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Santa Monica Daily Press
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2010
Volume 10 Issue 36



Santa Monica Daily Press

SHOP, SHOP, SHOP
SEE PAGE 3

We have you covered

THE HEALTHY DISCOURSE ISSUE

Two flight schools at SMO denied by City Hall

BY NICK TABOREK
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMO City Manager Rod Gould has denied two applications for new flight schools at Santa Monica Airport, citing the "particularly intense environmental impacts" the schools would have had.

The move went against a recommendation from Airport Director Bob Trimborn but was in keeping with guidance from the Airport Commission, which last month voted 3-1, with one abstention, to urge denial of the applications.

The schools, the Flight Academy and Angel City Flyers, had sought to operate a maximum of three airplanes for flight instruction.

The Flight Academy, which is based in Washington state, had applied to operate one plane, and would have replaced a one-plane flight school, Sea Side Aviation, that stopped doing business at SMO in October, Trimborn said.

Long Beach-based Angel City Flyers had asked to operate one plane with the possibility of adding a second plane if needed.

Reached on Thursday, Trimborn declined to comment on Gould's decision but said the denials were the first in his memory.

In letters sent Monday to the flight school operators explaining his decision, Gould gave an account of Trimborn's support for the new flight schools, noting the airport director believed the permits should be granted "because overall operations have declined in recent years [at SMO]" and the new schools "would likely not alter the overall noise contours of the airport."

At an Airport Commission meeting in November, the five-member panel discussed concerns about the "repetitive, low altitude operations" that are specific to flight schools and "result in environmental impacts much more significant than those resulting from routine airport usage" before voting to with-

SEE SCHOOLS PAGE 8



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

NOT HAPPY WITH THE DISPLAY: **In a protest against the nativity scenes in Palisades Park, Damon Vix erected his own display that features quotes from the founding fathers about the importance of a separation between church and state.**

Displaying displeasure with nativity scenes

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

OCEAN AVE Damon Vix isn't a Grinch by any means. He celebrates Christmas, giving gifts to family and friends.

But when it comes to the nativity display in Palisades Park, Vix response is "bah-humbug," or better yet, "Happy Solstice."

The Hollywood prop maker is the man behind a display that can be found just south of the nativity scenes that features quotes from the founding fathers about the importance of the separation of church and state. A quote from President Thomas Jefferson is by far the most visible. It reads: "Religions are all alike, founded upon fables and mythologies."

On the back of the display there's another sign that says: "Happy Solstice," in recognition of the winter solstice on Dec. 21.

"I feel that religious displays on public property send a message to anyone who is not a member of that religion that you are a second-class citizen," Vix told the Daily Press Thursday. "I question the city's decision to allow an entire city block to be taken over for a month so that Christians can put up mannequins … . I don't think our tax dollars should be used in this way."

The nativity scenes are a tradition in Santa Monica, appearing annually since 1953. From the second Sunday in December through the end of the year, the Santa Monica Nativity Scenes Committee, comprised of representatives from local churches and the Santa Monica Police Officers Association, set up booths with life-sized figures depicting 14 events surrounding the birth of Jesus Christ.

At the outset, the nativity scenes were seen as a way to celebrate "the true meaning of Christmas," while also serving as an attraction that could draw in shoppers and help local businesses, according to the Nativity Scenes Committee website. The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce was heavily involved in the early years. City Hall even helped erect the booths, provided electricity and underwrote lost revenue from blocking off parking meters.

That is where Vix comes in. He said for the past 20 years he has seen the nativity scenes and been bothered by them. He finally decided last year to apply for a permit from City Hall to erect his solstice display. This year he added the quotes from the founding fathers.

One of his major complaints is the alleged loss of revenue from "bagging" several parking meters in front of the nativity

SEE DISPLAY PAGE 8

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OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA AND SURROUNDS



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

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

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE DAILY PRESS

Saturday, Dec. 25, 2010

Nativity Scenes
Palisades Park
Daily
The traditional Nativity Scene is back for the Christmas season. The display is located near the intersection of Ocean and Arizona avenues.

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





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GREAT GIFTS

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Volunteers collect toys to fill the many bags needed during the Santa Monica Fire Department and Red Cross Spark of Love toy drive at the Santa Monica Red Cross building on Broadway on Thursday afternoon. Spark of Love is a donation based toy drive.

Mobs of shoppers expected on Christmas Eve

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
ELLEN GIBSON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK It's Black Friday, The Sequel. Stores are rolling out deals and expect to be swimming in shoppers on Christmas Eve as stragglers take advantage of a day off work. For retailers, the last-minute rush caps the best year since 2007, and possibly ever.

With Christmas falling on a Saturday this year, Friday is a holiday for most U.S. workers. That lets shoppers hit the stores first thing in the morning.

"I'm calling it Fantastic Friday, because I really do think it's going to be one of the busiest days of the year," said Marshal Cohen, chief fashion industry analyst with researcher NPD Group.

A strong Christmas Eve would round out a surprisingly successful holiday season for retailers. The National Retail Federation predicts that holiday spending will reach $451.5 billion this year, up 3.3 percent over last year. That would be the biggest year-over-year increase since 2006, and the largest total since spending hit a record $452.8 billion in 2007. A strong finish could even give 2010 the crown.

While both are heavy shopping days, Christmas Eve draws a different breed of buyer than Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving and the unofficial start to the holiday shopping season.

"Those who get up and brave the cold on Black Friday are usually looking for hot items, not only to buy gifts but to score something for themselves," said Kathy Grannis, a spokeswoman for the National Retail Federation. "They're planners, and they map out what they want to buy."

Shoppers who come out on Christmas Eve, on the other hand, were either waiting for the biggest discounts or they didn't have the money to spend earlier, she said. Or they just tend to dilly-dally.

While many Black Friday shoppers relish the hunt, last-minute buyers are harried and focused on getting things done.

And true to stereotype, they are mostly men, said Dan Jasper, spokesman for Mall of America in Bloomington, Minn.

Accordingly, stores push men's and women's sweaters in their circulars, while shoes and children's apparel take a back seat. Jewelry also tends to be a top last-minute gift item, though that category has been strong throughout the season.

E-commerce has driven much of the holiday's spending growth. For the season to-date, $28.36 billion has been spent online, a 12 increase over last year, according to research firm comScore. Online shoppers spent $900 million last weekend alone.

Many people who postponed their shopping this year blame busy schedules. The number of hours U.S. workers are put-

SEE **SHOPPING** PAGE 8

Storm runoff fouls beaches, water

NOAKI SCHWARTZ
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES California residents who endured flooding, mudslides and evacuations during a weeklong onslaught of rain now have another problem: contaminated water and fouled beaches.

The rain washed trash, pesticides and bacteria into waterways, prompting health warnings. Four beaches were closed in Northern California's San Mateo County, and another 12 miles of beach from Laguna Beach to San Clemente in Southern California's Orange County were off-limits because of sewer overflows.

Numerous motorists were rescued from swamped cars during the days of rain, but one driver was killed. The body of Angela Wright, 39, of Menifee was recovered from a car that was swept off a flooded road Wednesday near Canyon Lake in Riverside County, the coroner's office said.

While the rain has eased, the danger was not over for foothill residents living below wildfire-scarred hillsides.

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

More than 200 homes were ordered evacuated for more than 24 hours in La Canada Flintridge and La Crescenta, suburbs of Los Angeles below steep hillsides that burned in 2009 and where mudslides inundated homes and backyards in February.

After days of relentless rain, long-awaited sunshine was finally in the forecast for Thursday, but officials said Californians may want to resist the urge to head to the ocean.

"It can be very nice the next day and everyone says 'This is great! This is a beach day,'" said Jonathan E. Fielding, director of the Los Angeles county public health department. "It could well be but we will be monitoring and testing water and we won't recommend people go back there until we're sure it's safe."

Experts normally recommend waiting 72 hours after a storm before getting in the water, though in this case some are saying five days might be wiser. The contamination in some areas could last for weeks because of the especially heavy rains.

Mark Gold, president of Heal the Bay, a Santa Monica based group that monitors and grades beach water quality, said more

SEE **RUNOFF** PAGE 8


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Embracing Christmas

Editor:

Christmas is a Christian holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.

Christmas is also a very secular holiday with no religious association for millions of people for over 100 years. It's the most popular religious holiday in the world, and also the most popular secular holiday in the world. Yes, it's both.

This is nothing new. Christmas has been an accepted non-religious holiday for decades and celebrated with colored lights, holly, mistletoe, and a fat guy in a red suit who comes to your house on a flying deer sled. He climbs down your chimney and leaves presents under a fir tree that you brought inside and decorated with colored glass balls. He is remembered by most people hawking Coca Cola.

Unfortunately, around 1985 when we became politically correct, some people misunderstood political correctness and thought that the very mention of the word "Christmas" would be slanderous to non-Christians, and only refer to the religious definition. Suddenly, the phrase, "Merry Christmas" became an insult. Some people started to demand that we either include greetings that celebrate other December religious holidays, or that we use the generic, "Happy Holidays" so as not to thoroughly insult, abuse, offend and slam our non-Christian neighbors.

Holy Mother of Nonsense. When did Santa Claus die? When did the Dickens carolers become Christian spammers? Why are they still disrespectfully showing up at people's doorsteps singing "Jingle Bells" in that, you know, Christian way? And how dare shopkeepers put up a sign that says, "Merry Christmas." What did you say? You talkin' to me?

Holiday wreaths, Christmas cards and trees and the fat guy are anything but religious. Anybody who is insulted by the phrase "Merry Christmas" or never heard of Kris Kringle needs to get a grip and remember that this is the 21st century. Nobody is trying to force Christianity on you by secretly baking it in sugar cookies and Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" isn't going to be banned from schools for using the "C" word. Christmas is a holiday about joy and good will and it's a holiday for everybody.

The Christmas season is here. Dec. 25 is Christmas Day, so look someone straight in the eye, smile and wish them a "Merry Christmas." Watch how fast they smile back, and watch how good it's going to feel.

Carlos Pineiro
Santa Monica

Bloom in a bubble?

Editor:

Does Richard Bloom live in a bubble? Of course Santa Monica discriminates ("Armenian taxi drivers allege discrimination, sue City Hall," Dec. 23, page 1). The fact that they decided this cab affair behind closed doors smacks. I think that their franchise is going to get thrown out and will have to be redone. The fact that not one of the cab companies owned by Armenians was selected should tell you something. The City Council walks around with blinders on. A lot of the things they do are questionable. I moved out of Santa Monica six years ago because of traffic, homeless people, etc.

Jacqueline Kestler
Culver City



Your column here

Lee Hamilton

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Congress keeps ceding power to the president

I'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO FIGURE OUT why Congress seems so interested in giving up power. When you're sworn in as a member on Capitol Hill, you take an oath to uphold the Constitution, which places Congress first in the firmament of national governance and makes it co-equal to the presidency. Yet over the years, members of Congress have repeatedly handed the executive branch more power, in everything from going to war to budget-making to designing the specifics of financial-industry reform.

Capitol Hill's latest exercise in self-shrinkage is its proposed ban on earmarks. These are the moves by individual legislators to direct federal dollars — usually in the form of spending or tax breaks — to specific projects, interests, or companies. The unsuccessful attempt to fund Alaska's infamous "Bridge to Nowhere" was through an earmark. On the other hand, earmarks were used to develop the Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., the Human Genome Project, and the Predator drone missile. They also may well have helped fund the highway improvement you drive to work on, the flood control project that protects your home, or the federal contract that keeps some of your neighbors employed.

You would think, given the rhetoric we've been treated to recently on earmarks, that they're a significant part of federal spending. Not even close. As Daniel Inouye, the chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, pointed out recently, earmarks make up less then one-half of 1 percent of total federal spending. We have a $1.3 trillion deficit, he told fellow senators, and "if we accept this proposal to eliminate all earmarks and take the second necessary step of actually applying the savings to deficit reduction, the total deficit for the United States would still be $1.3 trillion."

There is no question that the earmark process has been misused and abused over the years. Members have curried favor with powerful constituents, steered federal funds to prominent campaign contributors, and supported projects whose benefit to their districts, let alone their country, was dubious at best. All of this was usually done in total secrecy.

But any dispassionate look at earmarks would suggest that most of them have been useful and defensible. Over the last few years, moreover, Congress has made the earmark process more transparent, detailing members' requests so that the names of their sponsors are public information and readily available.

This trend toward transparency should be encouraged — indeed, I would argue that if you want to sponsor an earmark, you should also be willing to stand up in your chamber and defend it in the face of an up-or-down vote, rather than allow it to be slipped into some massive spending bill where it disappears from sight. Congress needs to make progress on this front, just as it could do a better job of figuring out where a particular project ought to fit in terms of national priorities — and not simply allow it to rise to the top because the member supporting it has seniority. Still, these ought not be fatal flaws.

The most important argument in favor of earmarks is that they give members of Congress — the people in the federal government who are most intimately familiar with the needs of their home districts and states — the ability to make sure that needed projects get attention. Because make no mistake: money on roads, bridges, transit projects, sewer lines, flood-control projects, and community centers is going to get spent. The only question is whether the decision on where it's spent gets made in at least some cases by our elected representatives, or exclusively by federal bureaucrats who may or may not be familiar with the communities they're affecting.

During a recent debate over the proposed earmarks ban, Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin had this to say: "When a federal agency announces that a facility should be built in Nebraska rather than Texas or Alabama or whether a defense contract should go to a company in Colorado or Arizona rather than Rhode Island or Ohio, there may be no accountability to voters for those decisions. The employees of federal agencies are … good people, but they are not elected. They do not meet with constituents. They cannot possibly understand the needs of local communities as well as those who stand for election." He's right.

In the end, then, the debate over earmarks is not about improving the federal deficit, it's about power over the federal purse-strings and whether to give the president and the federal officials who work for him exclusive power to decide where money gets spent. If Congress yet again opts to diminish itself while strengthening the president, you've got to wonder how much further Congress will go in handing over more power to the president and rejecting its constitutional role as a co-equal branch of government.

LEE HAMILTON is director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.



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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

'Twas the deadline before Christmas

'TWAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS, when all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. (First of all, I live in an apartment. And secondly, it doesn't exactly enhance the Christmas spirit imagining mice in my place, even if they're not "stirring.")

The stockings were hung by the chimney with care in hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there. (Check the average St. Nick, then check the average chimney — rotund peg in a square hole?)

The children were nestled all snug in their beds, while visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads. (I hope I'm not out of line, but sounds like stoners' kids to me)

And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap, had just settled down for a long winter's nap. (Mamma in her kerfchief? Me in my cap?. No wonder they're napping.)

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter, I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash, tore open the shutters and threw up the sash. (At my place it's vertical blinds, but I don't mean to be too picky.)

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow gave the luster of mid-day to objects below. When, what to my wondering eyes should appear, but a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer, (Miniature? I'm Jewish so perhaps I haven't kept up, but when did the sleigh and reindeer get downsized? Santa sure doesn't look it.)

With a little old driver, so lively and quick, I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick. (Forgive me, but with that gut I hardly imagine he's lively and quick.)

More rapid than eagles his coursers they came, and he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name. "Now, Dasher! Now, Dancer! Now, Prancer and Vixen! On, Comet! On Cupid! On, Donder and Blitzen! (Who named the reindeer? Perez Hilton?)

To the top of the porch! To the top of the wall! Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all! As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly, when they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky. (Say what?)

So up to the house-top the coursers they flew, with the sleigh full of toys, and St. Nicholas, too. (Let's just hope the roofs are reinforced.)

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof the prancing and pawing of each little hoof. (If this was Wasilla, Ala., Sarah Palin could go outside and shoot them all. Isn't that a lovely Christmas image?)

As I drew in my head, and was turning around, down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound. He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot, and his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot; (Yuck. Forget milk and cookies for Santa, get him a dust buster.)

A bundle of toys he had flung on his back, and he looked like a peddler just opening his pack. (A soot-covered peddler at that.) His eyes — how they twinkled! His dimples how merry! His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry! (I hate to say it, but Santa sounds like a drinker.)

CHECK THE AVERAGE ST. NICK, THEN CHECK THE AVERAGE CHIMNEY – ROTUND PEG IN A SQUARE HOLE?

His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow, and the beard of his chin was as white as the snow. (Yes, if you overlook the ash.) The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth, and the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath; (The question is what was he smoking?)

He had a broad face and a little round belly that shook when he laughed like a bowlful of jelly. (Sounds like someone could use some cardio.) He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf, and I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself. (With a chubby, ash-covered guy in my living room, I'm not sure I'd be laughing.)

A wink of his eye and a twist of his head, soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread. (Easy to say, I'm going to have to vacuum after he leaves.)

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work and filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk. And laying his finger aside of his nose, and giving a nod, up the chimney he rose. (Wouldn't it be easier to just walk out the door?)

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle, and away they all flew like the down of a thistle. ("Down of a thistle?" Now there's a phrase you don't hear too often these days.)

But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight, "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night." (At least it ends upbeat. From me to you, happy holidays everybody!)

JACK can be reached at Jnsmdp@aol.com.

The Q Line

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Safe streets?

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

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

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




John McGrail, Ph.D, C.Ht.

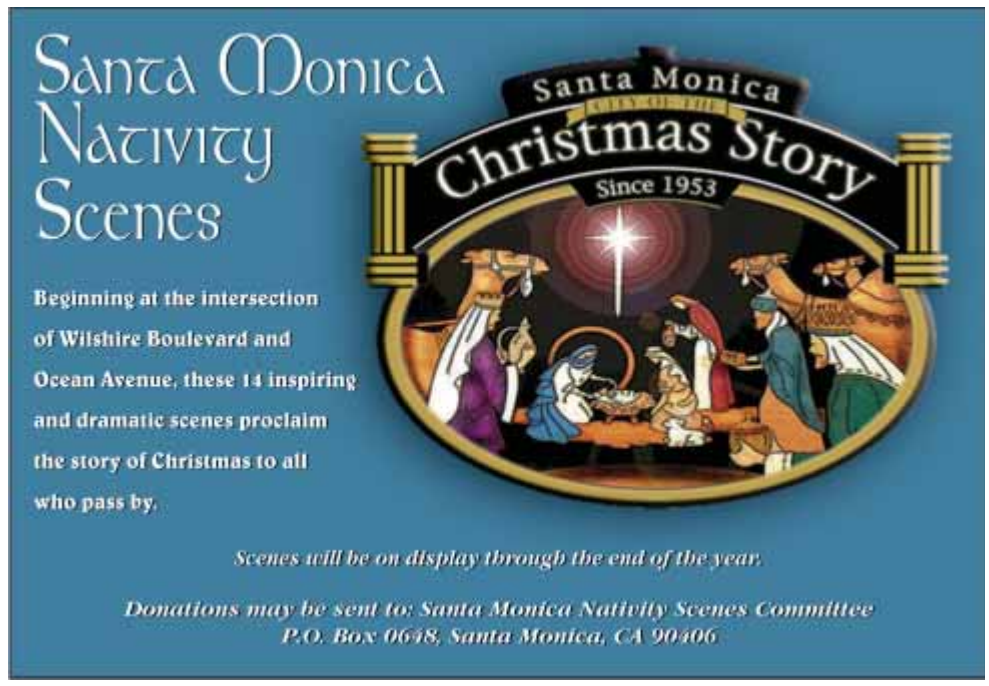
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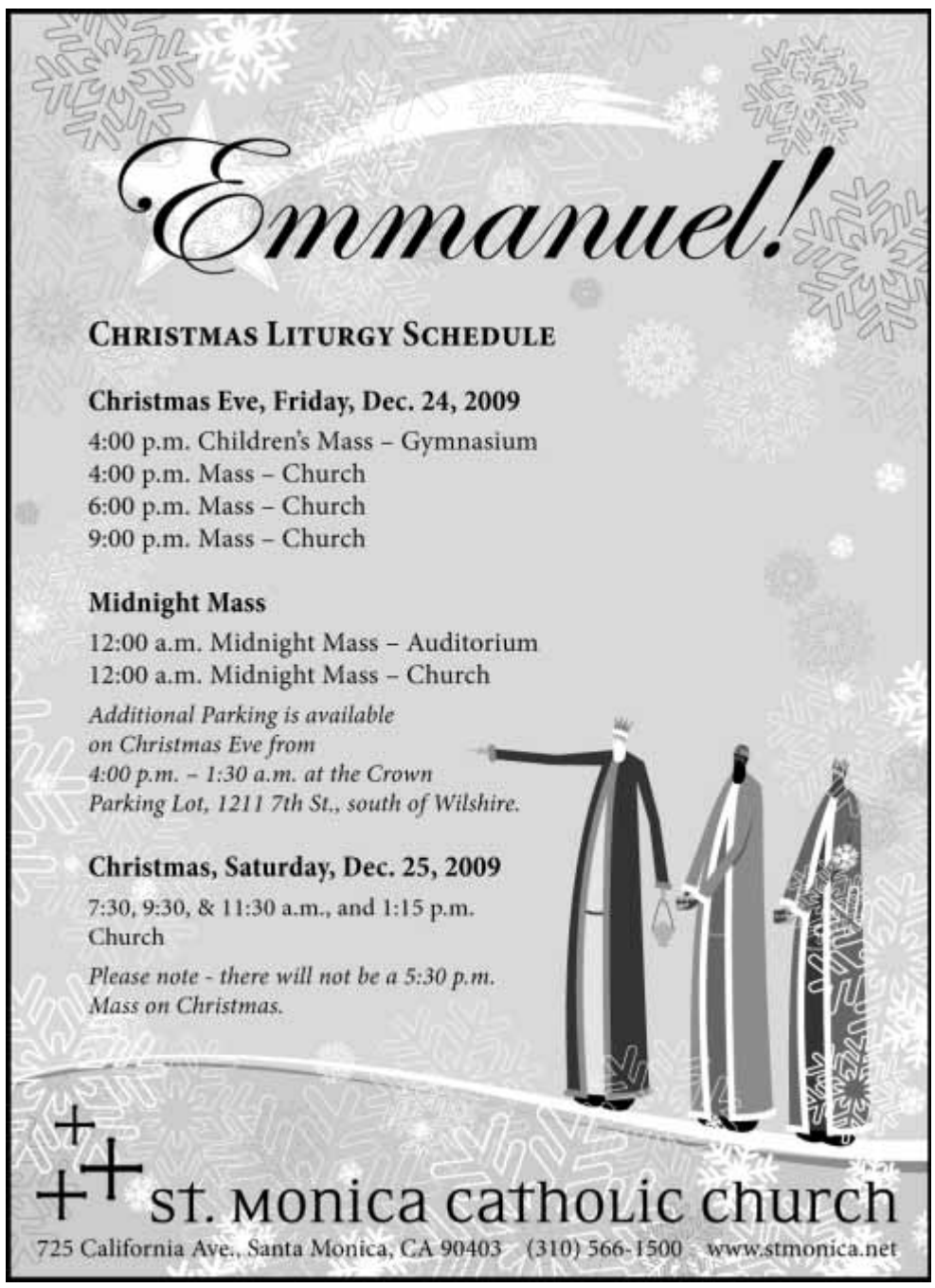
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Lawyer: Toyota to pay $10M in runaway Lexus lawsuit

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Toyota Motor Corp. agreed to pay $10 million to the family of four people killed in a runaway Lexus crash that led to recalls of millions of the automaker's vehicles, an attorney said Thursday.

The amount was released Thursday by Orange County lawyer Larry Willis, who represents the dealership that lent the Lexus to the family, attorney Jean-Paul Jassy said. Jassy spoke with Willis and represented several media organizations, including The Associated Press, that filed a motion opposing efforts to keep the details sealed.

The dealership was privy to the confidential September settlement agreement but has not yet reached its own agreement with those who sued.

The settlement amount was first reported Thursday by the Los Angeles Times. Toyota, which did not admit or deny liability in the settlement, said in a statement it was disappointed the amount had been made public.

"As is common in these cases, these parties agreed to keep the amount confidential, in part to protect the families from unwanted solicitations and to allow them to move on from this difficult period," the automaker said.

The August 2009 crash killed off-duty California Highway Patrol Officer Mark Saylor, 45, his wife, their daughter and Saylor's brother-in-law.

They were killed on a suburban San Diego freeway when their car reached speeds of more than 120 mph, struck a sport utility vehicle, launched off an embankment, rolled several times and burst into flames.

Investigators determined that a wrong-size floor mat trapped the accelerator and caused the crash.

Toyota recalled millions of cars to replace floor mats that it said could cause the accelerator to jam. The carmaker later recalled millions more vehicles to replace gas pedals that it said could stick.

The case was considered the strongest of hundreds of lawsuits that have since been filed and consolidated before a federal judge in Orange County over claims stemming from sudden acceleration in several Toyota models, and brake glitches with the company's Prius hybrid.

Toyota and the plaintiffs sought to keep the settlement amount confidential. The Japanese automaker argued the release of the settlement details could affect pending litigation and hurt its reputation.

Superior Court Judge Anthony Mohr, however, said the public's right to the details outweighed arguments made by both sides.

STATE BRIEFS

VISALIA

Recent floods hit Tulare County farms, dairies hard

Tulare County says its farms and dairies have been hard hit by flooding from the recent storms and is estimating more than $30 million of damage.

County officials are still assessing the damage. But Allison Lambert, spokeswoman for the county's Health and Human Services, said Thursday that preliminary estimates put the overall damage at $30 million to $62 million.

Lambert says a chunk of the damage estimates come from costs related to cleaning out chicken, cattle and other livestock pens from flooding over animal safety and health concerns.

The county also reports that about 300 homes were damaged — 12 seriously — and roads will need repair. Twenty-five roads remain closed on Thursday, mostly in rural areas.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

14-year-old boy shot to death

Gunshots fired from a car have killed a 14-year-old boy near South Los Angeles.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department says the boy was walking at about 12:30 a.m. Thursday in the unincorporated Westmont area when he passed a car stopped in the street.

Witnesses told authorities that shots rang out from the passenger side of the car as the boy walked by. The car then drove off.

Deputies found the wounded boy on the sidewalk. He was pronounced dead at a hospital.

No arrests have been made and a motive for the attack is under investigation.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Ex-Pixar CFO named to head MGM studio board

Ex-Pixar Chief Financial Officer Ann Mather will become lead director of the board of newly restructured MGM Holdings Inc., the storied studio that enacted a restructuring plan this week that will lift it out of bankruptcy proceedings.

MGM said Thursday that Mather will head a nine-member board that includes co-CEOs Gary Barber and Roger Birnbaum, the Spyglass Entertainment co-founders who will run the studio.

Also on the board are former CBS Corp. CFO Fred Reynolds; former MySpace President Jason Hirschhorn; Christopher Pucillo, founder of Solus Alternative Asset Management; Patrick Daugherty, a partner at Highland Capital Management LP; and Kevin Ulrich, CEO of Anchorage Capital Group LLC.

The final vacancy is expected to be filled in the next several weeks.

Earlier this month, a federal bankruptcy court approved a prepackaged bankruptcy plan for the struggling studio. MGM, which owns half of the upcoming two-part movie series, "The Hobbit," restructured on Monday as debtholders including billionaire Carl Icahn exchanged about $5 billion in debt for equity stakes. The studio also arranged financing of $500 million through JPMorgan Chase & Co. to fund new movies and TV shows.

"The Hobbit" is expected to hit theaters in late 2012.

AP

CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

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.

'Tis the season ... to shoplift

MONDAY, DEC. 13, AT 4:48 P.M.,
Santa Monica police officers responded to the 200 block of Broadway — Nordstrom — regarding a shoplifter in custody. When officers arrived, they made contact with store security who told them that the suspect was trying to remove security tags with pliers. Security said the suspect took gloves, a jacket and cologne and removed the tags. The suspect then left the store without paying for the items. He was detained outside the store and placed under citizen's arrest for theft. Officers took the suspect into custody and transported him to the Santa Monica Jail where he was booked for burglary and being in possession of burglary tools. He was identified as Vladimir Kirshta, 40, of Mar Vista. His bail was set at $20,000.

TUESDAY, DEC. 14, AT 11:15 A.M.,
Officers responded to the 3200 block of Santa Monica Boulevard regarding a business dispute. When officers arrived, they made contact with one of the parties involved who told them that a business partner came in and took $19,365 worth of merchandise to pay off a debt. The partner allegedly brought another person with him to help carry the goods. Officers asked the suspects to return to the store, which they did. They were placed under arrest for robbery and burglary. They were identified as Jonathan Nahm, 45, of Los Angeles and Peter Droog, 42, of Chino Hills. Bail was set at $50,000.

TUESDAY, DEC. 14, AT 5:54 A.M.,
Officers responded to Denny's on Lincoln Boulevard regarding a person who refused to pay for their food. When officers arrived, they made contact with the restaurant manager who told them that two people ordered and ate food valued at $15.53. When it was time to pay the bill, they allegedly refused. One of the suspects left the location before officers arrived. He was described as a white male between the ages of 40 and 45. The second suspect was placed under arrest at the restaurant for defrauding an innkeeper and a probation violation. She was identified as Lisa Ferraris, 46, a transient. Her bail was set at $10,000.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 15, AT 11:54 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 7-Eleven on Lincoln Boulevard regarding a suspect who entered the business, assaulted the clerk and then left, taking several items with him. When officers arrived, they made contact with the clerk who told them that the suspect took a beer and a burrito from the cooler. The clerk said the suspect appeared to be drunk and would not sell him the beer. The suspect went back to the cooler and grabbed another beer. The clerk confronted the suspect in the middle of the store and the suspect allegedly struck the clerk with a closed fist and fled with the beer. Officers located the suspect, Shaman Haycraft, 32, a transient, and arrested him for robbery. His bail was set at $50,000.

FRIDAY, DEC. 17, AT 3:32 A.M.,
Officers were patrolling the alley behind 1212 Third Street — Monsoon — when they saw someone inside a secure, gated area attempting to enter the restaurant. Officers made contact with the suspect, who told them he was going to a friend's house. Officers noticed the suspect had lacerations on his hands, face and one pant leg was torn. Officers noticed the fence had spikes on the top to deter people from climbing over. Officers placed the suspect under arrest for attempted burglary. He was identified as Aaron James-Reifeis, 27, of Westlake Village, for attempted commercial burglary. His bail was set at $20,000.

FRIDAY, DEC. 17, AT 1 P.M.,
Officers conducted a search of a home in the 2400 block of Chelsea Place. Officers had a search warrant and believed there were narcotics inside. During the search, officers said they found several baggies of heroin. The suspect was placed under arrest for possession of drugs for sale. He was identified as Gregory Troy, 40, of Santa Monica. His bail was set at $30,000.

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

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SCHOOLS
FROM PAGE 1

hold support, according to Gould's letter.

In siding with the commission's majority, Gould said it was important to strike a balance between having an adequate number of flight schools and protecting the environment and quality of life for residents who live near the airport.

There are six flight schools at SMO, according to Trimborn — a number that Gould said "may amount to an over concentration in terms of impacts."

The rejections come as City Hall is preparing to conduct a review of SMO ahead of the expiration in 2015 of an agreement with the federal government to operate the facility. While the FAA disputes the significance of the expiration, Santa Monica officials have argued it will give City Hall more leverage to push for changes at SMO that would mean fewer noise and other pollution impacts for airport neighbors.

To Erick Bryant, director of operations for Angel City Flyers, the rejection came as a surprise.

"On the application we tried to make it clear how focused we are on minimizing the impact on the surrounding community," he said. "We weren't successful in conveying that commitment to [the commission]."

Bryant said his company won't contest the decision but may re-apply. He said Angel City Flyers uses newer planes than some competitors, giving his company a lesser environmental footprint.

"I think the future of Santa Monica's flight training environment will be newer airplanes," he said. "I realize the residents would rather have no flight training at the airport, but I'm not sure that's a realistic goal."

nickt@smdp.com

DISPLAY
FROM PAGE 1

scenes. Vix also wants to know if City Hall is picking up the tab for electricity.

City officials could not be reached for comment Thursday. According to the Nativity Scenes Committee website, City Hall stopped covering certain costs following the passage of Proposition 13 and that no city funds are provided. News articles on the nativity scene said City Hall demands the parking meter funds be covered by the committee.

Committee members did not return phone calls seeking comment. Previous reports said the annual cost for erecting the scenes is around $18,000.

An ordinance passed by the City Council in 2003 set firm guidelines for winter displays, including creating two areas where displays could be located. The areas are available on a first-come, first-served basis and City Hall does not discriminate

"I challenge the city to review their policy," Vix said.

This isn't the first time someone has had an issue with the nativity scenes. In the past, atheist groups have set up tables and distributed literature. At one time the ACLU threatened to sue City Hall.

"The solstice is a more universal celebration that applies to all peoples," Vix said. "Religions are exclusive by definition, where a solstice is universal and more appropriate for a park."

kevinh@smdp.com

RUNOFF
FROM PAGE 3

rain causes more pollution to get flushed into the region's water system

"Literally every beach gets an 'F' when we get a rain storm like this," he said. "It's big enough to pollute each and every beach in L.A. County. It's a pretty extraordinary event when we have rain like this."

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

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

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

Amtrak said the Pacific Surfliner train service between San Diego and San Juan Capistrano was being suspended Thursday because of threats of mudslides and high water.

The storm weakened as it moved eastward, but floods still washed away six vacant homes and damaged nearly two dozen others in the Beaver Dam area of northwest Arizona, and inundated parts of Nevada and Utah. The low-pressure system could reach the Gulf Coast by Saturday with some rain, forecasters said.

SHOPPING
FROM PAGE 3

ting in at the office each week has been on the upswing since the official end of the recession in June 2009, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. That leaves less time for shopping during the week.

Vivian Lowe, 34, works for an ad agency in Atlanta and didn't start her shopping until Wednesday. "It just caught up with me this year," she said.

She spent Thursday at the Lenox Square Mall in Atlanta and plans to hit Target on Christmas Eve because she sees it as a one-stop shop.

Procrastinators like Lowe shouldn't hit too many snags. Store inventories are not as depleted as last year, when merchants scared about having too many leftovers saw some empty shelves near the end of the season. But shoppers are not seeing the 75-percent-off-everything fire sales that characterized the 2008 holiday.

Still, many stores are offering discounts this week. Express's store at the Manhattan Mall in midtown had a huge yellow sign in its storefront window promoting an "end of the season 50 percent sale" on selected items.

Macy's is offering 30 percent off some bags and jewelry, while the Gap is applying that markdown to everything in the store. At CVS, there are buy-two-get-one free deals on bath-and-body gift sets and discounts on a 7-inch LCD TV and DVD player combo.

Ron and Lisa Johnson of Indianapolis came to Circle Center Mall Thursday morning just to buy boots for their 20-year-old daughter, Kaitlyn Shirar. Nearly four hours later, they sat on a bench with a pile of bags from Nine West, H&M and Forever 21.

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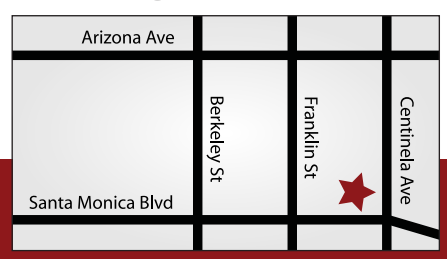
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Holiday travel moving smoothly

GEOFF MULVIHILL & WARREN LEVINSON
Associated Press

NEW YORK Fair weather helped make the holiday sojourn a not-so-painful experience in much of the country Thursday, even with more people hitting the roads and skies than last year, but travelers' good luck might be running out.

A storm was expected to bring a snow and ice to parts of the heartland Friday, a rare white Christmas to Nashville on Saturday, and perhaps sock swaths of the Northeast on Sunday.

"People that are going to Grandma's house," said Bobby Boyd, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Nashville, "need to get going."

Eric and Tatiana Chodkowski, of Boston, were driving Thursday with their kids, ages 2 and 4, to see relatives in New York. They said forecasts for snow on Sunday made them wonder whether they'd make it back then, as planned.

They deemed the roads congested but manageable Thursday, and most people found the nation's airports to be the same way.

Planes took off into windy but accommodating skies at New York's LaGuardia Airport as Steve Kent prepared to fly to Denver for a family ski trip, scoffing at the puny lines.

"I don't find it that difficult," he said. "I think Thanksgiving is harder."

The spread-out nature of the year-end holidays means things won't be quite so cramped as holidays, like Thanksgiving, when practically everyone is on the move the same day.

"We have a lot of folks who already may have taken off of work," said Troy Green, a spokesman for AAA. "They may have arrived at their destination before today."

Mike Lukosavich, of Harrison Township, Mich., was surprised the first leg of his trip was moving so smoothly when he stopped at rest area on the Ohio Turnpike in Elmore, Ohio, near Toledo.

He, his wife and their 8-month-old daughter were heading to see family in Parkersburg, W.Va. His only headache came when he saw the gas price of about $3 a gallon.

"It's something you have to do to see the family," said Lukosavich, 33.

The AAA has expected overall travel to rise about 3 percent this year, with more than 92 million people planning to go more than 50 miles sometime between now and Jan. 2. More than 90 percent said they would be driving.

The Air Transport Association was expecting 44.3 million people on U.S. flights between Dec. 16 and Jan. 5 — up 3 percent over the same period a year ago but still below pre-recession travel volume. The average ticket price is $421, up by 5 percent.

The Vino Volo Wine Room at Detroit Metropolitan Airport is benefiting from more travelers, manager Mark Del Duco said Thursday.

"The Christmas mood is more there this year than last," he said, estimating that sales are up this 10 percent this season compared with last year as financially confident travelers spend more freely.

Some travelers weren't thrilled about their mode of transportation. Anthony Lauro joined nearly 100 people lined up Thursday morning for a Montreal-bound coach at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey's bus terminal in midtown Manhattan. He faced an eight-hour ride to see his fiancee there.

"Flying to Canada is astronomically overpriced," he said.

Helping matters is that the most densely populated parts of the country got a break from the weather Thursday with rain finally stopping in California and a few days away in the East.

But the coming storm was a concern Thursday in parts of the nation's midsection.

Steve Brown, 50, of Elm Creek, Neb., left Tuesday afternoon and drove all night to beat the storm as it worked its way east. Brown, a grain hauler, was taking his two children to see his mother on the Ohio dairy farm where he grew up.

"I had orders to come home or she was going to come get me," Brown said during at the Elmore rest area, where adults filled up on coffee while kids, traveling in pajamas, loaded up on Tater Tots.

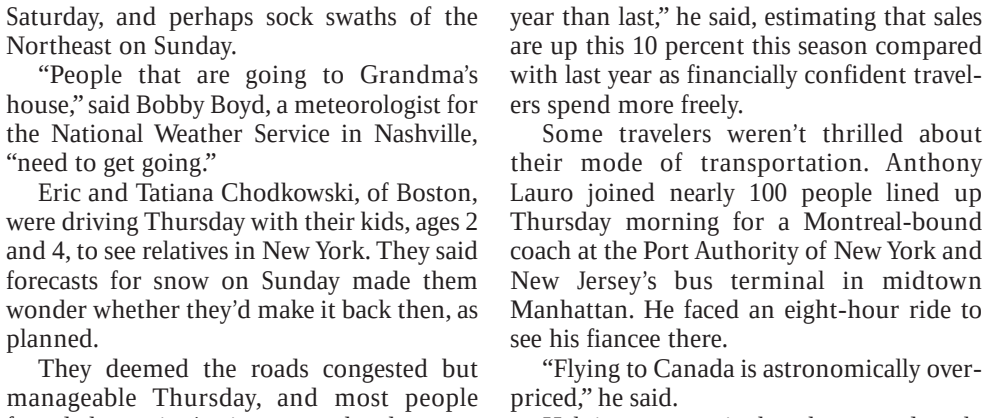
After record-breaking snow falls in the East and a treacherous Christmas travel season last year, the ways weather can mess up travel seem to be on plenty of minds.

At LaGuardia, Mike and Martha Lee Mellis waited to fly to Aspen, Colo., with their three young sons. They dreaded a repeat of last winter's ski trip, when a snowstorm hit while they were transferring in Chicago on their way home.

"We had to return via Philadelphia, and I had to rent a car and drive everybody home at 11 at night," Mike Mellis recalled.

His wife had been trying to forget, saying, "I've blocked it all out."









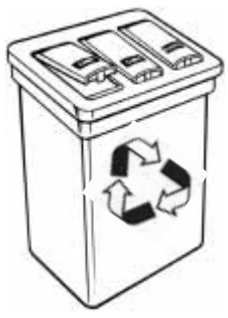
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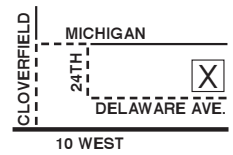


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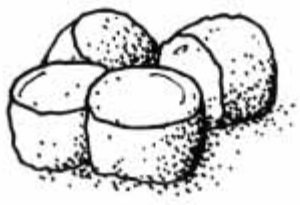


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Colleges may add ROTC after 'don't ask' repeal

ERIC GORSKI
AP Education Writer

Three days a week, Yale sophomore James Campbell rises at 5 a.m. for ROTC drills on a college campus that isn't his own.

He would gladly do push-ups and run circles on Yale's campus.

But even if that were an option, he wouldn't have much company. Campbell is Yale's only Army ROTC cadet.

Like other ROTC members who attend colleges that do not host the program, Campbell trains at another school — in this case, the neighboring University of New Haven. Because Yale does not fully recognize ROTC, he does not earn any academic credit toward his Yale degree for the military science course he must take at New Haven for his commission.

Forty years ago, ROTC units disappeared from Yale, Harvard, Columbia, Stanford and other elite schools, casualties of Vietnam-era tension and academic power struggles. Now, those same schools are moving toward welcoming ROTC units back thanks to the imminent demise of "don't ask, don't tell," the policy barring gays from serving openly in the U.S. military.

The mutual interest in resurrecting ROTC detachments is a significant development in the sometimes strained relationship between the military and universities.

But it's far from certain the military will return to these colleges. And the prospect of renewed campus debates on the topic could expose antimilitary sentiment that some suspect lurked beneath stated opposition to "don't ask, don't tell."

"I think it's more than just rhetoric right now," said Donald Downs, a professor of political science, law and journalism at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and author of a forthcoming book on the military and universities. "Especially at the administrative level, I think the schools are sincere. The real question is how willing the military might be."

Opposition might arise, but universities largely value the positive impact veterans bring to campus, as well as their GI Bill money, Downs said. At the same time, the military long ago shifted officer recruitment to the South, "and a lot of people in the military, they're not sure the Ivy League type of student is the kind that would make a good warrior," he said.

Campbell is trying to counter such beliefs as head of the Yale College Council ROTC Committee. He points out the college had about 100 students in ROTC when the Army and Navy pulled out in the early 1970s, unwilling to meet Yale demands for an extensive overhaul of the program and elimination of academic credit for ROTC courses.

Although it is often said campuses "banned" ROTC, Downs and others say the reality is more nuanced. Disputes in the late 1960s and early 1970s centered on whether military programs passed academic muster. But those issues existed before, and colleges didn't press the issue until outrage over the war in Vietnam boiled over.

"The reason for this perceived divide between the country's elite academic institutions and its military is people don't think students want to serve in the military," Campbell said. "But Yale students haven't been serving in the military because we haven't had the same channels as everyone else."

After the Senate vote to repeal "don't ask, don't tell," Yale president Richard Levin said the faculty next semester would consider expanding students' military opportunities. He also said school officials would "consult with officials in Washington early in the new year to determine the military's interest in establishing an ROTC unit at Yale."

Columbia University this week announced a university task force would explore whether the school should formally participate in ROTC. In a statement, Columbia president Lee Bollinger said the demise of the military's policy "effectively ends what has been a vexing problem for higher education, including at Columbia — given our desire to be open to our military, but not wanting to violate our own core principle against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation."

Jose Robledo, a junior in Columbia's School of General Studies and Army ROTC cadet who saw combat in Iraq and Afghanistan, said a political position like "don't ask don't tell" imposed on the military doesn't justify creating barriers for students to take part in ROTC.

But to Robledo, it's not a simple matter of bringing an ROTC unit to campus. What needs to take place, he said, is a serious conversation about the role of the military in civil society and liberal arts education.

"ROTC should come back to Columbia if Columbia is comfortable with it," he said. "Columbia at a minimum should support their ROTC students as much as they support other students. The military should support regions where they have not had much success in recruiting as much as they support places that they do. It's in the military's best interests to have as many diverse people as they can."

While military officials have pressed elite schools to be more welcoming to ROTC, they've also made clear resources are scarce and not every request to be a host campus can be fulfilled.

Maj. Monica Bland, a Department of Defense spokeswoman, said it is premature to know how the repeal of DADT will affect ROTC. Right now, 489 schools host ROTC units, and nearly 2,469 schools have cross-town affiliations with those units. The number of host campuses has remained stable in recent years, even as cadet and midshipmen enrollment has risen, Bland said.

"They don't really need these schools," said Michael Desch, a political science professor at Notre Dame and an ROTC expert. "It would be symbolic in terms of having the Ivies and other elite schools sort of come back in the fold."

Others say the benefits are more than symbolic. Lt. Col. Steven Alexander, who heads the Army ROTC program at Cornell, the only Ivy League school with Army, Navy and Air Force ROTC units, cited the great value in a Cornell civil engineering graduate.

"Right now, that's critical for us," he said. "The military is solving all sorts of crazy problems we didn't think we'd have to solve — like building a sewer system or an electrical grid in a third world country."

Short of hosting, the universities could begin awarding degree credit for some ROTC studies. Or they could offer campus space for ROTC events and cover expense for travel to host campuses, which some already do. Yale pays for a rental car for Campbell's commute.

At Stanford, where ROTC cadets train on other campuses, a Faculty Senate committee started reconsidering the university's relationship with the ROTC months ago and is scheduled to make a recommendation in the spring. Ewart Thomas, a psychology professor who heads the committee, said he was "delighted by the repeal" and believes it will "lighten the task of the committee."

Obama wants to reverse Bush wilderness policy

KRISTEN WYATT
Associated Press

DENVER The Obama administration plans to reverse a Bush-era policy and make millions of undeveloped acres of land once again eligible for federal wilderness protection, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said Thursday.

The agency will replace the 2003 policy adopted under former Interior Secretary Gale Norton, Salazar said. That policy — derided by some as the "No More Wilderness" policy — stated that new areas could not be recommended for wilderness protection by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and opened millions of acres in the Rocky Mountain region to potential commercial development.

That policy "frankly never should have happened and was wrong in the first place," Salazar said Thursday.

Environmental activists have been pushing for the Obama administration to restore protections for potential wilderness areas.

Salazar said the agency will review some 220 million acres of BLM land that's not currently under wilderness protection to see which should be given a new "Wild Lands" designation — a new step for land awaiting a wilderness decision. Congress would decide whether those lands should be designated permanent wilderness areas, Salazar said.

Congressional Republicans pounced on the "Wild Lands" announcement as an attempt by the Obama administration to close land to development without congressional approval.

"This backdoor approach is intended to circumvent both the people who will be directly affected and Congress. I have to question why this announcement is being made only after Congress adjourned for the year," said Washington Rep. Doc Hastings, a Republican tapped to lead to the House Natural Resources Committee when the GOP takes control of the House in January.

BLM Director Bob Abbey said it hasn't been decided how many acres are expected be designated as "Wild Lands" and whether those acres will be off-limits to motorized recreation or commercial development while under congressional review. It's also unclear whether there will be a time limit on how long acres can be managed as "Wild Lands" before a decision is made on their future.

The BLM has six months to submit a plan for those new wilderness evaluations.

These "Wild Lands" would be separate from Wilderness Study Areas that must be authorized by Congress. Wild Lands can be designated by the BLM after a public planning process and would be managed with protective measures detailed in a land use plan.

Ranchers, oil men and others have been suspicious of federal plans to lock up land in the West, worrying that taking the BLM land out of production would kill rural economies that rely on ranchers and the eastern Montana oil and gas business.

Their suspicions have been heightened since memos leaked in February revealed the Obama administration was considering 14 sites in nine states for possible presidential monument declarations.

That included 2.5 million acres of northeastern Montana prairie land proposed as a possible bison range, along with sites in Colorado, Utah, New Mexico, California, Nevada, Arizona, Oregon and Washington.

The 2003 policy was an out-of-court deal struck between Norton and then-Utah Gov. Michael Leavitt to remove protections for some 2.6 million acres of public land in that state.

The policy allowed oil and gas drilling, mining and other commercial uses on land under consideration as wilderness areas.



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Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

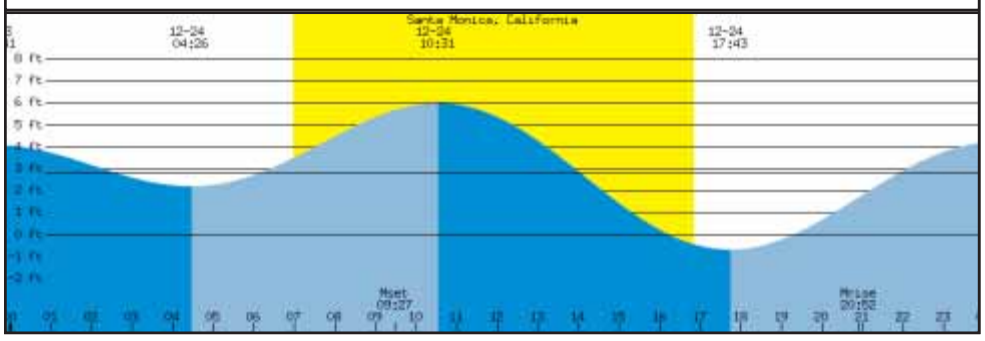
Swell Forecast

The wind swell is expected to back off to chest max at west facing breaks.

Long Range Synopsis

Wind swell should back off big time to just waist high for west facing breaks.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **December 22, 2010**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 12
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 42 / 19
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 6 / 22

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Aliso creeks.	A+	C
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A	A
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	B
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	F
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	F	A
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A+	B
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	C
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	B
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	C
Pena Creek at Los Tunos County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	F	D
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	A+

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

LEGEND

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

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

ns -- no sample taken

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

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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NFL

Colts' Addai expects to play against Raiders

CLIFF BRUNT
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS Colts running back Joseph Addai expects to return Sunday at Oakland after missing the past eight games with a nerve injury in his left shoulder, the first positive news on the injury front for Indianapolis in quite a while.

"I feel like it's a great chance. I feel like I'm heading in the right direction," Addai said Thursday, one day after participating fully in practice. "I felt good. I didn't set myself back. Really, I'm just happy to put on a uniform and just get back into it."

Linebacker Clint Session also is likely to play after missing the past seven games with a broken arm and a dislocated elbow. Their returns coincide with the Colts losing wide receiver Austin Collie for the season. He sustained a concussion last Sunday against Jacksonville.

Addai has 5,280 yards from scrimmage and 46 touchdowns in five seasons. He rushed for 128 yards and a touchdown against Washington this season before hurting the shoulder.

"He understands all the nuances," coach Jim Caldwell said. "He is very, very smart. He's a guy that can make you miss, but also has power and catches the ball out of the backfield. He's also a very good pass protector."

The Colts average 95 yards rushing with Addai and 78 without him. Indy also has a higher average per carry and generally controls the clock better when Addai plays.

"He brings so many intangibles," Caldwell said. "He certainly does make a difference."

Caldwell didn't say whether Addai would start, or how carries would be distributed if he were available. Donald Brown is coming off a career-best 129-yard performance, and the ground game has been effective the past two weeks.

"A lot of it just depends on where he is when we finish the week," Caldwell said. "We'll get a real good sense of that. After we make that assessment, we'll make a determination on how Joe will play for us."

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MOVIE TIMES

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1441 Third Street Promenade
(310) 458-6232

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

Little Fockers (PG-13)
11:25am, 2:10pm, 4:50pm, 7:30pm

How Do You Know (R) 1hr 56min
2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm

True Grit (PG-13)
10:50am, 1:30pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm

Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader in Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 52min
11:30am, 2:20pm, 5:10pm, 8:00pm

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

Tangled in Disney Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 40min
11:05am, 1:45pm, 4:25pm, 7:00pm, 9:25pm

Little Fockers (PG-13)
10:35am, 1:10pm, 3:50pm, 6:30pm, 9:05pm

Yogi Bear 3D (PG) 1hr 22min
10:30am, 12:45pm, 3:00pm, 5:20pm, 7:40pm, 9:50pm

Tron: Legacy in Disney Digital 3D (NR) 2hrs 07min
1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:55pm

How Do You Know (R) 1hr 56min
10:30am, 1:15pm, 4:10pm, 7:10pm, 10:05pm

True Grit (PG-13)
11:30am, 2:20pm, 5:10pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

Black Swan (R) 1hr 50min
11:20am, 2:05pm, 4:50pm, 7:45pm, 10:20pm

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

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

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

Inside Job (PG-13) 1hr 48min
1:20pm, 4:20pm, 7:20pm, 9:50pm

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

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 1 (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
12:00pm, 3:15pm

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

Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader in Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 52min
10:45am, 1:25pm, 4:00pm, 6:45pm, 9:25pm

Tourist (PG-13) 1hr 43min
10:55am, 1:35pm, 4:30pm, 6:35pm, 7:15pm, 9:05pm

Fighter (R) 1hr 54min
11:00am, 12:40pm, 1:40pm, 3:40pm, 4:40pm, 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 9:15pm

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

Enjoy the ones around you, Pisces

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ You might feel as if you are on a countdown. You are! Use care with someone who has difficulty with the holidays. A little indulgence will go a long way. Play a more subtle role in upcoming events. Tonight: The kid within you rises.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Understand your limits when dealing with family and last-minute details. The Bull is human. Stop pushing when it is evident that no more can be done. Others want you to enjoy yourself. Tonight: At home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Don't stand on ceremony with someone who plays games unconsciously. Make the extra effort; be clear in your message. A problem or a distance could be bridged. One-on-one relating opens new doors. Many people seem to be bidding for your attention. Tonight: Chat up a storm.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Be aware of what is going on financially. You might not be able to make that last-minute effort or get that gift. Make it OK to give a card or some other less costly token of affection. Share strong feelings. Tonight: Treat yourself well too.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Others gather, wanting your attention. You always attract others, but especially so right now. Whether bringing friends and family together or taking care of some last-minute details, make time for yourself too. Tonight: Beam in what you want.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Remember, you are still overly sensitive and perhaps in a "bah humbug" mood. Do your best to process your negative feelings. Stop and visit with some people who are less fortunate. You might perk up. Tonight: Relax with the moment.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Your ability to draw people out could be more significant than you realize. You may decide to make a round of parties of visits. On some level you greet the holiday with relief. Nevertheless, you do enjoy the celebration. Tonight: Without question, you are where the action is!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Assume a traditional role within your immediate circle. Take the lead as the holiday unfolds. Whether you are throwing a get-together or taking care of older relatives or friends, know that you make a difference. Tonight: Could be late.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Your mind is certainly not on the here and now. You could be quite detached from those around you. If you need to make a call or take a walk in order to be more present, do. Tonight: Reflect on the true meaning of this holiday. Don't forget "ho ho ho" music.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Explore the possibilities with others in discussions that might not be holiday related. Know what you would like to extract from this situation. Guide a talk accordingly, and be open. You might not be comfortable with the immediate results, but something better is ahead. Tonight: Be with a favorite person as the holiday unfolds.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Juggling all your friends and maintaining a heavy pace could make even the strongest person tired. Remember to slow down some time in the day and take a few minutes just for you. Tonight: Dance to another's tune. Everyone will be happier if you are compliant!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Orchestrating events could be a dominant theme right now. You also might be picking up last-minute details involving work or a project. Yes, your hands are full. Make it a point to cut out all the excess activity at a certain time. Tonight: Make a special meal. Enjoy the ones around you.

Happy birthday

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

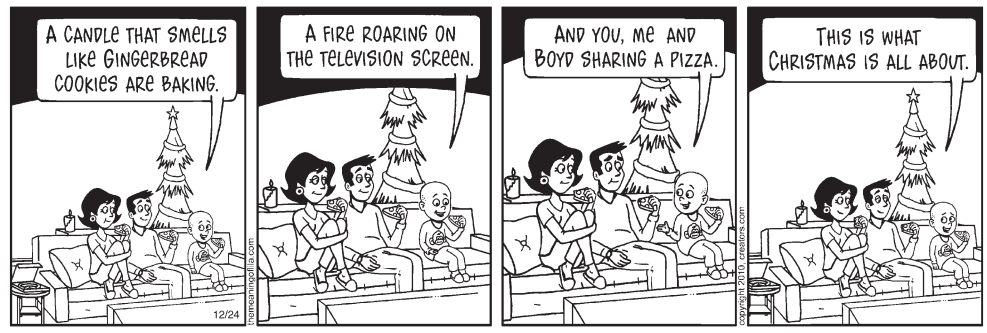
You often become distracted by a boss or key person in your life. This year, learn how to juggle the many demands of life. At first you might feel awkward, but you will succeed. If you are single, you could meet someone quite special who you can become much closer to than anyone before. Don't rush or push. If you are attached, you and your sweetie dance quite a jig. You enjoy each other more than you have in a long time. LEO helps you relax as he or she bottom-lines issues.



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



Girls and Sports
By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



Strange Brew
By John Deering



Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Group of plotters
6 Ice-cream unit
11 Find charming
12 Resort off Venezuela
13 Intend to
14 Juan of Argentina
15 Bike part
17 A long time
18 Scrooge cries
20 "— Wonderful Life"
22 1040 org.
23 Grateful reply
26 Shiny finish
28 Washington successor
29 Cushions
31 Diner treat
32 Uriah of fiction
33 Chooses
34 Skunk's defense
36 Italia's capital
38 Keepsake
40 Composer Copland
43 Quartet member
44 On that spot
45 Up to now
46 Light lunch

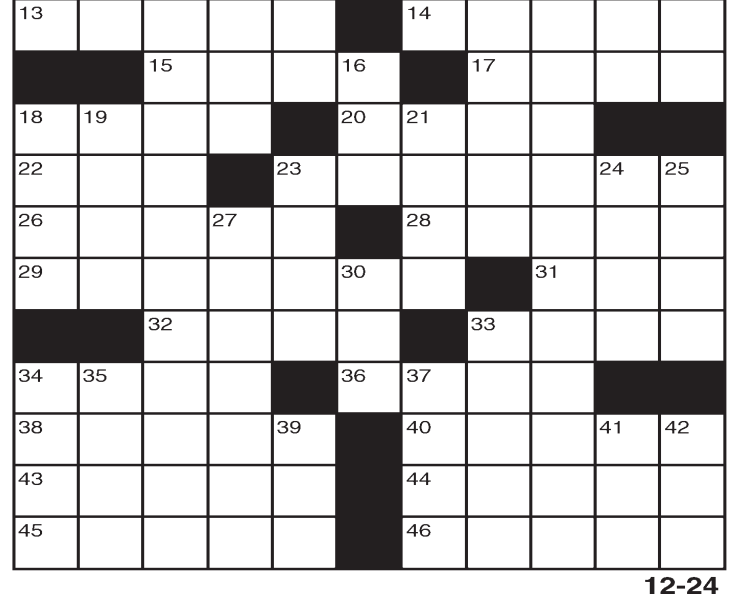
DOWN

1 Cornfield cry
2 Hoopla
3 What we deck with
4 City on the Rhone
5 Pollux's mother
6 Maple output
7 Folded
8 What we don
9 Bassoon's kin
10 Skillets
16 Carnival city
18 Major leagues, in slang
19 Singer Guthrie
21 "— brillig ..."
23 "Got it"
24 Leave out
25 Calls on
27 Like the OR
30 "Morning Edition" airer
33 Cornhusker city
34 Killer whale
35 Bad grades
37 Stable diet
39 Barracks bed
41 Man-mouse link
42 Homer's neighbor

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

Yesterday's answer

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12-24

ARITHMO™

CrossMath + × − ÷

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

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

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

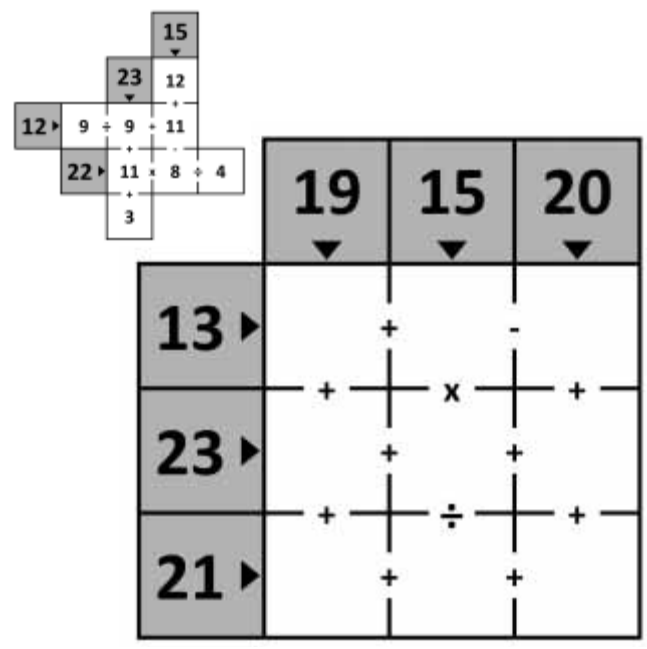
• The numbers you insert into the grid must satisfy the Equa demands both horizontally and vertically.

For more games, go to www.arithmo.com

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

5, 6, 6, 7, 7, 8, 8, 10, 12

Solution for Task 723



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

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

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In November, at a burglary scene near Seneca, S.C., deputies found Noah Smith, 31, naked and apparently drugged, perhaps on hallucinogenic mushrooms, and with a string-like object protruding from his buttocks. Smith was X-rayed, revealing (according to the deputies' report, which made its way to the Internet) that the object in his rectum was a "mouse." However, several days later, the sheriff's office clarified that the object was a "computer mouse." Smith told emergency room personnel that he had no memory of the incident.

■ People who accidentally shot themselves recently: Daniel McDaniels, 31, Sarasota, Fla., "trying to ward off a skunk" (October). Sanford Rothman, 63, Boulder, Colo., while sleepwalking (October). Reserve police officer Kenneth Shannon, 68, Gary, Ind., in the hand while loading his gun (and the bullet went on to hit his partner) (October). Sheriff's Deputy Miguel Rojas, Crestview, Fla., in the leg while firearms training (July). Darrell Elam, 52, Peshastin, Wash., in the buttocks as he holstered his gun (August). A 48-year-old woman, Clover, S.C., in the jaw while trying to kill a rat (September). A 25-year-old man, Juneau, Alaska, in the head after jokingly telling friends that there is "one way" to find out whether a gun is loaded or not (October 2009).

TODAY IN HISTORY

1968 The crew of the USS Pueblo is released by North Korea after being held for 11 months on suspicion of spying.

1968 Apollo Program: The crew of Apollo 8 enters into orbit around the Moon, becoming the first humans to do so. They performed 10 lunar orbits and broadcast live TV pictures that became the famous Christmas Eve Broadcast, one of the most watched programs in history.

1973 District of Columbia Home Rule Act is passed, allowing residents of Washington, D.C. to elect their own local government.

WORD UP!

zenith
\ ZEE-nith \ , noun;
1. A highest point or state; culmination.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Announcements

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

Layton
CONSTRUCTION WITH INTEGRITY

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

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

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

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

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

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Doing Business As: RIVINI SALON AND REFLEXOLOGY
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