35 mph with gusts to 50 mph were reported in some areas of the Sierra Nevada, where they pushed two unusual winter wildfires. One burned in Kyburz, a community of fewer than 200 people along Highway 50, about 75 miles east of Sacramento. A second fire was contained after burning 9 acres in a remote forested area northeast of Georgetown.

A large fire pushed by strong wind gusts engulfed three buildings near San Francisco's historic Alamo Square, injuring two firefighters and one other person.

SEE **WINDS** PAGE 9



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

FUN IN THE SUN: **Los Angeles-area students take part in a day of marine education on Santa Monica Beach in September.**

Heal the Bay campaigns to improve marine education

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

SM BAY A new fundraising effort by Heal the Bay is aimed at providing money for marine biology education, which may fall victim to the budgetary ax at Los Angeles schools, organizers of the effort said Thursday.

The environmental group hopes to raise $30,000 by the end of the school year through its "Get on the Bus" campaign.

In the face of steep budget cuts, Heal the Bay officials said schools are cutting programs like field trips to the ocean and coastal aquariums.

"That's because many families and communities lack the resources to make a day at the beach possible for their children," the group said in a statement.

Heal the Bay said the trips are necessary because California students continue to perform poorly on science education assessments, compared to other states. The group said experimental, interactive and hands-on learning is a proven tool for increasing student performance.

A $500 donation would pay for 65 students to visit the Santa Monica Pier Aquarium for educational programs, according to the organization. About 20,000 students visit the aquarium each year on buses provided by Heal the Bay, it said.

"Unfortunately, there's no way that I could provide this experience for my students without the funding," said fifth-grade teacher Marcella Carrillo, who teaches at Rowan Avenue Elementary in East Los Angeles. "These are inner-city kids and most of the parents are low-income families who don't have time or money for something as simple as taking their children to the beach."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

There's room for all

Editor:

I am appalled by the City Council's silly lottery which resulted in loss of the traditional nativity scenes. As a Jew who does not celebrate Christmas and never has, I find nothing offensive in Christians celebrating it.

The horrible mistake here is that the council gave equal weight to a group which wanted to attack the religious beliefs of others, not to celebrate their own. There is no traditional atheist holiday in late December; Saturnalia was polytheist.

The freedom of religion guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution is not an invitation to denigrate the beliefs of others – it is a call for tolerance and respect.

Growing up in America as a Jew (pretty obviously since my last name is Israel), I've had a few unfortunate experiences because of it, but for the most part have been treated with respect and tolerance. I have never understood why Christians celebrating their holiday would give offense. It doesn't offend me in the least.

Instead of a lottery, why not give different groups different times of year to put on their displays? Not attacks on others, but celebration of their own beliefs. Let's give the Christians December, the Muslims whatever month Ramadan happens to fall in (it changes), the Jews Passover, and the atheists June, which contains the summer solstice – Midsummer's Day.

There is room for all of us in America, and no need to attack each other. My friends include Christians, Jews, Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists and atheists. We all manage to respect each other and feel no need to attack the other person's beliefs.

It was very wrong of the City Council to equate celebration with attack. Let's try to accommodate any sincere beliefs, and to behave like decent people – like Americans!

Oh yes, at the risk of being attacked by the politically correct among us, I would say to my Christian friends and neighbors – I wish you a merry Christmas!

Howard Israel
Santa Monica

Praise be to Tebow

Editor:

Tim Tebow – two words that strike fear into the biased liberal world in which we live.

Tim Tebow should have won three straight Heisman Trophy awards. But after winning as a sophomore at the University of Florida, everyone found out that he was a Christian devoted to serving Jesus Christ with every fiber of his being. The left immediately decided that honoring a clean living athlete was not acceptable. Their avowed purpose is to reward the bad behavior of some felonious thug who rapes and pillages his way through life unpunished. Clearly this is the left's ongoing practice of religious persecution against Christianity.

Now, as Tim Tebow continues to show his winning leadership with the Denver Broncos, he and all Christians are attacked relentlessly by the left. Jews are free to pray. Muslims are free to pray. Atheists are free to not pray. However, Christians are not allowed to pray to Jesus even while we observe a day devoted to his birth.

We shall overcome. Thank you Lord. Thank you Jesus.

David Long
Santa Monica

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If Tiny Tim lived in Santa Monica

FEW KNEW THAT REAL ESTATE TYCOON, and unabashed 1 percent-er, Douglas Scrooge was the great-great-great grandson of Ebenezer Scrooge. But even though the fates of finance had smiled so radiantly upon Scrooge, his icy personality never thawed even a degree. (Unless, of course, one of his rent-controlled tenants croaked and the unit went fair market.)

So it was not surprising that when Scrooge was invited by his nephew for a joyous Christmas dinner, he barked, "Bah humbug, who needs the cholesterol?" But that night, let any man explain how Scrooge, having his key in the door of his plush San Vicente Avenue estate, suddenly saw the face of his deceased partner, Jacob Marley, whom he had often "scrooged," so to speak.

"Hey, Jake, buddy-boy," Scrooge said nervously. "How about I have my secretary FedEx you a check in the morning?" The ghost responded solemnly, "Tomorrow you will be haunted by a spirit when the bell tolls one." Trembling, Scrooge uttered feebly, "My clocks don't toll, they're digital." But alas, the ghost had disappeared.

The following day at 1 p.m. Scrooge was pacing in front of his plasma flat screen watching the Jets play the Giants. (He had five large on the Jets.) Suddenly the Ghost of Christmas Past appeared and the TV abruptly went black. Scrooge panicked until he remembered the TV was still under warranty.

Suddenly, in the blink of an eye, the two were in the quaint Ocean Park neighborhood of Scrooge's childhood, circa 1940. A wave of nostalgia momentarily swept over Scrooge. But soon he was pained by "For Sale" signs on cottages that 40 years later became multi-million dollar Sea Colony condos. "If only I had bought the whole damn block" Scrooge said ruefully.

Later than night, Scrooge was watching The Money Channel when the TV was again mysteriously turned off, this time by the Ghost of Christmas Present. As Scrooge fumbled for the remote, the two were suddenly whisked silently inside one of Scrooge's rent-controlled apartment buildings on Pico Boulevard. It was the dwelling of Scrooge's dutiful clerk, Bob Ratchet, and his adoring family.

Despite threadbare carpet and cracked windows, the Ratchets were gathered around the festive dinner table. When talk turned to Scrooge, Tiny Tim, lead rapper in "Disabled Defiance," (bearing a striking resemblance to Eminem) blurted out, "Word, I oughta whack that dawg upside his head with my crutch."

But Ratchet cautioned Tiny Tim, "On Christmas, we wish well to all in this world, even Scrooge." And toast they did, but only after, under his breath, Tiny called Bob a "busta."

At dawn on Christmas morning, Scrooge arose from slumber to see the Third Spirit, who was black and shrouded in a dark garment. "My wallet's on the dresser. Take the cash but leave the ID, OK," Scrooge said shakily. "Fool, I ain't here to jack you, I'm the Ghost of Christmas Future!"

Suddenly, Scrooge found himself at the Woodlawn Cemetery on 14th Street. Horrified, he saw weeds growing around the dilapidated tombstone of Douglas Scrooge with the epitaph: "What good is his money now?"

Scrooge pleaded with the ghost, "Do I have any wiggle room? Hey, I've got a beachfront condo I stole in foreclosure. It's yours! Whatdya say, pal?"

In the foreboding silence, Scrooge finally caved. "All right, I will honor Christmas in my heart. I'll stand in lines shopping at the Third Street Promenade. I'll go to the boring holiday parties and pretend to be interested in other people's inane chit chat. But please assure me that I yet may change these shadows."

But the ghost had vanished and Scrooge was asleep in his bed.

As he awoke he rushed to the window and opened it. He shouted to a gang banger below who was busy spray painting graffiti on a neighbor's cement wall. "What's today, my fine fellow?"

"Have you been sniffin' glue, Pops? It's Christmas."

"Then it's not too late!" Scrooge proclaimed gleefully.

And so it came to pass that Scrooge did all he promised and more. To Tiny Tim he became a second father, and tour promoter for "Disabled Defiance." (Albeit for 15 percent of the gross.) To Ratchet, Scrooge became the model employer, giving him a raise to minimum wage plus a farthing, whatever a farthing is these days.

And Scrooge finally replaced the Ratchet's carpet and cracked windows and even had the apartment painted. And for all of this Scrooge didn't seek a rent increase pass through, though the thought crossed his mind.

And to his neighbors, Scrooge was no longer a greedy s.o.b. and was so nice in fact that it was a bit nauseating. And so in time it was said of Scrooge, by one and all, that he knew how to keep Christmas well. And, for that matter, he didn't do a bad job with Chanukah either.

Wishing his readers a happy holiday season, **JACK** can be reached at Jnsmdp@aol.com.

The Q Line

New trend?

The City Council last week approved a 56-unit apartment complex slated for the corner of Broadway and Fourth Street. The development includes no parking spaces for tenants.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think parking should be required for every development, or is this a trend you'd like to see more of in Santa Monica?

Contact **qline@smdp.com** before **Friday at 5 p.m.** and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. You can also call **(310) 458-7737 ext. 107**.



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DAILY PRESS EDITORIALS

City Hall hardly business friendly

City officials can talk all they want about how Santa Monica is becoming more business friendly, but unless you're Yahoo!, MTV or Activision, the reality is it's far from it. If you are not raising Santa Monica's profile as the hub for technology and new media, it seems as if City Hall could care less.

Despite efforts by the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce and City Hall to work together to retain and attract businesses, streamline the permit process and make it more predictable, higher sales tax, fees and rents still make it difficult for many, mainly smaller mom-and-pops, to set up shop. Santa Monica was recently rated one of the most expensive places to do business in the nation in the Kosmont-Rose Institute Cost of Doing Business Survey, which looked at our 9.75 percent sales tax, business license fee and property tax rate.

Naturally there are more factors that come into play when deciding where to locate a business, such as location, amenities and access to a skilled labor force, and the Kosmont-Rose survey fails to incorporate them. That makes for an incomplete picture, but recent moves by the City Council help fill in the blank spaces.

In late November, the council approved even more fees for developers, this time to pay for staff to monitor affordable housing units and who is living in them. The request from city staff came after it was revealed that many affordable apartments were being rented to those who didn't qualify. Apparently, city staff failed to properly monitor those units, much like they, and in large part the City Council, failed to properly monitor development agreements.

The housing fees — $170 for newly-constructed affordable units , $145 every time a new tenant moves into a unit and $135 per unit annually — add another burden for those looking to build housing in Santa Monica. A new apartment turnover could be as much as $450, and those fees cannot be passed through to tenants.

The fees are based on an hourly wage paid to city staff, plus benefits, to do the monitoring — at $57 an hour. That is outrageous. Why are we paying city staff that much money when an outside firm could do it for much less? It's a waste and will only serve as another hindrance to the construction of much-needed housing for employees of future companies looking to relocate here.

Mandating the constructing of affordable housing is a stated goal of this community and one the City Council champions. Therefore, monitoring that housing should be paid for not by those building the units, but by those who demand they be built. If affordable housing is a priority in this town, then the taxpayers need to pay for the monitoring. If a developer is found to be out of compliance with the law, then fine them, but don't put up another hurdle for them to leap over.

And now Councilman Kevin McKeown wants the council to find some way to preserve the Village Trailer Park either by declaring imminent domain or designating it a landmark. This comes more than four years after the developers informed City Hall of their plans to demolish it and build a mixed-use project with housing and ground-floor commercial. The developers have done everything they can to play nice, working with City Hall on a development agreement that would ensure some security for current tenants. Now efforts are surfacing to put a stop to it. Where were these efforts when the project was first brought forward? How much money have the developers sunk into this project with no return?

It seems that the powers that be know Santa Monica will continue to be an attractive place for businesses because of its beautiful weather, quality schools and proximity to the beach. There's almost this air of arrogance within the power structure: "If you don't like it, someone else will." Well, Santa Monica lost Google because of a lack of office space. It almost lost Activision. Who knows what major company will consider leaving next? Without those mom-and-pops that help make Santa Monica what it is — the restaurants, the boutiques, and the start-ups — will Santa Monica be as attractive?

There are other beach cities that can offer many of the same amenities Santa Monica does, and with less hassle — just something to think about as we head into the new year. Santa Monica needs tax dollars to fund all the amenities residents and businesses enjoy. Continue with the arrogance and costly policy and the city by the sea could find itself under water.

What facts?

The Friends of Sunset Park would like to believe that the Daily Press' Dec. 9 editorial calling out the City Council's failure to create diversity on the Airport Commission was loaded with falsehoods, but their response provided no examples of where the Daily Press got it wrong factually.

Normally the Daily Press would not respond to criticism of editorials, but to claim we are making up facts is a serious accusation and one that cannot be dismissed. They are free to disagree with us, but before making such damaging remarks, please have your facts straight.

For the record, there are currently no pilots serving on the commission and the council continues to appoint only residents from Sunset Park.

Our complaint, which we don't know how Friends missed, is that a lack of diversity is troubling given that City Hall is engaged in a visioning process to determine the future of the airport. We need various views to formulate as many options as possible and select the best one for all Santa Monicans, not just those living near the airport. To do otherwise would be irresponsible.











Retiring cops moving to keep assault weapons

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO A statewide lobbying group for police officers said Thursday it will pursue legislation next year that would allow officers to keep assault weapons after they retire, seeking to overturn an opinion issued last year by the state attorney general's office.

Peace officers can own assault weapons that are illegal for civilians to buy, even for officers' off-duty use. The Associated Press reported Wednesday that more than 7,600 officers have bought such firearms since the state began allowing the practice a decade ago. The weapons must be registered with the state Department of Justice.

Officers who buy assault weapons must give them up when they retire or leave law enforcement because they no longer qualify as peace officers under California law, then-Attorney General Jerry Brown said in an official opinion issued last December.

Brown based the decision on several court rulings, state law and lawmakers' intent when they exempted law enforcement from the state's assault weapons ban in 2001. He issued the ruling days before he was sworn in as governor.

"We think that an officer that extends himself and buys this for his department and his community is being unduly punished as they go out the door," said Ron Cottingham, president of the Peace Officers Research Association of California.

City police officers, county sheriff's deputies, California Highway Patrol officers, state game wardens, school police officers and other law enforcement personnel can buy assault weapons with their own money, at a cost often exceeding $1,200.

The proposed legislation is still being written but likely would allow officers to re-register their weapons once they retire, similar to the registrations required for those who owned assault rifles before California's ban became law in 1999.

The peace officers group is a federation of more than 900 local, state and federal law enforcement associations representing 62,000 public safety employees in California. It bills itself as the state's largest law enforcement organization.

The group successfully lobbied for the exemption that was added to state law in 2001, which allowed individual officers to buy semiautomatic assault weapons.

Cottingham said the intent was to let officers buy weapons their departments could not afford as a way of keeping up with criminals' increasing firepower. The intention was that officers have the weapons available for law enforcement emergencies around the clock, whether they were on- or off- duty, he said.

Cottingham said retired officers still could use their assault weapons to battle criminals or terrorists in an emergency.

"They're obviously not for official use once you're retired," he said. "You have it for target practice, you have it for safety. I would agree the arguments are probably not as strong to have the retired officer have this weapon."

Some agencies now provide all the weapons their officers need on the job while still letting officers buy assault weapons for their own use as permitted by state law, the AP reported Wednesday.

The legal exemption for peace officers came under scrutiny after federal authorities served search warrants in November on officers with several Sacramento-area law enforcement agencies. That ongoing investigation focuses on officers selling weapons that are not available to the general public, but it is not known whether assault weapons are involved. No charges have been filed.

The bulk of assault weapons purchased by individual officers this year were in the Los Angeles Police Department, where officers registered 146 weapons, the state said in response to the AP's Public Records Act request.

Officers in the San Diego Police Department, Riverside County Sheriff's Department and Long Beach Police Department were also leaders in buying the 861 weapons registered statewide this year. The guns have high-capacity, detachable magazines and may have other features that are generally banned in California.

The number of weapons bought by officers dropped nearly 25 percent after Brown's ruling, likely because officers often didn't want to buy weapons they couldn't keep, state Department of Justice officials said. Officers bought 1,431 weapons in 2009; 1,166 in 2010; and 861 through November 2011, the department said in responding to a public records request by the AP. State law requires that officers get their supervisors' written permission to buy the weapons, and that they be registered with the DOJ.

The AP sought the information after the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives served search warrants last month as part of its ongoing weapons-trafficking investigation.

Cottingham said he is not worried that retirees would sell their weapons or that they could fall into the wrong hands when retired officers die. Families would be required to turn in the weapons or sell them in another state where possession is permitted, he said. Some weapons could also be easily converted so they no longer meet California's assault weapon definition.

The lobbying group's effort comes as state Assemblyman Roger Dickinson considers introducing legislation tightening California law as a result of the federal investigation. Dickinson, D-Sacramento, wants to make it clear the weapons are for on-duty use.

PORAC would oppose that move, Cottingham said, though he acknowledged the law currently is ambiguous. Dickinson was on vacation and could not be reached to comment.

The Calguns Foundation, which supports gun owners' rights, plans to use the peace officer exemption in a lawsuit next year that will attempt to overturn California's ban on civilian ownership of assault weapons, said foundation attorney Jason A. Davis of Mission Viejo.

The foundation will argue that letting peace officers possess the weapons violates the equal protection clause in the U.S. Constitution. Davis said the plaintiff may be a retired police officer who under current law must give up his or her assault weapon upon retirement.



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CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Police say man on drugs jumped from hotel

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

SUNDAY, DEC. 18, AT 12:40 A.M.,
Santa Monica police officers responded to the 1500 block of Ocean Avenue — The Shore Hotel — regarding a report of a man who had fallen or jumped from the fourth floor balcony and was lying on the sidewalk. When officers arrived, they located the victim, who was lying semi-conscious on the sidewalk. He was treated by paramedics and transported to a local hospital in critical condition. Officers went to the man's hotel room and made contact with two men who were inside the victim's room. Officers learned that the three were partying when the victim suddenly went out to the balcony and jumped off. Officers searched the room and found marijuana, hydrocodone, LSD and a prescribed cough syrup. Both men were placed under arrest for being under the influence. The man who was injured was said to still be in critical condition with injuries throughout his head and body. His name was not released by police. The other two suspects were identified as Jet Eric Reich, 19, of Thousand Oaks; and Soo Min Kim, 20, of Los Angeles. Bail was set at $2,500 for each.

MONDAY, DEC. 12, AT 5:30 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 200 block of Pico Boulevard — Bay Shore Lanes — regarding a report of a woman who was unable to pay her bill. When officers arrived, they contacted the manager, who told them that the suspect ordered and ate food inside the bowling alley restaurant and then refused to pay for it, saying she had forgotten her wallet. Officers made contact with the suspect, who told them that she wanted to be taken to jail. As officers were preparing to place her under arrest, they searched her and found several receipts from restaurants outside the city. Officers called those restaurants and learned that the woman had walked out without paying her bill at each restaurant. The suspect was eventually booked for defrauding an innkeeper. She was identified as Penelope Murstein, 60, of Los Angeles. Her bail was set at $500.

TUESDAY, DEC. 13, AT 1:40 A.M.,
Officers responded to the 1800 block of Wilshire Boulevard — Rite-Aid — regarding a shoplifter fighting with employees. When officers arrived, they made contact with the suspect and detained him. An employee told officers that the suspect was seen taking items from the shelves and then left the store without paying for them. Employees confronted the man and a struggle ensued. Employees used pepper spray to subdue the suspect. Officers searched the suspect's jacket and recovered the stolen property and a glass pipe commonly used to smoke crack cocaine. The suspect was arrested and booked for robbery and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was identified as Floyd Howard, 43, a transient. His bail was set at $50,000.

TUESDAY, DEC. 13, AT 8:25 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 3100 block of Fifth Street regarding a report of a possible robbery that had just occurred. When officers arrived, they were contacted by the alleged victim, who said that he was inside his home when his dog suddenly began barking in the backyard. The man walked out to see what was going on and found the suspect with his bicycle. The man confronted the suspect, who fled on foot through the alley. Officers searched the area and located a man matching the suspect's description. The man was positively identified and placed under arrest for theft, loitering, receiving stolen property and possession of burglary tools. He was identified as Alvin Kelly, 50, of Venice, Calif. Bail was set at $20,000.

THURSDAY, DEC. 15, AT 5:45 A.M.,
Officers were working in the area of Fourth Street and Colorado Avenue when they were flagged down by a taxi driver who said that he picked up a fare at UCLA who wanted to be driven to Downtown. The driver did so and demanded $30 for the ride. The suspect allegedly refused to pay and asked to be taken to jail. Officers did just that, placing the man under arrest for defrauding an innkeeper and an outstanding warrant in the amount of $26,000. He was identified as Jordan Cusulos Waugh, 22, a transient. His bail was set at $26,500.

THURSDAY, DEC. 15, AT 9:07 A.M.,
Officers responded to the 1400 block of Palisades Park regarding a report of an assault. When officers arrived, they made contact with the alleged victim who said he was working a private event at the Senior Center. The suspect, who was not invited, was asked to leave after he was seen taking food. The suspect allegedly kicked the victim and threw an apple, striking the victim in the chest. Prior to leaving, the suspect also spit in the victim's face. Officers located the suspect a short distance away and he was identified and placed under arrest for battery and a local warrant. He was identified as Earl Jay Buckley, 52, a transient. His bail was set at $20,250.

SATURDAY, DEC. 17, AT 7:35 P.M.,
Officers were on routine patrol in the 900 block of Arizona Avenue when they saw a man riding his bike with no headlight during the evening hours. As officers attempted to make contact with the man, he allegedly fled into a nearby alley and into a carport located in the 1300 block of Ninth Street. The suspect was eventually located and detained. During the investigation, the suspect told officers that he did not have any identification and admitted to being on probation for burglary. Officers searched the suspect and said they found in his jacket a replica, semi-automatic handgun (.177 mm air gun) that resembled a Beretta PX4. They said they also found a knife and pot. Officers determined that the suspect matched the description of a suspect wanted for several robberies where a handgun was used. He was placed under arrest for riding without a headlight or rear reflector, possession of marijuana, probable cause robbery and a probation violation. He was identified as Lorenzo Brooks, 46, a transient. His bail was set at $50,000.

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Editor-in-Chief **KEVIN HERRERA** compiled these reports.

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PROGRAMS
FROM PAGE 1

transitional housing and eight cover supplemental services, according to a spokesman from LAHSA.

The funding is roughly the same as what was awarded last year when almost 4,000 homeless individuals were served through permanent supportive-housing programs. Just over 3,500 of them, or almost 90 percent, became stably housed, said Michael Arnold, LAHSA's executive director.

"With this award, we can continue providing the vitally needed housing assistance and accompanying supportive services to those experiencing homelessness in the city and county of Los Angeles," Arnold said Thursday. "Programs targeting our special needs populations such as the chronically homeless, veterans and families are our top priority; we are committed to moving these vulnerable groups into more stable housing and living conditions as quickly as possible."

HUD's Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Program is an annual national competition for funding that supports homeless housing and service programs under the McKinney Vento Homeless Assistance Program. It focuses on decreasing and bringing an end to homelessness across regional and local jurisdictions. LAHSA is the lead agency for the county.

This year, LAHSA requested nearly $14 million for new projects and HUD is expected to announce those awards in the spring of 2012.

"This is good news," said OPCC's John Maceri. "It doesn't provide all the funding, but a significant portion for residential and outreach services that are provided here in Santa Monica."

Maceri expects to receive roughly the same amount of funding from LAHSA in the new year, "which is good news at a time when you are seeing a lot of cuts elsewhere."

Maceri said donations to OPCC are down.

"People are still giving, but they are not giving as much," he added. "It's been a tight year, but I'm guardedly optimistic."

Va Lecia Adams, Ph.D., director of St. Joseph Center in Venice, said demand for services is great, particularly at the food pantry. Knowing that steady funding is on its way is "always a relief."

"Dollars are always limited so to have this committment helps," she said.

City Hall will be conducting its annual homeless count Jan. 25. To volunteer, send an e-mail to humanservices@smgov.net or call (310) 458-8701.

The 2011 count found no change in the number of homeless individuals — 740 — living in Santa Monica from the previous year. However, the two-year comparison from 2009-2011 shows a 19 percent reduction in homelessness, according to city staff.

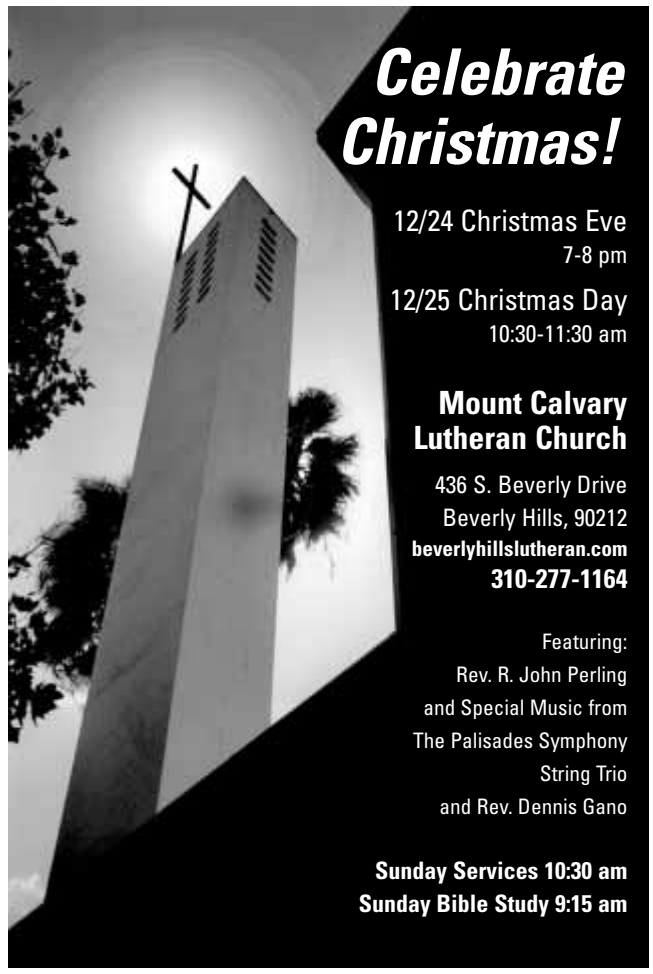
With unemployment in California sitting at 11.3 percent, Maceri and others are worried more people are sleeping on Santa Monica's streets.

To learn more about Santa Monica's efforts to end homelessness, visit www.smgov.net/portals/homelessness/

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MENORAHS
FROM PAGE 1

controversy this year when a group of atheists displaced them for secular signage, no one has targeted the menorahs.

That may be because, aside from one in Palisades Park, another on the Santa Monica Pier and a third on the Third Street Promenade, all of the menorahs are on private property.

Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom, whose brother is in the Chabad movement, noted that unlike the Christian groups that have set up in the public Palisades Park for nearly 60 years, the Chabad group chose to follow a different, more secure, path.

"They're pretty good at finding spots that are very easy to see and on private property," Bloom said. "I think they look at it as a challenge."

Even the ones that are on public land seem to get a pass from activists.

Both the Chabad and Downtown Santa Monica Inc., a public-private organization that manages Downtown for City Hall, have menorah displays on the promenade.

The Chabad has submitted an application to put up the display for at least the past 15 years with no quarrel, said Kathleen Rawson, CEO of Downtown Santa Monica Inc.

There aren't that many spaces available on the promenade because of the "limited amount of real estate" in a place packed with people at all hours of the day. It wouldn't be hard to apply for the spots and force the menorah out.

Still, it doesn't happen.

Damon Vix, the public face of the atheist groups that took over Palisades Park, said his group hadn't looked outside of the park because the other displays were secularized.

In the Supreme Court decision Allegheny County vs. ACLU, a menorah display was considered appropriate because it was dwarfed by a 45-foot Christmas tree, whereas a creche with the depiction of the infant Jesus was considered inappropriate because it had no ameliorating secular symbols.

Rawson also believes that the nature of the promenade as a place for self-expression every day gives it a certain amount of protection.

"People can exercise free speech here every single day," Rawson said. "The unique thing about the park is that it's not normally available to put things in."

And so, the menorahs continue.

Levitansky believes it is the largest menorah display per capita in the world, but it's difficult to confirm.

The nature of the non-electric displays makes them expensive to maintain, a cost which only grows as the menorahs multiply across Santa Monica, requiring more oil, candles and permits from the Santa Monica Fire Department.

It's worth it, although donations are always appreciated, Levitansky said.

"What's unique about Chanukah is that it's the holiday we spread the light specifically to the outside," Levitansky said. "Everybody should have a part of it in some way."

ashley@smdp.com

WINDS
FROM PAGE 3

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

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

On Thursday, work crews were on standby in Pasadena, where the last windstorm covered nearly all of the 325 miles of city streets in debris that still is being cleared.

"It's a big, big job," city spokeswoman Ann Erdman said. "It's slow and steady. Crews continue to work night and day getting it done."

By early afternoon no damage had been reported.

"We're anticipating some gusts from time to time in Pasadena but they absolutely will not even begin to hold a candle to what happened here three weeks ago," Erdman said.

Still, she added, "we do encourage all our residents to be prepared, batten down the hatches."

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Paul Alvarez Jr. *news@smdp.com*

GETTING UP: **A small plane takes off from Santa Monica Airport earlier this month.**

SMO
FROM PAGE 1

cope with better planning, Justice said.

"We're trying to offer something that doesn't hurt us badly and will also have a positive effect for the neighbors," Justice said. "We voluntarily offered this up without any push from the airport, just trying to make it a more friendly airport."

While the extra hours of peace will be very welcome, Sunset Park resident Lloyd Saunders is skeptical that it will result in an improvement to the neighbors' quality of life.

"It's like putting a Band-Aid on open heart surgery," Saunders said.

Reducing the number of hours that instructors and students have to fly at night will just make them cram more flights into the time they do have, increasing the number of planes buzzing overhead, Saunders said.

"In other words, instead of having two planes in the pattern say an hour or two before the deadline, they'll have three or four," Saunders said. "They'll still get their time in."

Flight schools, airport management and City Hall have been in discussions since September to identify and implement various ways to reduce their impact on the community.

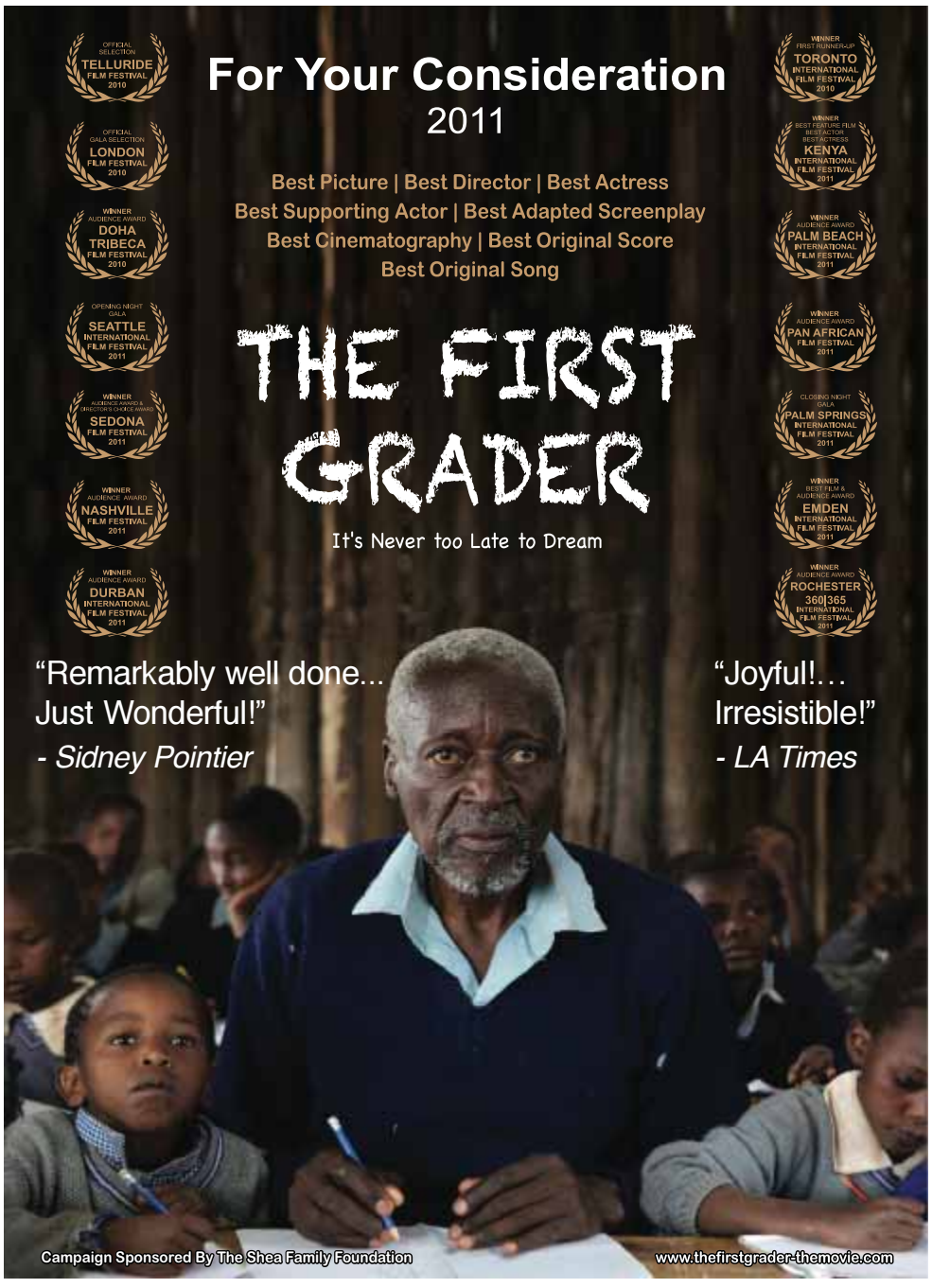
The talks come as 2015 approaches, the year that the flight schools' leases at the airport expire and City Hall believes that it will get more control over the use of Santa Monica Airport, which is currently dictated by the Federal Aviation Administration.

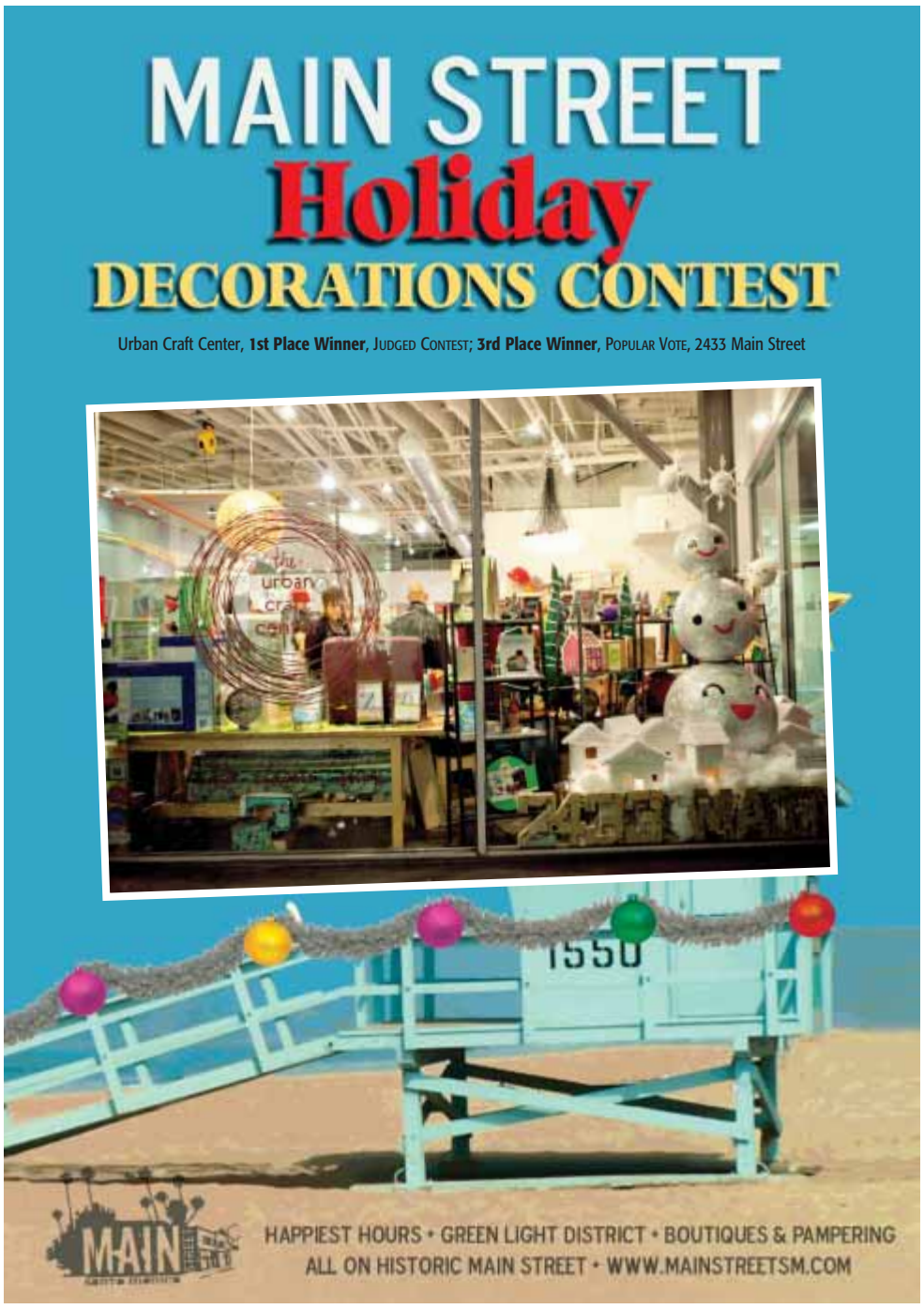
Although no other agreements have been inked, several are in the works, Pastucha said.

One involves student pilots flying to another general aviation airport to practice maneuvers that irk residents of Santa Monica and the Westside if City Hall compensates them for the extra gas needed to get there.

"From the flight schools' perspective, it's about time and money. Time in the air also burns fuel," Pastucha said. "We're looking at what would be the cost impact of doing something like that, and would the city be willing to mitigate the costs of that."

ashley@smdp.com









Headphones evolving past just white ear buds

MESFIN FEKADU
Associated Press

NEW YORK When iPods hit the scene 10 years ago, the small, white ear buds that came with the devices became the symbol for listening to music on the go.

Today, that's changing.

More and more people are expressing themselves with pricey headphones, with some fashion-forward music lovers rocking updated versions of the oversized headsets popular in earlier eras.

Bose has been known for its larger headphones in recent years, and now celebrities have taken note and aided in the resurgence of the ear amplifiers.



In 2008, Monster launched Beats by Dre with Dr. Dre, and it is the most recognizable of celebrity-branded headphones. Monster later released headphones with Lady Gaga, Justin Bieber, Diddy, Daft Punk, Nick Cannon and LeBron James.

This year, 50 Cent, Quincy Jones and Ludacris released their own line of headphones.

Dre, the Grammy-winning rap legend who has produced hits for Eminem, 2Pac, 50 Cent and Mary J. Blige, says he is offended when he sees people using generic headphones.

"It's almost like a knife in the heart," he said while promoting the headphones last year. "We're in the studio, at least me, for years at a time trying to work on music, tweaking it, trying to get the sound right, and for people to walk around and listen to the music on those cheap white headphones is ridiculous."

But some people may have a reason for not buying Beats by Dre. The cheapest set costs $100, and the most expensive pair is $500. 50 Cent's Sync by 50 ranges from $130 to $400, and the lowest price for Soul by Ludacris is $70; the highest is $300. (Partial sales from 50 Cent and Cannon's headphones go to charity.)

"You go out and spend three, four hundred dollars on an iPod, and then you go put your earphones in and your iPod sounds like crap," said Jimmy Iovine, chairman of Interscope, A&M and Geffen Records and co-launcher of Beats by Dre, as he was standing with Dre. "This is about releasing the sound that's in the iPod."

Monster's CEO Noel Lee took it a step further: "Most people have never heard what their iPod sounds like."

Research shows that most MP3 listeners own multiple headphones, according to Karim Noblecilla, director of product marketing for Sony's Personal Audio Accessories division.

Noblecilla says Sony has a range of headphones targeting specific and unique demographics, from surfers to 13-year-olds. Its newest series, the Balanced Armature, is billed as the "smallest and lightest in-ear digital noise canceling headphones in the market today." It ranges from $80 to $500, and Sony says that although the headphones are small in size, they can "achieve high resolution sound."

Noblecilla says style and appearance have played a heavy role in headphone production in recent years. Diddy said that was his contribution to his line, Diddybeats. "Not only did we want to have the best sound, we wanted to have the best-looking ear bud, and we want it to come in flavors," he said when his line came out.

He compared his headphones to the "sleekness of a Ferrari," and added that the look matches its high sound quality.

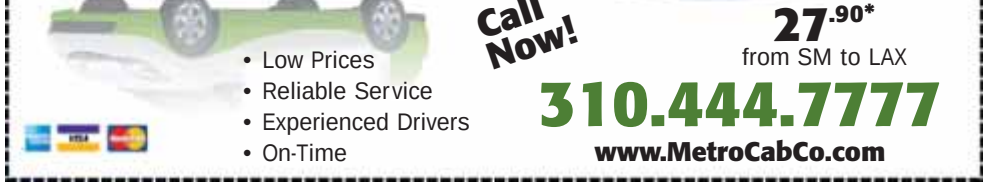
Oversized headphones were a big trend in the 1970s and 1980s — a time when hip-hop was emerging as a genre and people walked around with boomboxes, blasting a sound that Lee believes the iPod generation has missed out on.

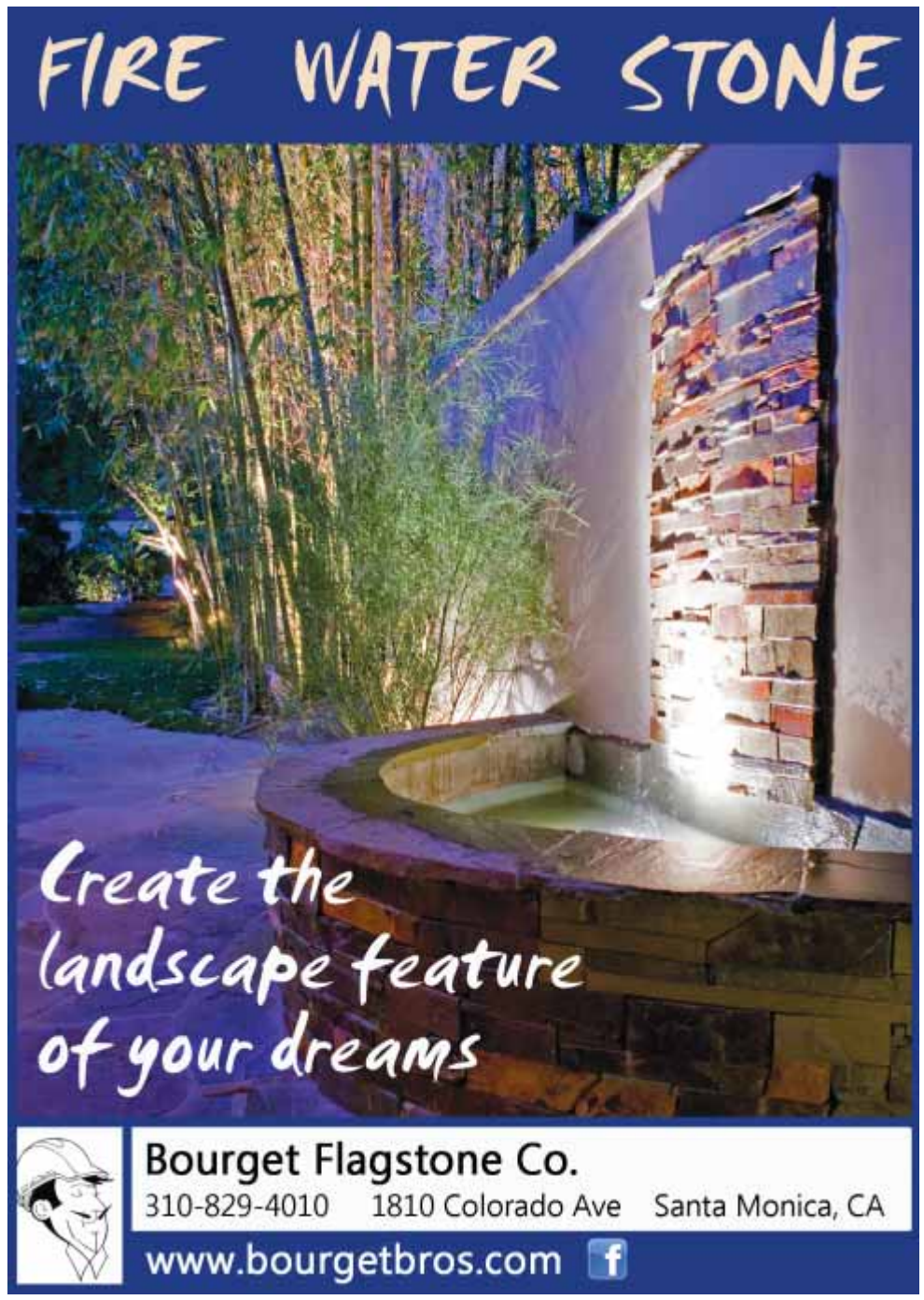
"If you're (in the) baby boomer generation, you grew up with speakers ... (but) during the transition from an audio world to a video world, we kind of lost the audio in favor of the video development," he said. "The iPod generation ... they never got to hear really deep bass."



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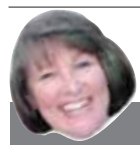
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Play Time

Cynthia Citron
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Not a very nice 'Fela' at all

FELA ANIKULAPO-KUTI WAS THE LADY Gaga of Nigeria in the 1970s. The creator of Afrobeat, a fusion of jazz, funk, psychedelic rock and traditional West African chants and rhythms, Fela became an international phenomenon and then went on to become a notorious political activist, the scourge of the Nigerian government, and the founder of the Kalakuta Republic, a commune which he declared to be independent of the Nigerian state.

His story is told in the musical "Fela!" which opened at Los Angeles' Ahmanson Theatre after 14 months on Broadway, three months in London and performances in Lagos, Nigeria. Nominated for 11 Tony awards and winner of three in 2010, "Fela!" in the Los Angeles production features the originator of the role, Sahr Ngaujah, as well as many other performers from the Broadway cast.

Unfortunately, the unremitting reverberations from overhyped drums and overmiked singers could, after two and a half hours, leave the faint of heart with palpitations. It was like watching "The Lion King" on steroids.

In fact, the microphones amplified Ngaujah's angry tirades against the Nigerian government to such a degree that the words he shouted often needed to be projected in supertitles on a screen in the background.

Projections of newspaper headlines on multiple screens before the show begins tell Fela's story almost more effectively than the show itself. As his fame as a political activist moved others to also protest the despotism of the Nigerian government and its military, the headlines reported "Fela's Action Provoked the Disturbance," "The Nigerian Army is one of the strongest in Africa," "Fela Raided in Ghana," "Fela Spent 7 Days in Hospital," and the like. Finally, after having been jailed, beaten, and tortured countless times, Fela lived through the demolition of the Kalakuta Republic when the compound was attacked and burned to the ground by some 1,000 Nigerian soldiers.

Influenced by America's Black Power movement, Fela was a strong supporter of African traditions and culture, including polygyny, the practice of one man with many wives. At one point he married some 27 women, mainly prostitutes whom he called his "queens." (In this musical version of his life he keeps the number to eight.) But this activity probably accounts for his death from AIDS in 1997 at the age of 58.

The main story arc, if there is one, deals with Fela's relationship with his recently deceased mother, Funmilayo Anikulapo Kuti, an early feminist and an anti-colonial activist. As Funmilayo, Melanie Marshall, a marvelous actress with a glorious voice, brings lyrical clarity with her songs of admonition and advice, rendered from the afterlife with a dignity and virtuosity that is a welcome change of tone and pace.

Also outstanding are Ismael Kouyate from Guinea, West Africa, who sings the powerful a capella praise songs that incorporate the more traditional tones of African chants, and Gelan Lambert whose extraordinary tap dancing rivals the percussive beat of the band.

The ensemble dancers are energetic, shaking their thing and bounding around the stage, but even though Bill T. Jones won a Tony for his choreography, there is a sameness and a repetition to the numbers, and a lot of graceless galumphing around. Especially in a long and tedious number that incorporates Yoruba mysticism, ancestral spirits and general spookiness.

And finally, there is "the message" itself, rendered through projections of warfare, explosions and cast members carrying signs identifying the villains: BP, Halliburton, and other members of the international military-industrial community. Ngaujah's harsh polemics, delivered mostly as a rant, miss the mark, however, because so much action has already taken place onstage, and so many confusing side issues have been brought into the mix that it's almost impossible to become emotionally involved in the political activism he espouses.

And speaking of getting involved, Ngaujah introduces a number of irrelevant diversions such as demanding that the audience join the production by standing up and wiggling to his instructions, shouting out responses to his questions, and occasionally being subjected to sly insults in reaction to their feeble participation. Although these antics were presumably staples of Fela's actual performances, the opening night audience in L.A. was apparently not up for this and the whole experience, in my view, fell quite flat.

In addition to choreographing the production, Bill T. Jones directed it and, with Jim Lewis, wrote the book. The music and lyrics are by Fela, with additions by Jim Lewis, Aaron Johnson, and Jordan McLean. And the story itself is taken from Carlos Moore's authorized biography, "Fela: This Bitch of a Life."

"Fela!" will continue at the Ahmanson Theatre at the Music Center, 135 N. Grand Ave, in Los Angeles Tuesdays through Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 1 and 6:30 p.m. through Jan. 22, 2012. Call (213) 972-4400 for tickets.

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Occupy protesters sue over free speech, force

ERIKA NIEDOWSKI
Associated Press

Most major Occupy encampments have been dispersed, but they live on in a flurry of lawsuits in which protesters are asserting their constitutional rights to free speech and assembly and challenging authorities' mass arrests and use of force to break up tent cities.

Lawyers representing protesters have filed lawsuits — or are planning them — in state and federal courts from coast to coast, challenging eviction orders and what they call heavy-handed police tactics and the banning of demonstrators from public properties.

Some say the fundamental right of protest has been criminalized in places, with protesters facing arrest and charges while doing nothing more than exercising protected rights to demonstrate.

"When I think about the tents as an expression of the First Amendment here, I compare it to Tahrir Square in Egypt," said Carol Sobel, co-chairwoman of the National Lawyers Guild's Mass Defense Committee.

"Our government is outraged when military forces and those governments come down on the demonstrators. But they won't extend the same rights in this country," she said. "They praise that as a fight for democracy, the values we treasure. It comes here and these people are riffraff."

A handful of protesters began camping out in September in a lower Manhattan plaza, demanding an end to corporate excess and income inequality, and were soon joined by scores of others who set up tents and remained around the clock. Similar camps sprang up in dozens of cities nationwide and around the world, but patience wore thin, and many camps — including the flagship at Zuccotti Park and in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles, Oakland, Philadelphia and Portland, Ore. — were forcibly cleared.

Public officials and police unions have generally defended moves to break up the camps, citing health and safety concerns. They also said that responding to problems at Occupy encampments was draining crime-fighting resources.

Protester lawsuits are now beginning to wend their way through the legal system, and attorneys say more are likely on the way.

The National Lawyers Guild and the American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California sued the Oakland Police Department in federal court in November, saying police and other agencies violated demonstrators' Fourth Amendment rights by using excessive force — including "flash-bang" grenades — against demonstrators who posed no safety threat. The suit says officials also violated their First Amendment rights to assemble and demonstrate.

Oakland Mayor Jean Quan on Wednesday announced an independent investigation into the police response.

In Austin, Texas, this week, a federal judge has been hearing the case of two Occupy protesters who were arrested and later barred from City Hall under a policy their attorneys call overly broad and say amounts to a ban on speech. The Texas Civil Rights Project says around 106 people have been banned since the protests began, in some cases for up to a year. The policy says a criminal trespass notice may be issued for "unreasonably disruptive" conduct.

Yvette Felarca is among those suing campus police and administration officials at the University of California, Berkeley, after officers forcefully dispersed a group of Occupy protesters and others rallying for public education last month.

Felarca, a middle school teacher and organizer with the civil rights organization By Any Means Necessary, which filed the suit, says she was standing, arms linked with other demonstrators', before a line of police officers who moved in after some tents were set up on a lawn. She said she was chanting and yelling when a police officer hit her in the throat with his baton. She said she was also hit in her ribs, abdomen and back and watched others bear repeated blows.

"The brutality was absolutely designed to chill the speech of students in the movement and literally try to beat and terrorize our right to criticize, to think critically and to act on that criticism," Felarca said.

The university has called it "disconcerting" that the suit contains "so many inaccuracies."

Sobel, of the National Lawyers Guild, said a lawsuit is also planned in the case of the pepper-spraying by campus police of peaceful protesters at the University of California, Davis, video footage of which went viral.

Donna Lieberman, executive director of the New York Civil Liberties Union, called the lawsuits an important check on police power. She noted that authorities haven't been uniformly excessive around the country, but pointed in New York City to mass arrests on the Brooklyn Bridge — which are under litigation — as well as the pepper-spraying of several women and the dark-of-night breakup of Zuccotti Park.

She said that her group has been concerned for years about police tactics, but that the response to the Occupy movement shines a light on them in a way that "engages and offends a new sector of the public."

She predicted there will be other lawsuits about excessive force, civil rights violations and mostly likely people's rights to get back into Zuccotti, which she said police have blocked from public usage with their pens.

"I think what's been happening with Occupy is so reminiscent of what happened during the Republican National Convention" in 2008, she said. "When people get together to engage in that most American of pastimes — protest — it almost always generates a defensive and repressive response from law enforcement. Occupy is no exception."

Gene Policinski, executive director of the First Amendment Center in Nashville, Tenn., said police overreacted to the Occupy movement in some cities, which probably earned protesters some new support. Still, he noted, protesters' First Amendment rights are not without limitation.

"We've always had to balance our rights," he said. "No one can really claim you have an unfettered unlimited First Amendment rights. The courts are there to say, wait a minute, that goes too far, or that's OK. It is part of that give and take. Of course we all wish our rights were never intruded upon."

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Stocks close higher on better job market news

PALLAVI GOGOI
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Encouraging economic reports pushed stocks higher Thursday. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 61 points, its third gain in a row.

The number of people applying for unemployment benefits dropped last week to the lowest level since April 2008, the latest sign that the job market is healing. It was the third week in a row that applications fell. The Conference Board also reported that its measure of future economic activity had a big increase last month. It was the second straight gain, signaling that the U.S. economy was picking up speed and the risk of another recession was fading.

"Today, Main Street is what matters because Main Street makes up 71 percent of the economy," said Quincy Krosby, chief market strategist for Prudential Securities. "You can't argue with the fact that the cost of gas has come down, which puts more money in the pockets of consumers to spend, and so things are starting to tick up."

Krosby noted that the latest data showed that shoppers were opening up their wallets to spend during the holidays. However, she said the economy needs to grow at a faster pace than 2 percent to be able to survive any shocks caused by the European debt crisis or a sharp slowdown in China's economy in 2012.

The government lowered its estimate of U.S. economic growth in the July-September quarter to an annual rate of 1.8 percent from 2 percent. That was still the fastest growth this year, up from 1.3 percent in the April-June quarter.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 61.91 points, or 0.51 percent, to close at 12,169.65. The Dow has risen 409 points over the past three days. Bank of America Corp. rose 4.6 percent to $5.47, the most among the 30 stocks in the Dow.

The S&P 500 index gained 10.28 points, or 0.83 percent, to 1,254. The Nasdaq composite index rose 21.48, or 0.83 percent, to 2,599.45.

Economists say that the improving job market, strong holiday shopping, and cheaper gas prices will leave consumers with more money to spend. That would get the economy growing at an annual rate of more than 3 percent in the final three months of this year, which would be the fastest pace since 3.8 percent growth in the spring of 2010.

Banks, energy and technology stocks were the biggest gainers, while consumer goods companies traded lower. Morgan Stanley led bank stocks, gaining 6.5 percent to close at $15.88, while among tech stocks Akamai Technologies Inc. the biggest gainer, rising 18.6 percent to $31.63.

In other corporate news:

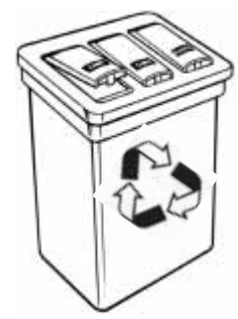
• Mead Johnson Nutrition Co. plummeted 10 percent on news that Wal-Mart Stores Inc. pulled a batch of its powdered infant formula from more than 3,000 of its stores nationwide. A newborn Missouri boy was fed a batch of the Enfamil Newborn powder made by Mead and died from what preliminary tests indicate was a rare bacterial infection. So far, no link has been established between the death and the formula and the government has not ordered a recall of Enfamil.

• Tibco Software Inc. jumped 8 percent after the business software maker reported a 20 percent increase in revenue and net income that was far ahead than what Wall Street analysts were expecting.

• Bed, Bath & Beyond Inc. slid 6 percent after the retailer warned investors that its fourth-quarter earnings might be lower than analysts had expected. Third-quarter sales also fell below analysts' expectations.

With just over a week of trading left in 2011, the S&P 500 is less than 1 percent below where it started the year. The Dow has managed to gain 5.1 percent in 2011, while the Nasdaq is still off 2 percent.

Nearly three stocks gained for every one that fell on the New York Stock Exchange. Trading volume was very light at 3.5 billion, compared to the recent average of 4.6 billion.



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Profiling lawsuit could add to sheriff's troubles

JACQUES BILLEAUD
Associated Press

PHOENIX The self-described "America's toughest sheriff" has survived firestorms in the past, but none in the past decade have been as bad as what the lawman has been hit with in the past few weeks.

And in a few days, a federal judge could make things worse for Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio.

On Thursday, U.S. District Judge Murray Snow heard arguments over a lawsuit from a handful of Latino residents alleging racial profiling during Arpaio's immigration sweeps. He could send it to trial, throw it out, or declare that Arpaio uses racial profiling in his immigration enforcement.

The accusations echo those in a scathing U.S. Justice Department report last week that resulted in the sheriff's office losing its power to checks inmates' immigration status.

Arpaio on Wednesday questioned the timing of the report's release.

"Why couldn't they wait? Were they trying to poison our (racial profiling) case?" Arpaio said. The sheriff did not attend the hearing Thursday.

The Latinos claim officers based some traffic stops on the race of Hispanics in vehicles, pulling them over without probable cause to inquire about their immigration status. The stops were made during his department's immigration patrols in metropolitan Phoenix.

They are seeking a declaration that the sheriff's office violated their constitutional rights and must establish stronger policies that protect against racial profiling.

Stan Young, a lawyer for those who filed the lawsuit, said Arpaio launched sweeps after he received racially charged letters and emails that complained of people speaking Spanish. Tim Casey, a lawyer for Arpaio's office, said the sheriff's office launches its sweeps on race-neutral grounds and that the sheriff never acted on those letters.

"If I write you a letter and say all sorts of things in that and you receive it, does that mean you are a racist because you received a letter from me?" Casey said outside of court. He called for the case to be dismissed, arguing that those who filed the lawsuit could not prove that they face a threat of future injury from the sweeps.

The hearing was the latest among the mounting legal problems and blistering criticism facing the sheriff in just the past three weeks.

At the beginning of December, he apologized for more than 400 botched sex crimes cases handled by his office. About a week later, the Justice Department released the report alleging a wide range of civil rights violations against his office. A lawsuit filed this week claimed that his staff ignored a Hispanic female inmate's complaints and violated her rights when they kept her shackled before and after her cesarean section in 2009.

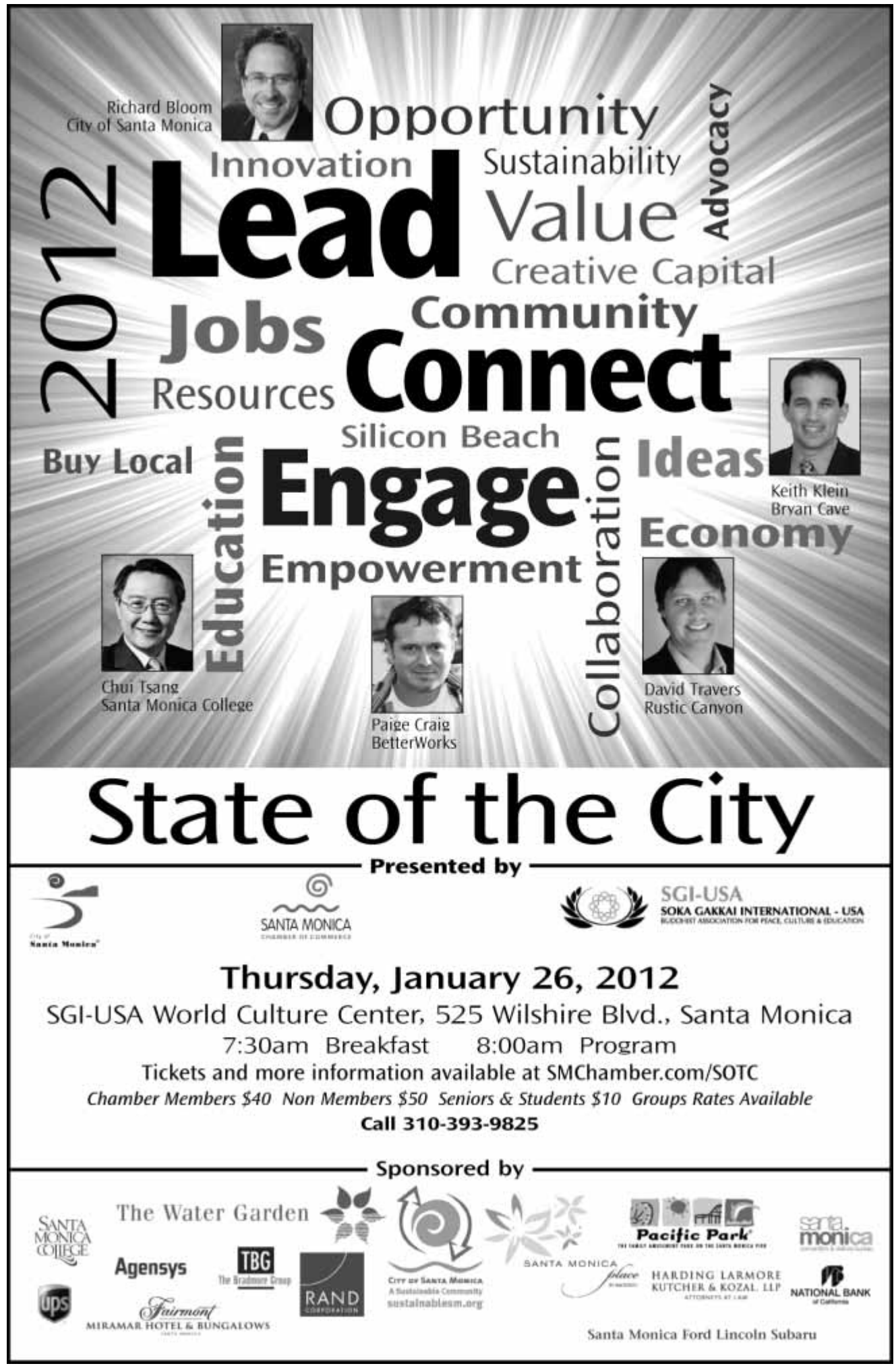
And the family of a 44-year-old man was exploring legal action against the sheriff's office after he was found unresponsive following a fight in jail with deputies. He died days later after being taken off life support.

Arpaio has denied the racial profiling allegations in the lawsuit over his immigration patrols. He has said people pulled over in the sweeps were approached because deputies had probable cause to believe they had committed crimes and that it was only afterward that deputies found many of them were illegal immigrants.

The patrols, known as "sweeps," involved deputies flooding an area — in some cases, heavily Latino areas — over several days to seek out traffic violators and arrest other offenders. Illegal immigrants accounted for 57 percent of the 1,500 people arrested in the 20 sweeps conducted by his office since January 2008, according to figures provided by Arpaio's office.

The Justice Department's report said Arpaio's office had a pattern of racially profiling Latinos; basing immigration enforcement on racially charged complaints; and punishing Hispanic jail inmates for speaking Spanish. The sheriff faces a Jan. 4 deadline for saying whether he wants to work out an agreement to settle allegations, and the Justice Department has said it's prepared to sue Arpaio if no agreement can be worked out.

Apart from the civil rights probe, a federal grand jury has been investigating Arpaio's office on criminal abuse-of-power allegations since at least December 2009. It is specifically examining the investigative work of the sheriff's anti-public corruption squad.



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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

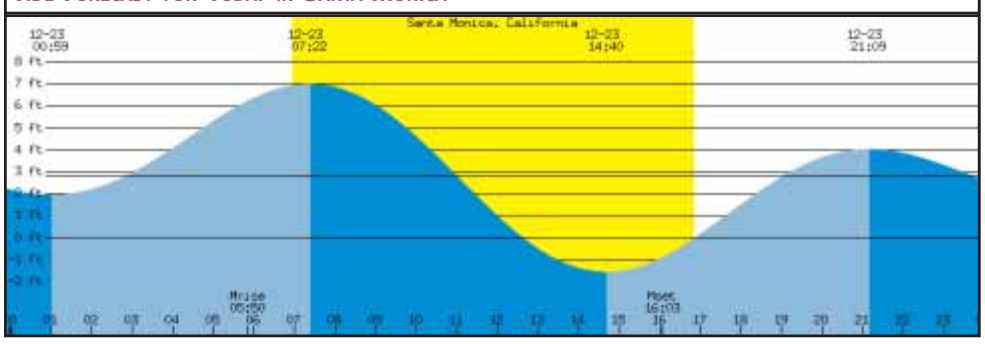
Swell Forecast

Looks smaller, about waist high a west facing spots, possibly with occasional chest high pluses when the tide is right. South facing breaks look weak, knee to waist max.

Long Range Synopsis

South facing breaks should see some waist to chest high sets from that Easter Island system.
West facing breaks are looking at mostly waist high remnant NW.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **December 14, 2011**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 27 / 9
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Grousbeck Family Foundation, simplehuman, LAcarGUY, SMA

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

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

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone
WET – grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days
ns -- no sample taken

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

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

Heal the Bay 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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NCAA FOOTBALL

Barkley staying a Trojan

BY JOHN MARSHALL & GREG RISLING
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Southern California quarterback Matt Barkley believed he was prepared to play in the NFL and the draft prognosticators agreed with him.

He had skillfully guided the program through two years of NCAA sanctions, put up big numbers to add his name to the list of great Trojans quarterbacks.

Barkley just wasn't ready to leave. He still had some unfinished business at USC.

Setting off a round of cheers at USC's Heritage Hall, Barkley announced Thursday that he's returning for his senior season, putting off the NFL for a chance to lead the Trojans from under the cloud of NCAA sanctions to a BCS bowl.

"I am staying so I can finish what I started," Barkley said.

At 6-foot-2, 220 pounds and with a game that matured over three years at Troy, Barkley was projected as a high first-round pick in the NFL draft, an enticement that had lured his predecessor, Mark Sanchez, after his junior season.

Instead of following Sanchez's footsteps, Barkley took the route of former USC quarterback Matt Leinart and Stanford's Andrew Luck.

Leinart returned to USC after winning the Heisman Trophy and a national championship, and led the Trojans to the 2005 BCS title game, where they lost to Texas. Luck came back this season after being the Heisman runner-up last year and took the Cardinal to the Fiesta Bowl while finishing second to Baylor's Robert Griffin III in this year's Heisman voting.

Like those two, Barkley felt as though he still had goals he wanted to accomplish after leading the Trojans to a 10-2 record and a No. 5 ranking in The Associated Press poll.

Barkley let USC coach Lane Kiffin know about his decision with a Christmas ornament that had a picture of the two together during this season's game against Colorado on one side and the words "One More Year" on the back. His announcement Thursday in front of about 200 people, including his family and Kiffin, set off a wave of applause and a quick burst from USC's band as a pair of cheerleaders danced along.

"That's not an easy decision," Kiffin said. "Not many people would do what Matt has done."

Barkley is the latest in a heralded lineup of USC quarterbacks that includes Carson Palmer, Leinart and Sanchez.

He had an uneven first season with the Trojans, making some questionable decisions that led to 14 interceptions. Still, Barkley threw for over 2,700 yards and 15 touchdowns to become the only freshman semifinalist for the Davey O'Brien Award as the nation's best quarterback.

Barkley developed into a mature leader by his sophomore season, again throwing for over 2,700 yards, with 26 TDs, a completion rate of 62 percent and 12 interceptions. He also handled questions about USC's sanctions with poise, never shying away from talking about the program's difficulties.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked (G) 1hr 27min
9:50am, 1:00pm, 1:40pm, 3:30pm, 4:20pm, 5:55pm, 7:00pm, 8:20pm, 9:20pm, 10:55pm

Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (PG-13) 2hrs 08min
10:00am, 11:00am, 1:00pm, 2:00pm, 4:15pm, 5:15pm, 7:30pm, 8:30pm, 10:45pm, 11:30pm

We Bought a Zoo (PG) 2hrs 04min
10:15am, 1:20pm, 4:25pm, 7:30pm, 10:35pm

Muppets (PG) 1hr 38min
10:40am

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

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

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

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

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

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

Artist (PG-13) 1hr 40min
1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:55pm

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

AMC Criterion 6
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

Hugo 3D (PG) 2hrs 07min
10:40am 1:45pm 4:50pm 8:00pm 11:00pm

New Year's Eve (PG-13) 1hr 57min
10:35am 1:20pm 4:05pm 7:00pm 10:00pm

Young Adult (R) 1hr 34min
10:30am 1:00pm 3:30pm 6:00pm 8:30pm 11:10pm

Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG-13) 2 hr 12 min
10:30am 1:50pm 5:00pm 8:15pm 11:30pm

The Adventures of Tintin (PG) 1 hr 41 min
10:45am 1:30pm 4:20pm 7:10pm 9:55pm

The Adventures of Tintin 3D (PG) 1 hr 41 min
11:45am 2:30pm 5:20pm 8:10pm 10:55pm

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

At home tonight, Virgo

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Keep reaching for the stars. Once focused, you could be stunned by what you can accomplish. Don't forget a dear friend at a distance. If someone becomes belligerent, it probably is the result of envy. Tonight: Light up the night with music.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Deal with another person directly. You might feel quite irritated with this person. Clear the air if you want to manifest the loving vibes of the next few days. Avoid sarcastic comments; they will be remembered. Center on your feelings. Tonight: Togetherness.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Someone knocks on your door, and yet another person does the same. Your popularity soars, and you feel much more connected than you have in a long time. You will need to make space to complete a certain task. Join a partner or friend to finish last-minute errands. Tonight: Say "yes."

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ You make quite an effort to make a difference to someone. Don't make a comment a reason to become angry. Know that many people's nerves are fried. Stay attentive when around machinery, as you could be unusually distracted. Tonight: Completing, not beginning.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Your childlike nature delights in the holiday celebrations. Whatever plans you have, you delight in the moment. Your fiery personality perks up others. Use care with last-minute items. You easily could go overboard. A little self-discipline goes a long way. Tonight: Frolic away.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Tension builds, and you have difficulty handling it all. You want to choose a stress-buster instead of losing your temper with someone who doesn't deserve it. Spend some extra hours at home if possible. Check in with a family member. Tonight: At home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ You cannot suppress certain feelings, and they could come out in a distorted manner, as in sarcasm or yelling at the cat. With everything at such a spin, you need to clear the air. Listen to what is shared by a close friend. Tonight: Stop and do some last-minute errands before partaking in eggnog.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ A friend could play a strong role in your mood. Understanding evolves as you detach. Be careful when making an attempt to clear the air. In some fashion, it could be rather extreme and, in the long run, inadvisable. Remain appropriate. Tonight: Start sharing holiday wishes.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ If you can tolerate being pushed by another person, you deserve kudos. Keep your cool, and don't lose sight of certain priorities. Others count on you getting the job done. Tonight: Whatever makes you smile.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Know when to pull back and let others dominate. You might feel as if you cannot cover all the bases. Don't hesitate to ask a question or two. Ask for help if you need it. Accept what is happening right now. Tonight: Just flow with the moment.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Make sure you indulge a little and do less of what you think you must. Stop and take time to visit with key friends. Take the opportunity to share your feelings with a special friend or loved one. This person appreciates your time and caring. Tonight: Where your friends are.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Establish your role with your friends or associates. So many people count on you, you might not have room for any slack. A partner or relative could be aggravated that you are spread so thin. Tonight: Make time for a special person, in the midst of all the business.

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

Happy birthday

Your emotions come out more often than you might like this year. Sometimes they could be disguised as anger, especially if you have suppressed the original issue or pain. Learn to detach when your fuse is about to blow. This issue will be major, with the potential outcome of greater self-control. You are in control of your destiny, if you so choose. If you are single, note a tendency to attract emotionally unavailable relationships. Be careful! If you are attached, the two of you benefit from time alone together as a couple. Plan on a special vacation or several weekends away. SAGITTARIUS sometimes makes you uncomfortable.

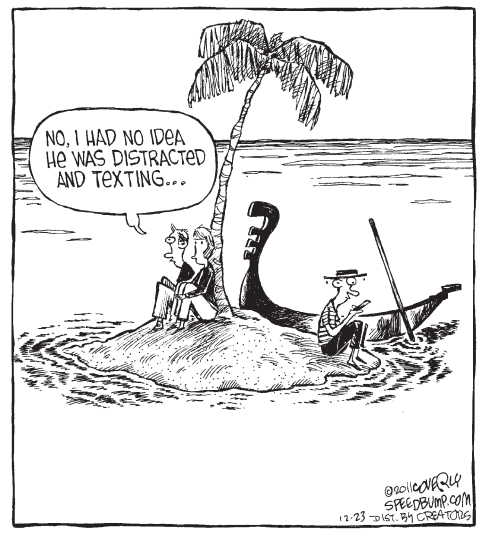


MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*. Send your mystery photos to *editor@smdp.com* to be used in future issues.

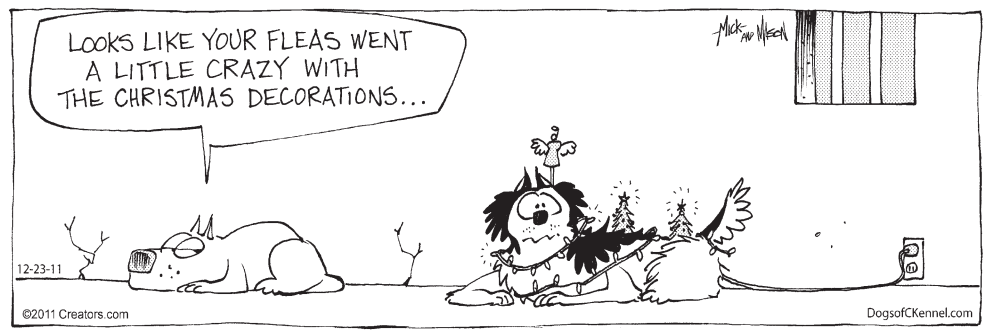
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



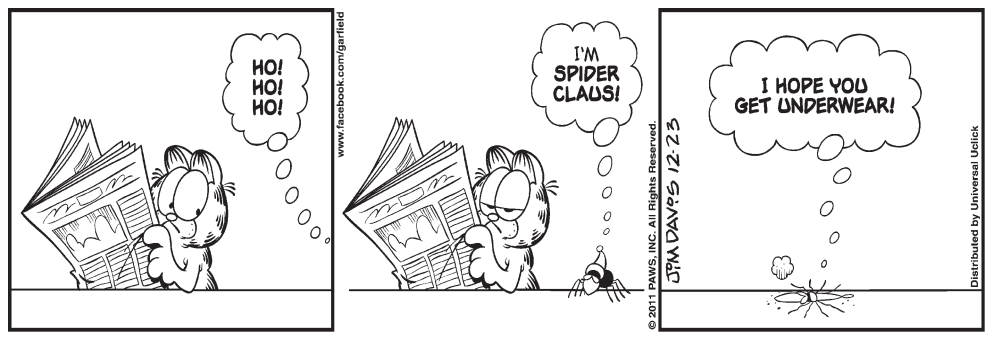
Strange Brew
By John Deering



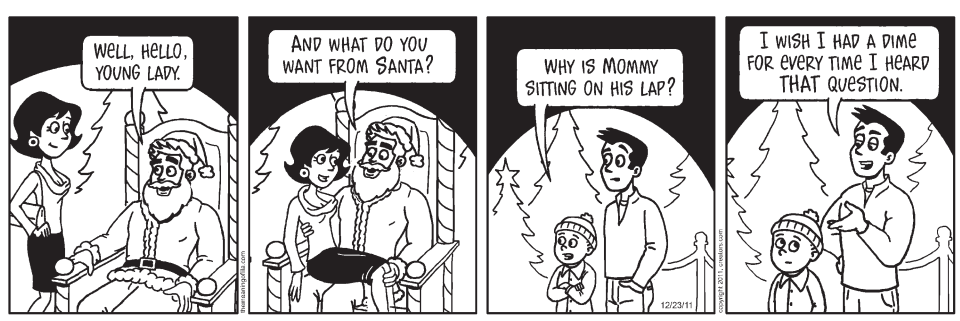
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Meat pie
6 Some stingers
11 Jason of "Terra Nova"
12 Some messages
13 Muscular power
14 African language
15 Zesty flavor
17 Tree topper
18 Go ahead
20 Lohengrin's love
22 Pendulum path
23 Swindled
26 Heat's home
28 Maxim
29 Started a pot
31 Freight weight
32 Commotions
33 Sweeping
34 Ship storage
36 Cracked
38 Kick out
40 Fake name
43 Zellweger of "Chicago"
44 Film category
45 Mongrel sound
46 Tent anchor

DOWN

1 Not neg.
2 Paris pal
3 California resort island
4 Sneaker feature
5 Gape
6 Fly catcher
7 Stockpiled
8 Brazilian state
9 Stuffed bread
10 Aspersion
16 Salon stuff
18 Priest of the East
19 The Emerald Isle
21 Spring
23 Rover's pal
24 They may clash
25 Car ding
27 Busybody
30 Olympics chant
33 Man's manservant
34 Towel embroidery
35 Farm team
37 Benders
39 Twisty fish
41 Biblical refuge
42 Spot

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

Yesterday's answer

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12-23

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• Insert the given numbers in the empty squares so when they are calculated in threes from left to right and top to bottom they satisfy the demands in the shaded boxes both horizontally and vertically.

• Each empty square dictates the math operation that must be performed to meet the demands.

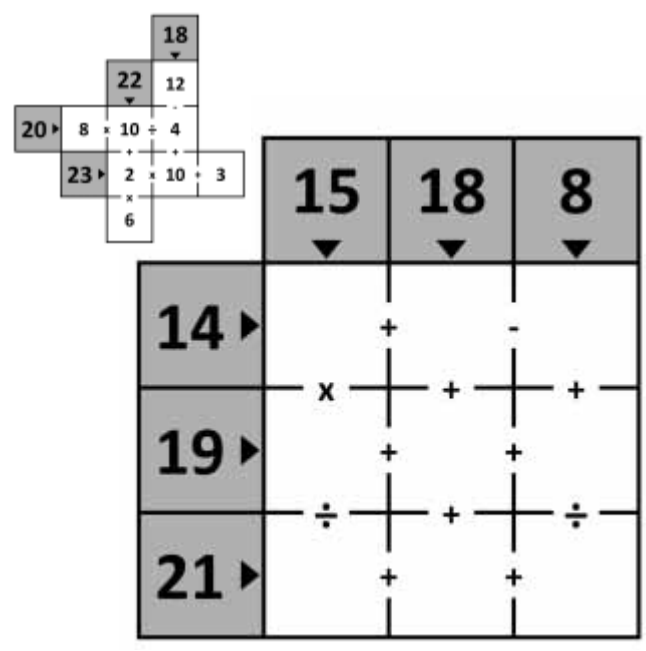
• Remember to multiply or divide before you add or subtract.

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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:

1, 6, 6, 7, 9, 9, 9, 10, 11

Solution for Task 775



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Meganumber: 31
Jackpot: $173M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 8 21 38 43 44
Meganumber: 24
Jackpot: $7M

Fantasy 5: 3 6 16 29 37

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 6 7 1
EVENING: 3 1 6

DAILY DERBY:
1st: 04 Big Ben
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 03 Hot Shot
RACE TIME: 1:45.79

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Bad Shots: (1) A 22-year-old man was shot in the face on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, in September; his companion on the camping trip thought he was shooting at a bear. (2) An 85-year-old man was shot in the face in Augusta, Ga., in September; a female acquaintance thought she was shooting at an opossum. (3) A 20-year-old woman was shot in Vilas County, Wis., in July; deputy sheriff Ty Peterson (a relative) thought he was shooting at a cougar.

■ Can't Stop Himself: Convicted child-sex offender Charlie Price, 57, was arrested in Pittsfield, Mass., in October, but only for disturbing the peace -- because the "victim" was merely made of cardboard. Price, spotting a sunglasses display in a Rite-Aid pharmacy, had begun kissing and licking the face of the pictured model, and groping her.

■ (1) Two men outfitted as zombies were arrested for assault at a Halloween party at a nudist resort in Pasco County, Fla. (One bit a security guard, but he was not infected.) (2) Jeffrey Lluis, 27, who performed stand-up comedy at clubs around Tampa, apparently held a day job as bank robber (charged in November with knocking off a SunTrust bank -- twice).

TODAY IN HISTORY

1972 A 6.5 magnitude earthquake strikes the Nicaraguan capital of Managua killing more than 10,000.

1972 The 16 survivors of the Andes flight disaster are rescued after 73 days, having survived by cannibalism.

1979 Soviet war in Afghanistan: Soviet forces occupy Kabul, the Afghan capital.

1982 The United States Environmental Protection Agency announces it has identified dangerous levels of dioxin in the soil of Times Beach, Missouri.

1986 Voyager, piloted by Dick Rutan and Jeana Yeager, lands at Edwards Air Force Base in California becoming the first aircraft to fly non-stop around the world without aerial or ground refueling.

WORD UP!

calvous
\ KAL-vuhs \ , adjective;
1.
Lacking all or most of the hair on the head; bald.

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. 2110 Bentley Ave. #206. Upper 2Bd + 2 full bath with balcony. Tandem gated parking. West-LA. $1895 per month.

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