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Santa Monica Daily Press
DECEMBER 24-25, 2011
Volume 11 Issue 37

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered
THE MAKE MERRY ISSUE

LOCALS LOOK BACK ON GIFTS
SEE PAGE 3

Atheist to pass on PETA overture to get in on religious scenes

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

OCEAN AVENUE The battle over the long-time nativity scenes and their upstart atheist counterparts in Palisades Park is attracting a crowd.

Adding to the national media attention and public outcry on both sides, animal rights group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals wants in.

PETA has designs on placing a billboard emblazoned with the message "Give peas a chance: go vegan" on one of the coveted spots. The billboard features religious symbols made out of peas and adds "Kindnest is the best religion of all."

Damon Vix, the face of 11 atheist groups that won 18 of 21 spots in a lottery to earn the right to erect displays, said that he would have to pass on their offer because it's too late for him to consider putting in the diligence to physically install it and win approval from City Hall to have the new billboard OK'd.

"I'd love to have them involved," Vix said. "But maybe we'll have to wait until next year."

He said that PETA fits in with the message his group is trying to send, but the short window between now and when the scenes have to come down on Jan. 4, 2012 was just too narrow.

Vix would have to submit a site plan for any new display and that if differed with what he already has in place it would have to be reviewed by city inspectors. He wasn't sure if it was too late to actually have City

SEE SCENES PAGE 10

Santa Monica will keep Santa mighty busy

Neighborhoods want fixes on parking, transportation and politicians for Christmas

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE It's the season of big requests and even bigger dreams, a time where we reflect on the year behind us, make plans for the one ahead and hope that somewhere along the way, we can get a little help with some of our pie in the sky hopes.

Not to leave anyone out, the Daily Press staff reached out to leaders of neighborhood groups with a simple question: If you could get anything, absolutely anything, to benefit your neighborhood in the coming year, what would it be?

Some of their responses consist of the traditional fare — parking problems, airport traffic and a shake up in local politicians — but others used their brand-new pogo sticks to jump out of the box.

Happy holidays!

OCEAN PARK ASSOCIATION

Individual members of the Ocean Park Association board requested a reduction in airplane flights buzzing overhead, a halt to traffic and improvements in alternative transportation infrastructure.

Dave Auch, the vice president, wanted schedules and maps at every bus stop for his stocking, and hoped to overcome objections

SEE WISH LIST PAGE 8



Kibiwot Limo *news@smdp.com*

EVERYBODY'S BUDDY: **Santa Claus made a visit to the Santa Monica Pier last weekend to meet with families and spread holiday cheer.**

Santa Claus remains popular as ever

CONNIE CASS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Why do kids believe a chubby guy in a flying sleigh can deliver joy across America? Because their parents do. A whopping 84 percent of grown-ups were once children who trusted in Santa's magic, and lots cling to it still.

Things are changing fast these days, with toddlers wishing for iPads, grade schoolers e-mailing their Christmas lists and moms wrestling over bargain toys at midnight sales. Despite all the pressures on the rituals of the season, an AP-GfK poll confirms that families are sticking by old St. Nick.

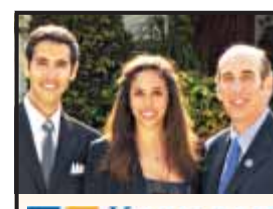
"It's important for kids to have something to believe in," says great-grandmother Wanda Smith of Norman, Okla.

And so they do. Year after year, Santa Claus survives the scoffers and the Scrooges and the 6-year-old playground skeptics. He

SEE SANTA PAGE 9


Andrew Thurm
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City of Santa Monica Holiday Trash Schedule
There is no change in Monday through Friday residental collection.
Sunday, December 25th - No Collection
Sunday, January 1st - No Collection
Resource Recovery & Recycling
310.458.2223 www.smgov.net/r3

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Join hundreds of volunteers who contribute their time and talents each year – making a difference in the lives of others.
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

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.

Sunday, Dec. 25, 2011

Merry Christmas!

Santa on the pier
Santa Monica Pier
11 a.m. — 11 p.m.
Pacific Park is offering two exciting ways to enjoy the holiday season. Come sit with Santa on the Frog Hopper, the ride that takes up to seven youngsters straight up and down to heights of nearly two stories. Then take a ride on the West Coaster roller coaster and feel a curtain of snow fall as you depart. For more information, call (310) 260-8744.

Ice skating in the sunshine
ICE at Santa Monica
Fifth Street and Arizona Avenue, 10 a.m. — midnight
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.

Monday, Dec. 26, 2011

Holidays still kicking
Santa Monica Place
Broadway and Third Street,
4 p.m. — 6 p.m.
Rock out with the music of Josh Vietti during the first installment of the Holiday Ever After Concert Series. The series continues through Jan. 2, 2012 with a different artist every night. For more information, call (310) 260-8333.

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



Gifts that make holiday memories

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

DOWNTOWN While the holiday season is about more than just gift giving and receiving, those times spent by the Christmas tree or the menorah opening presents painstakingly selected by loved ones make for some of our fondest memories.

Who can forget those anxious days before the start of Chanukah and Christmas when visions of a bicycle, Cabbage Patch Kid or Easy Bake Oven danced in our heads?

Filled with the holiday spirit, the Santa Monica Daily Press wanted to reach out to locals to find out what was their most memorable gift during childhood.

Here are their responses:



• JEAN MCNEIL WYNER, COMMUNITY LIAISON FOR SANTA MONICA UCLA MEDICAL CENTER & ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL.

"My very best Christmas gift was a purple Schwinn bicycle. With that bike, my friend, Margie Casey, and I ruled our block. We were into everything and knew all that was occurring at any time. We both had long pigtails and could be seen flying around the neighborhood gathering gossip."

• KATE BRANSFIELD, REALTOR.

"What else, a puppy! When I was about 7, and after much pestering of my parents, I received an oddly moving box under the tree. I opened it and found what looked like a little bear cub. I immediately named him Yogi."

• GARY GORDON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MAIN STREET MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION.

"Using the definition of child broadly, the best gift I can remember was when I was 15. My aunt Barbara gave me a portable Olympia typewriter. For those of you too young to know what a typewriter is, it's a pre-computer keyboard made of wood, buffalo sinew and bronze invented by Abraham Lincoln as he journeyed from Europe to the New World on the Mayflower with Columbus. Happy holidays!"

• RON DAVIS, PRESIDENT, SANTA MONICA FORD AND CHAIRMAN OF THE SANTA MONICA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD.

"I received a 10-speed Schwinn when I was about 12. My dad had it outside and after we opened gifts under the tree, he told me he had one more for me that was inside his truck and to go outside and get it. So, when I walked out the door, I saw the bike but did not put two-and-two together and went to his truck and opened the cab door. Then everyone started laughing and I turned around and realized the bike was for me. I have two brothers and three sisters. I thought it was one of their friend's bikes that they had borrowed. Needless to say, I was embarrassed but also really happy."

• LYNNE THOMAS, DIRECTOR OF SALES, THE LOBSTER.

"All I ever wanted was a trampoline my entire life! (What would I do with a pony?) When I turned 12, Santa finally granted my wish. I must have been on the naughty list up until then. So that night I was so excited that I slept on the trampoline. It was very cold and very uncomfortable, but I was just so happy. It was lovely until my brother decided to wake me up by jumping on the trampoline causing me to fly off. Ah, childhood memories."

• PAUL WEINBERG, EMERGENCY SERVICES COORDINATOR, SANTA MONICA FIRE DEPARTMENT.

"The most memorable holiday gift I received was a catcher's glove when I was 10. I played little league for a traveling team in Philadelphia and was excited about playing catcher the next year. I would always find the gifts my parents got for us and this time I could not help myself. Every day for about a month I would climb to the top of the closet and [put on] the glove which was hidden in an old shoe box. I would play with it in the house to not mess it up. By the time the first night of Chanukah came, I had applied oil to the glove, wrapped it in string and placed two balls inside to break it in. I can't remember what my parents said, but I do remember the look on their face when we opened the box."

• PAM O'CONNOR, CITY COUNCIL MEMBER.

My earliest holiday memory is from the time I was around 5 years old. There were just a few holiday decorations around the house — including stockings hung on a mantle. Would Santa really find our house? What would he bring? To my delight, on Christmas morning the living room was ablaze (figuratively) with a fully-decorated Christmas tree — Santa somehow got down the chimney — with gifts underneath. I don't remember a single "present" from under the tree, but I do remember the magical moment of that beautiful Christmas tree in our home and the love from my parents."

• JENNIFER TAYLOR, CHAIR, BUY LOCAL SANTA MONICA.

"My first camera! There was a local, family-owned camera store within walking distance of our house. For weeks, I had been gazing longingly in the shop window, in hopes that Santa would bring me a camera. I must have been about 10 years old. It was a cool little Kodak camera. It opened up a whole new world in making our family road trips much more exciting."

• BOB HOLBROOK, CITY COUNCIL MEMBER.

"When I was a child, toys were really scarce and not available as WWII turned all factories to manufacturing war materials. The gift I most remember was my bike. It was a thing of beauty. A Monarch. It had front and rear electric lights and an electric horn. It was a Cadillac and it had white sidewall tires! I loved my bike. A few years ago I was in an antique store in Nebraska. I turned a corner in the shop and there was my Monarch bike! It was totally restored. My wife said I should buy it and bring it home. She said it was only $299, then I showed her she had missed a 9. It was $2,999. I left my

SEE **MEMORIES** PAGE 9

Last guest departing the iconic Wilshire Grand Hotel

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES The 16-story Wilshire Grand Hotel, host to U.S. presidents, Pope John Paul II and Hollywood's Emmy Awards, has been preparing for demolition after nearly 60 years in downtown.

The aging hotel at Figueroa Street and Wilshire Boulevard is being razed to make room for $1 billion-plus tower complex.

There will be a 45-story hotel and condominiums with a 65-story office tower next door.

The Wilshire Grand's longtime guest since the 1960s, attorney Richard Macias, will be the last to check out. He was to leave late Friday.

"I cherish the memories I have had here," Macias told the Los Angeles Times.

Macias said he will miss the employees he has known over the years and the escalator that carries guests from Seventh Street to the lobby.

"I would love to stay in the new one when it's built," he said.

There was a send-off party for employees Thursday night. The hotel offered laid-off workers severance packages or the right to return to their old position once the new hotel opens.

The hotel cost $25 million to build and featured Ronald Reagan as master of ceremonies for the 1952 opening of what was then the Statler Hotel. Actresses Celeste Holm and Mary Pickford were also there for the opening.

Soon after the opening, the hotel hosted the 1952 Emmy Awards, where Sid Caesar and Imogene Coca took home the top acting awards. Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower and John F. Kennedy stayed there. So did the pope.

Korean Airlines, a subsidiary of the South Korean conglomerate Hanjin Group, owns the 896-room hotel and plans to complete the project by 2015 with development partner Thomas Properties Group.

When the new Wilshire Grand opens, it will take two or three years for the hotel to climb back to its position as one of the city's most popular hotels, said Bruce Baltin, a senior vice president at PKF Consulting, a San Francisco-based hospitality industry consultant.

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or by contacting:
City Manager Ron Gould,
manager@smgov.net, (310) 458-8301
City Council members,
council@smgov.net, (310) 458-8201
Community & Cultural Services Director Barbara Stinchfield,
communityrecreation@smgov.net
(310) 458-8310.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Job opportunity

Editor:

I was dining the other night in Santa Monica, as is my want. I live in Venice Beach, but I bank, shop and entertain myself in your fair city. Hooray for the Big Blue Bus!

After less than a third of a glass of wine, I said to my table of family and friends:

"The City Council of Santa Monica must not have told their atheist friends that many folks view the nativity scenes after sunset. You need a $100 flashlight to read their poorly-lettered signs mounted in plastic-wrapped pots. Didn't anyone tell the atheists that Santa Monica outlawed non-biodegradable? Plus the anti-religion suspended sign was wind wrapped within itself, you could not read it. Is that an omen?"

Well, the tables all around me erupted and the quiet restaurant broke out into impromptu boos and hisses directed at the Santa Monica City Council by what I took to be tax-paying citizens of your city. I am retired, but based on the other night, I think I have a new opportunity as a consultant to the citizens of Santa Monica to unseat the present City Council.

Kieran Connell
Venice, Calif.

Praise be to Wendy's

Editor:

Hallelujah. Wendy's is coming to town ("Arby's sign finds a new home," Dec. 13). While we are improving our restaurant selections, how about getting a Red Lobster, too?

David Long
Santa Monica

How to ride a bike

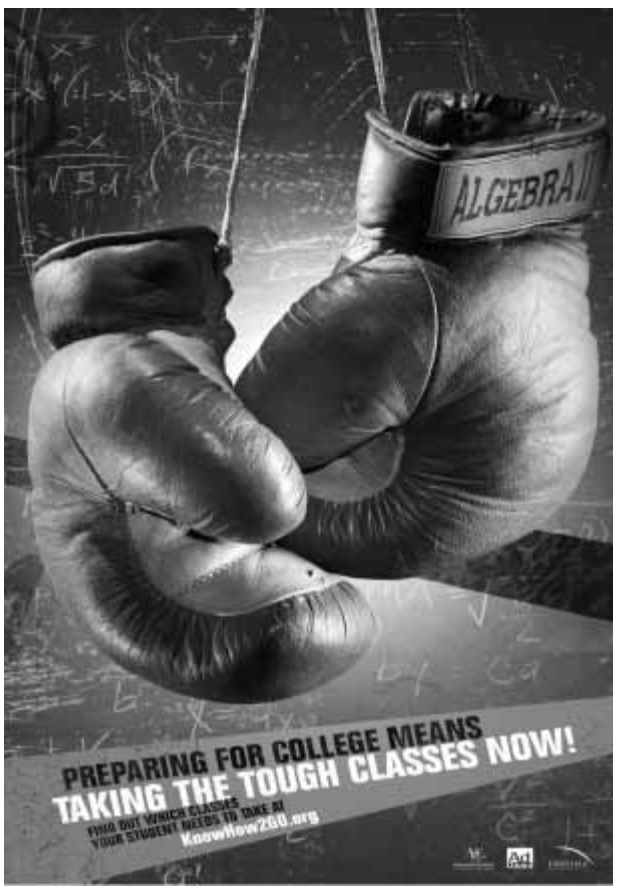
Editor:

This morning, going east on Pearl Street near Cloverfield Boulevard, I experienced a horrifying situation.

Two young boys were coming toward me headed west. One boy was in the middle lane of the eastbound street. The boy was coming at me with a big grin on his face. I came to a complete stop — still acted like he intended to ram the front of the car, but at the last moment, grin and all, he turned into his correct lane. Yes, I was shaking!

Please parents, do not allow your children on bikes until they know and understand the road rules. Someone could have been hurt.

Shirley Stumley
Santa Monica



On the Beat

By NRO Marilyn Amiache — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Protect yourself from cyber bullies

Q: I HAVE A TEENAGE SON WHO SPENDS a lot of time on the Internet and on his cellular phone. I was recently told by a co-worker that her son was a victim of cyber bullying. What is it exactly and what can I do to prevent my son from becoming a victim as well?

A: Online bullying, called cyber bullying, happens when teens use the Internet, cell phones, or other devices to send texts or post images intended to hurt or embarrass another person. The involved parties have to be minors on both sides, or at least have been instigated by a minor against another minor.

Most teenagers spend a lot of time on their cell phones or instant messaging with friends and uploading photos, videos, and music to websites. You may have online friends whom you've never met in person, with whom you play games and exchange messages. Today, many teens also have lives on the Internet and bullying has followed teens online.

Being a victim of cyber bullying can be a painful experience. Some youth who cyber bully pretend they are other people online to trick others, spread lies and rumors about victims and trick people into revealing personal information. They can also send or forward mean text messages and post pictures of victims without their consent.

Cyber bullying is a problem that affects almost half of all American teens. Whether you've been a victim, know someone who has, or have even cyber bullied yourself, there are steps you and your friends can take to stop it and stay cyber-safe. Cyber bullying is usually not a one-time communication.

Cyber bullying can be classified as a misdemeanor cyber harassment charge, or if the child is young enough may result in the charge of juvenile delinquency. It can typically result in a child losing their ISP or IM accounts as a term of service violation. And in some cases, if hacking or password and identity theft is involved it can be a serious criminal matter under state and federal law.

Unfortunately, a large percent of youth find cyber bullying funny and don't think it's a big deal. Some encourage each other and think they won't get caught doing it.

As a victim of cyber bullying there are preventative measures that can be taken to stop the activity such as blocking communication with the cyber bully, deleting messages without reading them, talking to a friend about it and reporting the problem to an Internet service provider.

Some teens feel threatened and scared because they may not know who the cyber bully is and think that they remain anonymous, however, there are ways to identify the source. Make sure you save all communication with the cyber bully and let someone you trust such as your parent, teacher or an adult you trust report it to the Santa Monica Police Department.

There are some additional Internet safety precautions teenagers should know while using the Internet. Remember that the Internet is accessed by millions of people all over the world, not just your friends and family. While many Internet users are friendly, some may want to hurt you. Below are some ways to stay cyber-safe:

• Never post or share your personal information online (this includes your full name, address, telephone number, school name, parents' names, credit card number, or Social Security number) or your friends' personal information.

• Never share your Internet passwords with anyone, except your parents.

• Never meet anyone face-to-face whom you only know online.

• Talk to your parents about what you do online.

If your child tells you he or she has been the victim of cyber bullying, or you suspect that he or she has, please do not hesitate to call the SMPD at (310) 458-8491, or you can call your neighborhood resource officer. Each one of our phone numbers and e-mail addresses are listed on our website www.santamonicapd.org.

Q: I live in Santa Monica and was wondering if there is a system in place that alerts residents in case of an emergency or important police activity?

A: Yes, the city of Santa Monica has recently implemented a system called SM Alerts. In the event of an emergency, such as an earthquake or police activity, you would receive safety notifications via text, e-mail or even on your home telephone. This gives residents in Santa Monica an easy way to stay up to date on City Hall projects, events and programs.

First you would need to sign up for SM Alerts at www.SMAlerts.net. When you create your profile, you can enter all the ways you would like public safety officials to try to contact you in an emergency: your mobile phone, your work e-mail or anywhere you would need to receive important safety messages. You can even register locations in Santa Monica of interest to you, such as your home, a relative's home or your child's school.

Should disaster strike, you'll receive key information on where to go and what to do to keep you and your family safe. SM Alerts allows our public safety officials to disseminate vital information to thousands of subscribers in a short period of time, so our whole community will be ready in an emergency.

You can also select from a range of community updates, including construction and traffic information, Big Blue Bus detours, even job opportunities with City Hall. The initial list of categories will be expanded over time to include more city projects and programs of interest to the community. Community updates will generally be sent via e-mail only, and you can add more categories or unsubscribe at any time.

City Hall's current e-mail notification system, WIN, will be phased out over the next several months and replaced by SM Alerts. To ensure continuity of information, residents and businesses that use the WIN system should register for the new SM Alerts system, and check frequently for new categories. City Hall will make every effort to notify WIN users and the public as new categories become available.

SM Alerts is available to all who live, work and play in the city of Santa Monica. People who have disabilities that prevent them from using the online system may sign up off-line by calling the Office of Emergency Management at (310) 458-2263.

The above information was provided by www.smgov.net

This column was prepared by Neighborhood Resource Officer **MARILYN AMIACHE** (Beat 2: Lincoln Boulevard to Ocean Front Walk, Interstate 10 to Ozone Avenue). She can be reached at (424) 200-0682 or marilyn.amiache@smgov.net.

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CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

The Santa Monica Daily Press is published six days a week, Monday through Saturday.

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2011. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West LA. Members of CNPA, AFCP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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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.

This past week, Q-line asked:
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?

Here are your responses:

"WITH PARKING IN THIS CITY AS SCARCE as it is, it's hard to believe 56 apartment units were approved with no parking provision at all. If the City Council is allowed to do this under some bizarre zoning trick, it is irresponsible and poorly serves the best interests of the people of this city."

"THIS IS TOTALLY OUTRAGEOUS. SOMEBODY must be getting paid off big time, Bell city style. I could not put two apartments on a quiet, never full street because supposedly there was not enough parking available and I was specifically told all new projects require a parking space per bedroom. City Council members are hypocrites selling us out. We need an Occupy Santa Monica movement."

"THERE IS NO NEED TO REQUIRE PARKING spaces for tenants at their units. They can store their cars north of Montana Avenue like so many renters are currently doing. And when the city streets are parked solid seven days a week, the city can pave the beach — and endless supply of parking spaces. And you wonder why they call it Silly Hall."

"WELL I DON'T THINK PEOPLE WHO ARE blind to reality in this town can miss the stench from this progressive deal. If anything helps you understand City Hall's utter incompetence in dealing with its hatred with the automobile and traffic flow, this is it. Their desire to ghetto-ize Santa Monica with over-development can only be accomplished by abolishing the automobile through traffic barriers, restrictive parking or heavy fees and fines. Incorrect leaders and their groveling trolls hate free speech, free movement, freedom to express ideas contradictory to political correctness. Building yet another carpetbagging, proletariat abomination will just help exceed the steady decline of our town into socialist nothingness, just like in the park Christmas displays. Merry Christmas to those who love Santa Monica, and merry Christmas to the rest of you."

"WELL, YOU'D THINK THAT IN THAT BIG A complex they would have parking. In California, usually it is the other way around. Those who don't drive get the wrong end of the stick. Due to limited space in what's predominantly studios, it just seems to make more sense to have more parking. We still have a long way to go before making California transit or bike friendly."

"AN INSTANT SLUM WITH NO ROOM FOR cars and very little for people. What a brilliant idea."

"THAT A LOCAL ARCHITECT, COMMISSIONER and political insider can whip up and ugly, space-filling design and get his cronies to rubber stamp it in violation of all land use and planning criteria, shows the Planning Commission and council corruption in a new and frightening light. Allowing 56 units to be built without any vehicle parking is beyond reprehensible. They all need to resign or face prosecution. The commission system and the cronyism inherent in it needs to be heavily revised immediately."

"NO PARKING SPACES MEANS MORE congestion on the streets. I think that each apartment should have a parking space for each of its tenants."

"I AM TOTALLY CONVINCED THAT THE idiots that run this city are deliberately turning our streets into one big parking lot. If a developer is allowed to build without providing adequate on-site parking, there should also be a list of restrictions. Number one, no one who rents a residential unit should be allowed to own or lease a motorized vehicle. Number two, if a renter buys or leases a motorized vehicle they should be found to be in violation of their rental agreement and evicted. Number three, no one who visits a residential unit should be allowed to arrive by a personal motorized vehicle. Number four, no owner or employee of retail space should be allowed to come to work by personalized motorized vehicle. You say this list is stupid. Well, it's not as stupid as no parking. Can you say Saint John's hospital."

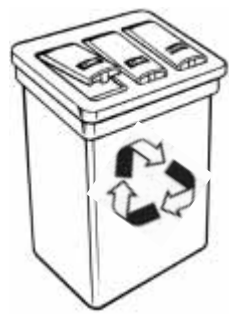
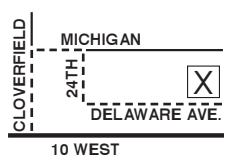
"IT'S ABSURD TO NOT PROVIDE PARKING for that apartment complex. That does seem to be the trend, moving forward with bicycles and all that. It's absurd with all the parking problems we have, especially in that area. Where are visitors supposed to park? In the Downtown structures that are already full. … If I was a developer I would probably design structures without parking, and if they object I would sue because they've already set a precedent."

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Tour De Feast

Michael Ryan
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Barney's offers a break from the shopping mayhem

HOLIDAY CRUNCH TIME ON THE THIRD Street Promenade certainly brings elevated levels of shopping mayhem. All of the congestion, large crowds and seasonal cheesiness does indeed bring out the Grinch in me.

Therefore, I try to stay as far away from the insanity as possible. But alas, I found myself getting sucked into the epicenter like a helpless vessel in the clutches of the Death Star's tractor beam. Fortunately, I did find solace in not one, but five bowls of chili at Barney's Beanery.

Word on the street was that The Beanery did a little overhaul to their menu, so a closer look was warranted. The menu was infamous for being about the size of a newspaper. They decided to make it more manageable by taking off many of the things people were not ordering. Fear not, if one of your favorites did not make the cut, chances are it is still available, it is just off-menu.

It is almost comical to think eight, item-crammed pages is scaled down. The reality is you can still belly up and order a burrito, chicken parmesan, French toast, a bottle of Dom Perignon, a slab of ribs, and a serious side of indigestion. And while quantity usually does not translate into quality, Barney's does a serviceable job when it comes to their food across the board. However, there are some offerings on the menu that Barney's is known for, most notably their chili.

It was at the original Route 66 roadhouse in West Hollywood where their chili gained its fame. Nine decades later Barney's has five locations and five varieties of chili as well. Ordering the chili sampler certainly was the way to go to get a taste of them all. The sampler came with their classic all meat chili, Texas chili, vegetarian chili, turkey chili, and the latest, fireman's chili. Each offering comes in a manageable bowl, accompanied with all your chili accouterments, and served on a pizza tray. It is quite a display.

Sizing the chilis up against each other is a great way to distinguish which ones make the grade, and which ones fall flat. For me, the vegetarian chili lacked flavor and depth. Perhaps it could have used some spices, or some greasy meat. The Texas chili was very good, but I was expecting it to be as hot as advertised. You certainly cannot go wrong with the classic all meat, as 90 years of history will tell you. But my favorite was an award winner, the fireman's chili. Earlier in the year, Barney's West Hollywood held a firefighter's chili cook-off fundraiser. L.A. County Fire Station 7 and their tri-tip black bean chili won the honor of being on Barney's menu. Slow-cooked cuts of tri-tip, black beans and spices simmered to perfection was a winner in my book as well.

With the winter months ahead and temperatures plummeting into the low 60s, Barney's Beanery is a great place to warm up with a hearty bowl of chili, or one of the other 9,000 offerings that they have on their menu.



Michael Ryan *news@smdp.com*

HEALTHY PORTIONS: **Emily McGrath serves up the chili sampler at the popular Barney's Beanery on the Third Street Promenade.**

If you go

Barney's Beanery
1351 Third Street Promenade
Santa Monica, Calif.
90401
(310) 656-5777
www.barneysbeanery.com/

MICHAEL can be seen riding around town on his bike burning calories so he can eat more food, or on CityTV hosting his own show, "Tour de Feast." To reach him visit his website at tourdefeast.net or follow him on Twitter @TourDeFeastSM.







The Re-View

Merv Hecht

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Disappointing service meets some disappointing dim sum

MANY A SUNDAY MORNING WE ENJOYED a dim sum brunch at the old VIP Seafood Restaurant on Wilshire Boulevard and Barrington Avenue. One nice feature was that we got dim sum right away from the rolling carts while we waited for a few special dishes.

The former name, VIP, has morphed into the Palace, and although the place looks very much the same, the management no longer provides good service or the same quality of dim sum. The dim sum is almost inedible. It is so sticky that you can't get it out of the container in one piece, so it ends up with the insides on your plate and the wrapping a big mess somewhere between the container and the plate.

Nor did the dim sum carts come quickly while we waited for the order to be taken and served. Partly it's because the place is so busy, but, for whatever other reasons, the carts just don't arrive at our table like before.

And speaking of waiting to place the order, the service is so poor that the last two times I was there I had to walk up to the front counter and ask the manager to get a waiter to our table, and to bring water and tea. I forgot to ask for the little sauce dishes so I had to make a second trip to ask the manager to remind the waiter, wherever he was, about the mustard and chili sauce.

Reviews on the Internet are even more negative about the service than this one!

So why is it so busy? I imagine it's because the VIP was so good, and people — including us — keep coming back. But also this is the only place I know on the Westside that serves dim sum from carts. There was a small selection of dim sum served at Xino, but that restaurant closed not to long ago. (Dear readers, if you know another dim sum restaurant on the Westside with rolling carts, please e-mail me.)

If you go

The Palace Seafood & Dim Sum Restaurant
11701 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles
90025
(310) 979-3377
http://thepalacedimsum.com/

But we do keep coming back because when the dishes do arrive, some are really wonderful. The whole fish is fresh and well seasoned in a number of ways, depending on your selection. There are a lot of very tasty shrimp, beef and chicken dishes all in the traditional Cantonese style. The roast duck is not as good as the Peking duck at Hop Woo further east, but the fresh seafood can't be beat.

Sometimes waiters walk around with especially popular dishes to distribute to those so enticed. They can be fried zucchini, steamed Chinese broccoli or shrimp in lobster sauce.

For dessert, which we rarely eat in other restaurants, we always have the sesame balls, filled with red kidney bean curd. They are deliciously sweet and chewy.

We still go back, time after time. But we no longer leave a tip. They're going to have to earn it.

MERV HECHT, the food and wine critic for the Santa Monica Daily Press, is a wine buyer and consultant to a number of national and international food and wine companies. He can be reached at mervynhecht@yahoo.com.

A fast, virtuous dip fit to serve company

BY J.M. HIRSCH
AP Food Editor

My goal was simple — a company-worthy dip that didn't involve a heart-stopping volume of sour cream.

If it also could be fast and easy to assemble, even better. Because face it, we need all the help we can to manage the chaos of cleaning and cooking that ensues any time company comes. Especially during the holidays.

Which is how I came up with this easy sweet potato dip spiked with chipotle peppers. Cooked sweet potatoes are blended with almonds, garlic, lemon juice, chipotle peppers and classic chili seasonings for a rich and creamy dip. Serve it with pretzels, tortilla chips, toasted baguette rounds, carrot sticks or hunks of flatbread.

This dip also is easy to dress up. Spoon it into a bowl, then top it with finely diced red onion, chopped scallions, a pinch of smoked paprika and even a dollop of sour cream.

This recipe also is incredibly versatile. If you have leftover roasted potatoes (sweet or otherwise), use those and just skip the cooking part. Or consider substituting steamed or roasted carrots for some of the sweet potatoes. The almonds also can be replaced with roasted peanuts or cashews.

Spicy sweet potato dip

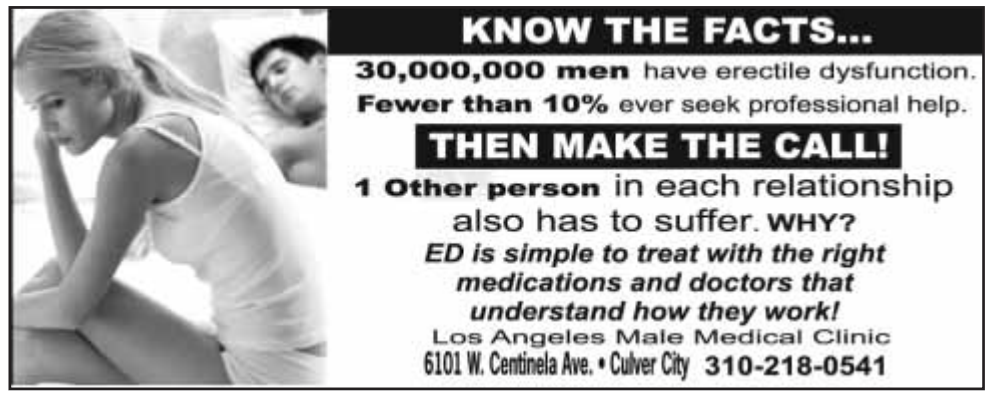
Start to finish: 20 minutes
Makes 3 1/2 cups
2 large sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into small chunks
3/4 cup toasted almonds
1 chipotle pepper in adobo sauce (more or less, to taste)
5 cloves garlic
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 teaspoon smoked paprika
1 teaspoon ground cumin
1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
Salt and ground black pepper

Place the sweet potato chunks in a medium microwave-safe bowl. Add several tablespoons of water, then microwave on high until tender, about 8 to 10 minutes. In a food processor, combine the cooked sweet potato, almonds, chipotle pepper, garlic, lemon juice, smoked paprika and cumin. With the processor running, drizzle in the olive oil and process until completely smooth. Taste, then season with salt and pepper.

Serve immediately or refrigerate until ready. If refrigerated, let come to room temperature before serving.

Nutrition information per 1/4 cup serving (values are rounded to the nearest whole number): 80 calories; 60 calories from fat (68 percent of total calories); 6 g fat (1 g saturated; 0 g trans fats); 0 mg cholesterol; 5 g carbohydrate; 1 g protein; 1 g fiber; 85 mg sodium.

Food editor J.M. Hirsch is author of the cookbook "High Flavor, Low Labor: Reinventing Weeknight Cooking." Follow him to great eats on Twitter at http://twitter.com/JM_Hirsch or e-mail him at jhirsch@ap.org.

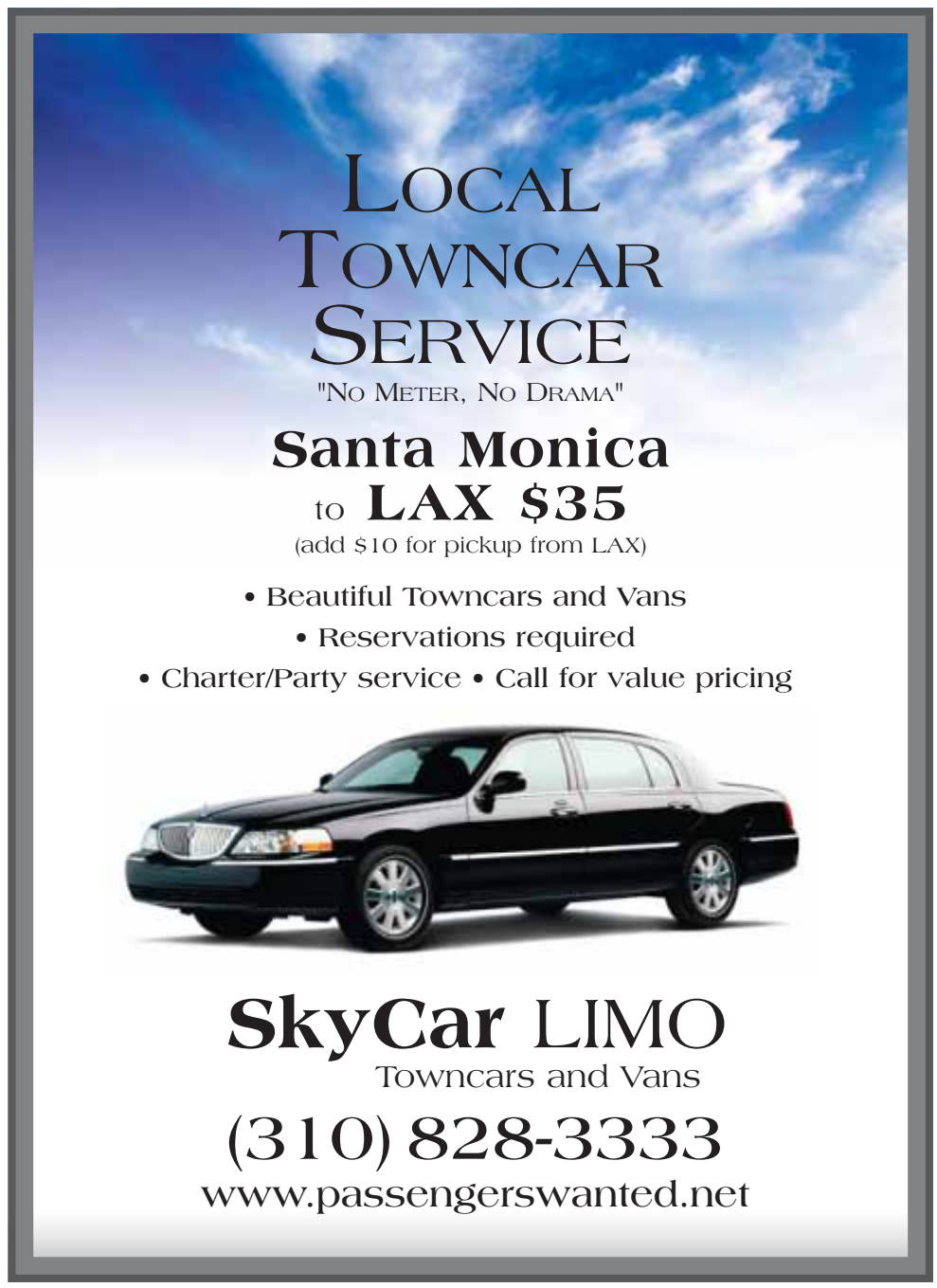




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WISH LIST

FROM PAGE 1

to Santa Monica's proposed dog beach.

"How about on-leash areas?" he queried.

Neighborhood-serving uses were high on President Jan Ludwinski's list, including bakeries, butchers and shoe stores and more Wi-Fi hotspots for Santa Monicans on the go.

Bicycles also got some love, with a request for courtesy golf cart rides to Downtown from the new bike center and increased space between cars and bicycles to encourage new bicyclists.

"While I'm dreaming, how about representative City Council members elected by district and a Planning Commission more responsive to residents than developers?" wrote co-Vice President Mary Marlow.

NORTHEAST NEIGHBORS

The Northeast Neighbors group shared that dream, focusing four of their six requests on reform of the City Council.

The neighbors called for a new slate of council candidates who vow to accept no contributions from developers working in the city, as well as a political action committee formed exclusively to help those candidates who choose to campaign without developer funds.

They also want a strict conflict of interest policy that would exclude council members from voting on any issue that involves a person or group that has contributed to them.

The requests come as a group called the Santa Monica Transparency Project has begun releasing analysis of campaign contribution forms showing that many council members took money from companies and individuals from outside the city.

Northeast Neighbors also requested a more enlightened parking policy to keep local employees from using neighborhoods as "free parking lots" and that City Hall strive to reduce congestion "with a plan that consists of more than adding bicycle racks."

FRIENDS OF SUNSET PARK

When the Friends of Sunset Park drafted its list to Santa, it took aim at broad social issues alongside the day-to-day improvements it hopes for.

The FOSP board sought "homes for the homeless and jobs for the jobless," adequate state funding for the public schools and the elimination of gang-related shootings of young people.

FOSP also hoped for a City Council that took a more discerning eye to its contracts with developers, a plan to reduce traffic, a cap on enrollment at Santa Monica College (33,000 in Spring 2011) and the removal of jets, flight schools and leaded gas in prop planes from Santa Monica Airport.

The cherry on the cake was a plea to save the embattled Village Trailer Park "and all of our residential neighborhoods."

WILMONT

Parking, parking, parking!

Wait, what did you want, Wilmont?

The northern neighborhood group hopes for spots for residents, employees and business customers to leave their cars, and improved bus transportation with stops at Wilshire Boulevard and Arizona Avenue so "our cars can spend much more time enjoying their spaces!"

Thinking of transport, Wilmont wished for greater cooperation from the FAA to downsize Santa Monica Airport, particularly by removing the jets, reducing pattern flights and protecting the residents of Santa Monica and Los Angeles.

In the holiday spirit, Wilmont also hopes for the reinstatement of the nativity scenes in Palisades Park, which were displaced by a number of atheist displays this year.

"We should figure out how to include the many faiths that are part of our wonderful city," Wilmont wrote.

The most unlikely wish to be granted: That the pastries sold on Montana Avenue turn out to be health food.

MID-CITY NEIGHBORS

If you're looking for Newt Gingrich-sized big ideas, look no further than Mid-City Neighbors.

The group was recently reconstituted, and member Gregg Heacock has been a constant presence at public meetings suggesting out-of-the-box solutions to Santa Monica's problems.

Heacock hoped that neighborhood associations like Mid-City would create a comprehensive vision of what they would like to see out of future development, and that planners would include those thoughts as they move forward with building plans.

He also weighed in on the Village Trailer Park with a plea to save the park and turn a portion of it into a museum.

Like other groups, transportation popped up, this time a request for an east-west connector public transportation route.

And for the less fortunate, Heacock requested a community service option for those who cannot afford tickets and to see those efforts headed up by the homeless population. Those would include tidying the shrubbery in the public right of way, providing dog owners with extra bags for their canine messes and supplying "dedicated recyclers" with special carts.

"Empowering the homeless by letting them head up campaigns to help people clean up their own neighborhoods could deliver an uplifting message to us all," Heacock wrote.

PICO NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

The PNA wants an eraser for Christmas that would remove unwanted development.

Its first task — to save the Village Trailer Park from redevelopment as a condominium and affordable housing project.

A portion of the proposed Bergamot Village project would disappear, making it more village-like, and the Exposition Maintenance Yard, currently planned for the Pico Neighborhood, would also vanish, or at least be relocated far from a residential neighborhood.

"And while we are at it," wrote Wes Thompson, president of the PNA, "a single-payer health program and a Democratic landslide in 2012."

Hey Santa, are you listening?

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SANTA
FROM PAGE 1

endures belittling commercials that portray him shopping at Target or taking directions from an iPhone. He shrugs off scolds who say his bagful of toys overshadows the reason for the season.

Two-thirds of parents with kids under 18 say Santa's an important part of their celebrations this year. Moms, especially, have a soft spot for the man in red — 71 percent of them say he's important, and that's a big jump from 58 percent just five years ago.

His overall popularity is up slightly from an AP-AOL poll in 2006, before the recession hit. In these bleaker times of homes lost to foreclosure and parents sweating out their next paychecks, the poll shows Santa riding high with families both wealthy and poor.

Maybe that's because the big guy's always known how to stretch a dollar to make a kid smile.

Smith, whose childhood gifts were mostly handmade by her mother — things like cookies and knit scarves — remembers that every year Santa Claus managed to put one present under the tree for her to share with her two brothers (four more siblings came later).

"One year it was a bicycle, one year we had a sled. One year we got a puppy — his name was Jack and he was a border collie," recalls Smith, now 70.

"We didn't have a lot," she said, "but we didn't know it. Our mother and daddy made it a wonderful time for us."

In multicultural America, Father Christmas isn't just for Christians any more. Three-fourths of non-Christian adults say they believed in Santa when they were children. And half feel he's important to their holiday celebrations now.

Developmental psychologist Cyndy Scheibe, who's been interviewing kids about Santa since 1986, said lots of Jewish children told her that Santa Claus was real, even though he didn't stop at their houses on Christmas Eve.

And many non-Christian parents embrace Santa because they see Christmas serving as a secular as well as religious holiday in the U.S., she said.

"Santa Claus is more than someone who just comes and gives you a present, it's this whole spirit of giving and magic that you get to be a part of and celebrate," said Scheibe, an associate professor at Ithaca College in New York.

That's what keeps Santa going over the decades and across cultures, she said. "That, and there's almost nothing as much fun as getting to see your kid's face so completely excited."

Scheibe knows firsthand. She used to climb a ladder to the roof every Christmas, her daughter watching, to leave a key tied to a big red bow, because they didn't have a fireplace.

It's not all snowflakes and mistletoe in Santaland, however. Even among Christians, there's tension about how big a role, if any, a jolly old elf deserves in the celebration of Christ's birth.

Almost half of Americans polled said Santa detracts from the religious significance of Christmas more than he enhances it.

When she was growing up, Naomi Stenberg's fundamentalist Baptist parents didn't want her mixed up with Santa Claus or the Easter Bunny or Halloween trick-or-treating.

"I didn't understand why everybody else got to believe in Santa, and me and my brother didn't," says Stenberg, 32, now a stay-at-home mom in Baxter, Minn. "I felt left out."

Her own three children have gotten the full Kris Kringle experience, but sometimes she feels ill-equipped to handle the tough queries from her youngest, 6-year-old Rylen.

"She's been asking questions like how does Santa fit through the chimney," she said. "I don't know how to answer things like that."

Matt Hoyt vividly remembers seeing Santa's black boots peeking out from behind his bedroom curtains when he was a boy. He froze. "I was just trying to pretend to be asleep," Hoyt said, "so I'd get my presents."

Only much later did he realize those were probably the black shoes of his dad, hanging his new "Star Wars" drapes. Now Hoyt, a 35-year-old computer engineer from Houston, is awaiting the birth of his first child in April, and wondering how long that child will believe.

In the poll, the median age when adults said they outgrew Santa was 8. Hoyt suspects his child's generation will turn away even earlier. After all, "They've got Google at their fingertips."

But Santa needn't worry. They'll come back someday ... when they're parents.

The Associated Press-GfK Poll was conducted Dec. 8-12 by GfK Roper Public Affairs and Corporate Communications. It involved landline and cellphone interviews with 1,000 adults nationwide and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

MEMORIES
FROM PAGE 3

bike in Nebraska."

• CARLA BARRETT, VICE PRESIDENT OF BARRETT'S APPLIANCES.

"My oldest daughter was born at eight minutes after midnight on Dec. 24. We brought here home two hours later. When she was 12 hours old, my husband took her in his arms and walked out our back gate to her first Christmas party at Barrett's Appliances. I carefully and slowly followed. We shared the joy of our child with people who were very much a part of our lives."

• SUSAN GABRIEL POTTER, PRESIDENT, BOB GABRIEL CO. INSURANCE.

"Chestnuts roasting on an open fire brings to mind the warm feelings of the holiday season. I fondly remember that song being played as the family gathered around our perfectly decorated Christmas tree. Weeks before Christmas, I recall preparing my list for jolly old St. Nick. At the top of my list was a bright red accordion. My mom and dad had taken me to a carnival were I first saw this delight. I thought that I would have fun playing this kind of instrument. Santa had been very good to me each year as I was on his good children's list and would bring me at least one present from my list. Christmas morning came and we ran to the living room to see what Santa brought us. We took turns opening each gift. When it came to my turn, I was so excited that I could hardly wait to rip the paper off. To my surprise, under the wrappings, was my shiny red accordion."

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Courtesy PETA

NEW MESSAGE: **PETA would like to add this poster to the religious scenes in Palisades Park.**

SCENES
FROM PAGE 1

Hall even get involved.

City officials couldn't be reached for comment as of presstime.

After hearing about the struggle between religious and atheist groups over the scenes on a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, PETA officials thought there was enough public interest to warrant their entry into the fray.

"We thought this would be an appropriate sentiment in the midst of this contention time," said Lindsay Rajt, PETA's associate director of campaigns. "When we heard people on both sides were talking about it, it interested us."

PETA officials reached out to Vix Friday in a letter asking him to consider including their message

"As an atheist, a friend of the late Madalyn Murray O'Hair (founder of American Atheists), and a former speaker at the American Atheists convention in Florida long ago, may I ask for your help?" wrote PETA President Ingrid E. Newkirk. "Would you be so kind as to allow PETA to use one of the vacant spaces you have so cleverly obtained in the Santa Monica 'nativity lottery' so that we can set up our 'Give Peas a Chance' billboard?"

Although Vix is holding that it's too late this year, he said that he would be happy to include PETA in his plans next year. He's intent on requesting the maximum of nine sites for himself and will again help a number of atheist groups apply for spaces as well.

"Nationwide, this is a movement that is very positive for us," Vix said. "We're standing up for our civil rights."

Vix began his desire to occupy space in the park two years ago because he believes that City Hall has no business offering the space to religious groups in the first place. By taking up the spots, he hopes that sooner or later officials will rethink the practice and stop it altogether.

Until then, he plans on applying each year, building his displays and creating a discussion about the separation of church and state and free speech.

"The only victory would be if the city never instigated the program," he said. "Besides, I'd like to use the park itself as my display. The space should be used as just that."

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STATE BRIEFS

WEST HOLLYWOOD

Rapper 'Tyler, the Creator' arrested for vandalism

The rapper known as "Tyler, the Creator," was arrested after authorities say he got rowdy following a show at The Roxy Theatre in West Hollywood.

Los Angeles County sheriff's Sgt. Arthur Famble Jr. said the rapper was arrested Thursday night after he appeared in a show by his group, Odd Future, and destroyed the Sunset Strip nightclub's electronic soundboard.

The sergeant said Roxy security guards called deputies, and the 20-year-old rapper, whose real name is Tyler Gregory Okonma, was booked for investigation of felony vandalism. He was released early Friday on $20,000 bail.

As Okonma was being led to a squad car, the crowd leaving the Roxy became angry and rushed toward deputies, Famble said.

Additional deputies were called in to disperse the crowd, and Sunset Boulevard was shut down for about a half-hour.

No one was hurt.

Telephone numbers for Okonma and his Los Angeles record company couldn't be found. Okonma said in a Twitter message that he wasn't arrested.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

RANDSBURG

Bodies of off-roaders found in Mojave Desert

The bodies of two Santa Barbara off-roaders have been found at the bottom of a ravine in the Mojave Desert five days after they went missing on an all-terrain vehicle, authorities said.

Searchers found the bodies of Chris Wayne Rice, 29, and Daniel Preddy Carbonaro, 27, on Thursday less than two miles from a Kern County sheriff's command post in Randsburg, a ghost town and a mecca for off-roaders, Lt. Steve Hansen said.

The area east of California City near U.S. Route 395 is pocked with abandoned open mine shafts and steep ravines. The remote area is about 90 miles north of Los Angeles.

One of the men was inside the four-wheel ATV while the other was ejected, sheriff's Lt. Dave Barker said.

The men are believed to have fallen at least 300 feet.

AP

RIVERSIDE

Officer shoots armed parolee after car, foot chase

A Southern California police officer has shot an armed parolee after a high-speed car chase and foot pursuit in Riverside.

Investigators say 22-year-old Michael Charles Easley of Los Angeles is hospitalized and he will be booked for violating parole and being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Detectives say Easley was a passenger in a car driven by 22-year-old Stephania Session of Beaumont. She was released after being booked for evading a police officer.

Riverside officers attempted to stop Sessions' vehicle at 8:17 p.m. Thursday but the vehicle sped away at high speed.

Investigators say the car eventually stopped behind a business and Easley jumped out of the car and ran. He was shot several times by an officer chasing him on foot.

No other details have been released.

AP

BELL

New mayor considering run for Assembly

The new mayor of Bell may be considering a run for higher office.

The Los Angeles Times says Ali Saleh has taken out papers to run for state Assembly in southeast Los Angeles County. Saleh, however, says he won't make a decision on whether to enter the 63rd Assembly District primary until February.

Saleh, a clothing shop owner, says he's torn between running for Assembly or remaining with Bell, but believes he can do more for the city as an assemblyman.

Saleh was swept into office as a reformer during the midst of Bell's massive corruption scandal which resulted in eight city officials facing criminal corruption charges.

With redistricting, the 63rd District is an open seat. Democratic Assemblyman Ricardo Lara, who now represents Bell, is running for state Senate.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Feds provide $2M for rebuilding of torched bridge

The U.S. Department of Transportation is making $2 million in emergency funds immediately available to California to help repair a Los Angeles-area overpass damaged by last week's big-rig gasoline tanker fire.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood said in a statement Thursday that the funds should help speed the rebuilding process of the Paramount Boulevard overpass on State Route 60 in Montebello. The bridge has already been partially demolished following the Dec. 14 accident.

The federal funding became possible after Gov. Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency Tuesday.

The damaged overpass has resulted in bottlenecks on Paramount Boulevard and restricted access to businesses, which are the primary source of revenue for the area.

The highway, known as the Pomona Freeway, is a major commuter corridor east of downtown Los Angeles.

AP

TUSTIN

Naked man jumps from ambulance, dies on freeway

The California Highway Patrol says a man has died after he jumped naked out of an ambulance on a freeway and was hit by a truck while trying to flee.

CHP Officer John Patterson told The Orange County Register the man began acting erratically Friday as the ambulance was northbound on Interstate 5 in Tustin.

The driver stopped in the center divider area and the man leaped out the back.

Patterson says the man jumped over the divider's concrete wall, ran across southbound lanes and onto a connector road, where an off-duty deputy grabbed him and tried to calm him down.

Patterson says the man broke free and jumped in front of a pickup truck that struck and killed him. His name hasn't been released.

Experts see 2012 as an up year for stocks

BERNARD CONDON
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK The good news is that Wall Street experts think stock prices will rise more than 10 percent next year. The bad news is that they expected big gains in 2011 and got nearly zero instead.

It's forecasting time on Wall Street, and once again the pros are trying to predict the unpredictable. History suggests their target price for stocks by the end of 2012 will prove too high or too low. They might even get the direction wrong — predicting a gain when there's a loss.

As Yogi Berra said, "It's tough to make predictions, especially about the future."

In typical times, guessing where stocks will end up in a year is difficult. There are many assumptions about economic growth, inflation and consumer spending that go into the calculation.

Now, forecasting has become nearly impossible. Big unknowns hang over the market as rarely before. Will the euro break up? Will China slow too sharply? Will squabbling in Washington scuttle the economic recovery?

"Normally, you wonder, How will sales do? How are managements doing?" says Howard Silverblatt, senior index analyst at Standard & Poor's, which puts out its own forecasts. "Now there are so many high-level issues that affect the market."

Silverblatt's firm says the S&P 500 index should rise to 1,400 by the end of 2012, up more than 10 percent from Friday's close of 1,265. That figure is an average of expectations from investment strategists, economists and other big thinkers. More bullish yet are stock analysts focused on individual companies. Add up their price targets for each stock in the index, and they see it rising to 1,457, up 15 percent.

There's plenty of reason to think stocks will rise fast in the coming year. U.S. companies are generating record profits. Americans are spending more than expected and factories are producing more. The job market finally appears to be healing, too.

The odds of the U.S. slipping into another recession have fallen since the summer, when the economy had slowed.

Stocks seem attractively priced, too. The S&P 500 is trading at 12 times its expected earnings per share for 2012. It typically trades at 15 times, meaning stocks appear cheaper now.

Binky Chadha, chief strategist at Deutsche Bank, says the S&P 500 could hit 1,500 by the end of 2012, a gain of more than 18 percent.

Still, there is worry amid the bullishness.

Michael Hartnett, chief global equity strategist at Bank of America-Merrill Lynch, expects the S&P to close next year at 1,350, up 6.7 percent from Friday's close. He thinks the U.S. will avoid recession and U.S. companies will generate decent profits.

What could wreck that prediction is a worse situation in Europe than he is expecting. If European leaders move too slowly to solve their government debt crisis, the region could fall into a deep recession and throw the U.S. into one, too. If Europe tanks, profits will drop sharply and push the S&P down to 1,000, he says. That would be a sharp drop of 21 percent from Friday's close.

The frightening part is that Hartnett gives this "bear" case four-in-10 odds.

Similarly, Barry Knapp, strategist at Barclays Capital, predicts the S&P will rise to 1,330 next year. But he expects Europe's struggles with its debt and Washington gridlock could lead investors to sell before they buy. He says the S&P could fall to 1,150 by the middle of the year before rising to his target.

It could drop sooner. In the first three months next year, Italy needs to sell national bonds to raise money to pay holders of $172 billion worth of old ones coming due. The risk is that investors will demand high interest rates to buy the new bonds, and that will spread fears of a possible default. After Italy was forced to pay unexpectedly high rates in a bond auction earlier this month, stocks fell hard around the world.

"The crisis could become systemic," says Athanasios Vamvakidis, head European currency strategist at Bank of America-Merrill Lynch. "That would threaten not only Europe, but the whole global recovery."

One solution is to invest in companies selling goods that people need in both good times and bad, such as drugs and food. If the economy falls into recession, profits of these companies are less likely to collapse.

In 2011, these so-called defensive companies bucked the flat market. Stocks of utility companies have risen almost 15 percent through Friday. Healthcare and consumer staples were each up 10. Standouts include insurer UnitedHealth Group Inc., which has risen 42 percent, and Kraft Foods, up almost 20 percent.

Then again, you might do better investing in the opposite kind of companies, like makers of toys and other consumer discretionary goods. Their profits tend to zoom up and down with the economy.

A report from S&P Capital IQ notes that stocks of cyclical companies such as these tend to gain the most after market drops like the one in October, when stocks fell nearly 20 percent.

In the five times that the S&P 500 has fallen between 15 percent and 25 percent since 1978, consumer discretionary stocks have risen an average 30 percent in the next six months, according to S&P. Those stocks are up 16 percent since their Oct. 3 lows.

One reason it's difficult to guess future stock prices is that figuring out where the economy is heading isn't so easy either.

In December 2007, economists expected the economy to grow an average 2.4 percent in 2008, according to a survey of three dozen of them by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. It shrank 0.3 percent instead. For 2009, they forecast the economy would shrink 0.8 percent. It shrank 3.5 percent.

Economists were more accurate the next two years, though not by much. Now they say the economy will grow 2.2 percent next year.

A few mutual fund managers say people aren't skeptical enough about forecasts. In a recent letter to their investors, the folks who run Castle Focus, a $43 million fund, say hopes of big profits may be dashed given all the economic uncertainty. The fund had 28 percent of its assets in cash in September, its latest report.

Most funds are doing the opposite and investing cash. The average stock mutual fund had just 3.5 percent of its assets in cash in October, according to a report from the Investment Company Institute. That is the nearly the lowest level since the firm started keeping records 25 years ago.

Maybe fund managers have been listening too much to bullish stock analysts. For the record, the same analysts surveyed by S&P who expect a 16 percent stock jump next year were optimistic about 2011, too. A year ago, they called for the S&P to rise 9 percent.

It still may, but the odds are long and time is running out. As of Friday, the index was up 0.6 percent for the year.

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D.U.I. Do's & Don'ts

With a slumping economy, ensuing global conflicts and our own personal dilemmas, a few drinks come as a welcome respite for many. But before you have that extra glass of wine at dinner, make sure you are aware of some new laws and issues that may drastically affect your driving privileges. California has some of the toughest DUI laws in the country, and while no one plans to get arrested for DUI, here are 5 helpful tips to remember if you find yourself at the wrong end of a DUI checkpoint this year.

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

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

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

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

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

THIS COLUMN WAS PREPARED BY JACOB GLUCKSMAN, A CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY. HE CAN BE REACHED THROUGH THE LEGAL GRIND AT 310-452-8160 OR REFERRAL@LEGALGRIND.COM

Disclaimer: this article does not constitute legal advice and does not create an attorney client relationship.

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5:00–6:00pm	(1st & 3rd Monday/Month) Small Business-startups, Non-profit law, Green & Sustainable Business Practices, Corporations, Contract Drafting, Business Litigation and Employment Law with Attorney Becki Kammerling
5:00–6:00pm	(1st & 3rd Monday/Month) Tenant Rights, Auto accidents, Products Liability, Insurance & Business Disputes, Personal Injury & Small Claims with Attorney Mark Palmer
TUESDAY	
9:00-12:00noon	Patent, Trademark and Copyright Law with Attorney Marcus Risso (By appointment only)
1:00-4:00pm	Employment Law: Wrongful Termination, Sexual harassment, Disability Accommodation, Leave Law, Discrimination, Retaliation, Whistle Blower, Wage & Hour disputes with Attorney Sara Eliot
WEDNESDAY	
5:00-6:30pm	Divorce and Legal Separation; Domestic Partnerships; Child Custody, Support and Visitation; Spousal Support; Prenuptial Agreements & Mediation with Family Law Specialist Attorney Elizabeth Fields
THURSDAY	
12:00-2:00pm	Immigration and Family Law with Attorney Galorah Keshavarz (By appointment Only)
5:00-6:00pm	Chapter 7 and 13 Bankruptcy Filings, Debt Negotiation and Personal Injury cases with Attorneys Paul Mankin and/or Jeff Hughes (By appointment Only)
5:00–6:00pm	(2nd & 4th Thursday/Month) Landlord/Tenant Rights & Obligations, Small Claims, Restraining Orders/Domestic Violence & General Practice Law with Attorney John Wittig
FRIDAY	
4:00-5:00pm	(2st & 4th Friday/Month) Criminal, DMV & Traffic Law: Felony and Misdemeanor Crimes with former Deputy D.A. and Attorney Jacob Glucksman
SATURDAY	
10am-12noon	(1st, 3rd, & 5th Saturday/Month) Estate Planning, Trust & Will Contests Probate, Elder Law, Business Litigation, Formation & Dissolution, Contracts, HOA & Personal Injury with Attorney Richard Ruman
10am-11:30am	(2nd & 4th Sat/Month) Employment/Labor Law including wrongful termination, sexual harassment, wage & hour claims, severance issues; and Family Law/Divorce including support, custody, & prenuptial agreements with Attorney Todd Smilovitz.

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More retailers pull formula after death in Missouri

ALAN SCHER ZAGIER
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. Several more national retailers have joined Wal-Mart Stores Inc. in pulling a batch of powdered infant formula from their shelves after a Missouri newborn who consumed it apparently died of a rare bacterial infection, the companies said Friday.

Officials at Supervalu Inc., Walgreen Co., Kroger Co. and Safeway said they have removed 12.5-ounce cans of Enfamil Newborn with the lot number ZP1K7G from various stores across the country as a precaution until federal health officials complete tests on the formula.

Ten-day-old Avery Cornett died Sunday after getting sick several days earlier in the southern Missouri town of Lebanon. Preliminary hospital tests indicated he died of a rare infection caused by bacteria known as Cronobacter sakazakii.

The source of the bacteria that caused the infection hasn't been determined, but it can be found in dried milk and powdered formula as well as naturally in the environment and in plants such as wheat and rice.

"Out of an abundance of caution, we are removing the formula from certain stores," Supervalu spokesman Mike Siemienas said Friday. "We will hold these products from sale until we receive additional guidance from regulatory authorities and the manufacturer."

Retailers under the Supervalu corporate banner that pulled the product include Shaw's, a New England grocer; Shop 'n Save in St. Louis; Jewel-Osco in the Chicago area; Acme supermarkets in New Jersey and Philadelphia; Farm Fresh in Virginia; and some Albertson's in southern California.

Kroger officials said they withdrew the formula from properties in Arizona, Indiana, New Mexico and the mid-Atlantic region. Kroger spokesman Keith Dailey said the company was able to remove most of the questionable batch from its warehouses and distribution centers before they were sent to retail outlets.

Officials with Walgreen Co. did not indicate how many stores were affected, or their locations, while the affected Safeway stores were primarily in the Chicago area, a company spokeswoman said.

Wal-Mart earlier this week announced its decision to pull the product from more than 3,000 stores nationwide. Avery's parents bought their formula from a local Walmart in Lebanon, which is 160 miles southwest of St. Louis along Interstate 44.

A second infant in Missouri fell ill late last month after consuming several different types of powdered baby formula, but that child recovered, health officials said. The state health agency in Illinois, where the child lives, is investigating that case.

"We don't have enough information at this time to connect the two cases," Food and Drug Administration spokeswoman Siobhan Delancey said Friday.

The FDA, the Centers for Disease Control and the Missouri Department of Health are investigating the circumstances surrounding Avery's death. Delancey said test results won't be available until next week.

Investigators have collected samples of both liquid and powdered formula used by Avery's family as well as unopened formula purchased at stores, including the Lebanon Walmart.

The incidents also prompted authorities in an Illinois county east of St. Louis to test for the infection in a 25-day-old infant girl who died Wednesday.

Madison County Coroner Stephen Nonn said a cause of death for the Granite City baby won't be determined until lab tests come back, but an autopsy revealed no physical evidence of infection. The child was born four weeks premature and may have suffered congenital or developmental defects, the coroner said.

Deputy Madison County coroner Roger Smith said the child consumed another type of Enfamil formula than the kind pulled from shelves after the Missouri death.

Formula manufacturer Mead Johnson Nutrition Co. said earlier this week that tests showed the pulled batch was negative for the bacteria before it was shipped. A company spokesman did not respond to several requests for additional comment Friday.

The company told investors it plans to retest saved samples from the recalled batch, but the company did not undertake its own recall.

Wall Street investors reacted warily to the news, with shares of Mead Johnson falling a second straight day Friday amid investor concerns.



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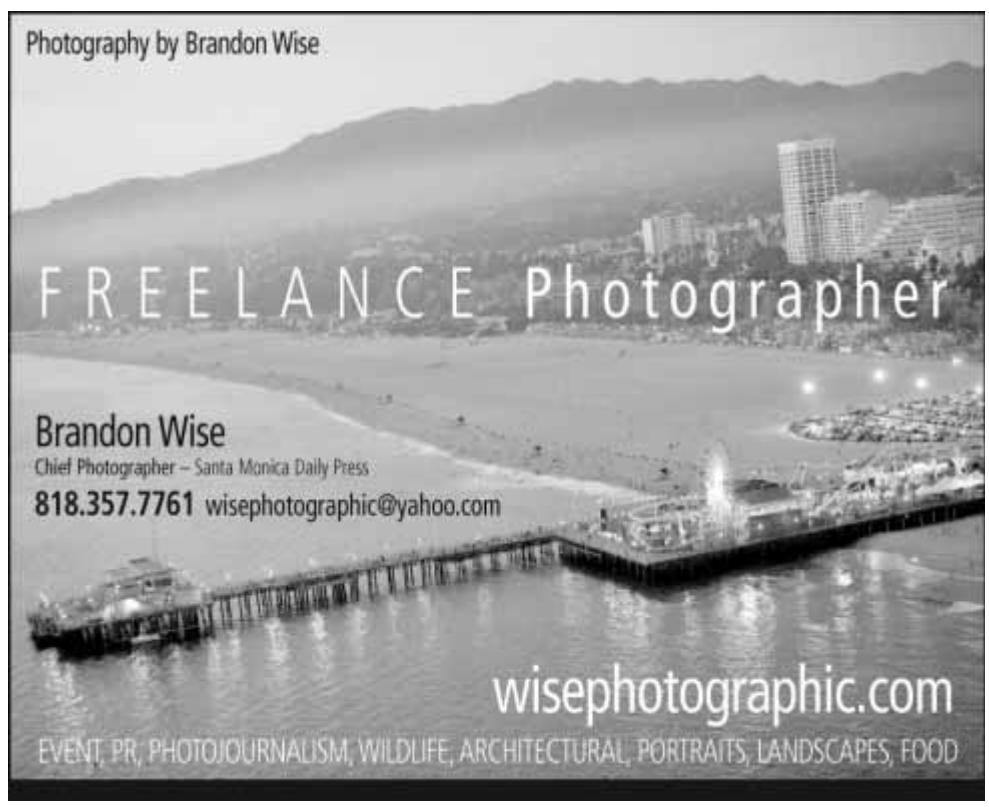
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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

Swell Forecast

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.

Long Range Synopsis

NW swell should arrive in SoCal. South facing breaks are looking at waist to chest high sets while west facing breaks are looking like chest high with occasional pluses near head high.

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 21, 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 -- 6
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 25 / 10
- 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 Lechasa 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.	D	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 fences.	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+	D
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	C	C
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	F
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	B	A+
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.	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	F	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	B
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	F
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A	F
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	D	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	B
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A	F
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	A
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A	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	B
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	F	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	A+
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	B
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	B	A
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	B
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 is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life.

Heal the Bay

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

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

MLB

Fox Sports wins ruling in Dodgers bankruptcy case

RANDALL CHASE
AP Business Writer

DOVER, Del. A U.S. District Court judge in Delaware on Friday dealt a significant blow to the Los Angeles Dodgers' plans to sell the media rights to future games, halting the sales process while he consider an appeal by Fox Sports.

Judge Leonard Stark also said he likely will agree with Fox's position that a bankruptcy judge who authorized the sale process erred when he determined that certain protections granted to Fox in its existing contract with the Dodgers were unenforceable in bankruptcy.

"The court is also likely to conclude that the bankruptcy court opinion and/or order are based on one or more clearly erroneous findings of fact," wrote Stark, who said he would issue an opinion on Tuesday further explaining his reasons for granting Fox's request for an emergency stay of the bankruptcy order.

Attorneys for the Dodgers and the team's creditors committee had warned Stark at a hearing Thursday that issuing the stay could torpedo plans to sell both the team and the media rights by the April 30 deadline included in a settlement between the Dodgers and Major League Baseball.

But Stark noted in his order that it is "undisputed" that the team itself will be sold by April 30, even with entry of the stay, and that the stay will not substantially injure the Dodgers or the creditors committee.

"LAD has no comment other than that it will be reviewing the court's opinion when issued on Tuesday," a Dodgers spokeswoman wrote Friday in an email replying to a request for comment.

Fox Sports spokesman Chris Bellitti also had little comment.

"We're letting the legal process play out," he said.

Lawyers for Major League Baseball and a spokesman for the league did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

Stark is set to hear arguments on the merits of Fox's appeal at a Jan. 12 hearing, but Thursday's hearing on whether to issue the emergency stay offered a prelude to next month's arguments.

Fox attorney Catherine Steege argued Thursday that U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Kevin Gross exceeded his authority in authorizing the media rights sale, saying Gross effectively rewrote the existing contract between Fox and the Dodgers.

That contract gives Fox an exclusive 45-day period starting in October 2012 to try to negotiate a contract extension with the Dodgers. The contract also prohibits the Dodgers from talking to other potential buyers of the media rights before Nov. 30 of next year and gives Fox a limited right of first refusal on competing offers received after that date.

But in his order, Gross said those "no-shop" provisions were unenforceable in bankruptcy, a finding that Stark indicated likely will not pass legal muster.

The sales process approved by Gross also moves up the exclusive negotiating period by about 10 months, giving Fox until Jan. 19 to strike a new deal with the Dodgers. Even if current Dodgers management reaches a new telecast rights agreement with Fox, that agreement still would be subject to approval by the successful bidder for the team, a condition Fox says decreases its leverage in negotiations.

Stark said Fox had met its burden of showing that it would be irreparably harmed without the stay because the media rights sale process approved by Gross gives Fox a lesser chance of winning the right to televise Dodgers games after 2013 than it had before Gross entered his order.

Stark also said the bankruptcy court order compels Fox to negotiate with the Dodgers without the full leverage that Fox contracted for, and that issuing the stay was in the public's interest, particularly in seeing that contractual rights are enforced.

The Dodgers sought bankruptcy protection in June after baseball Commissioner Bud Selig rejected a new TV deal with Fox that Dodgers owner Frank McCourt was counting on to keep the franchise solvent. After the bankruptcy filing, attorneys for Selig successfully fought to force the Dodgers to accept bankruptcy financing from Major League Baseball, arguing at the same time that McCourt should be forced to sell the team.

After threatening to seek bankruptcy court permission to sell the media rights without the approval of MLB, the Dodgers reached an agreement with the league that calls for a sale of both the team and the media rights.

The April 30 sale deadline in the settlement between the Dodgers and MLB coincides with the deadline for McCourt to pay $131 million to his ex-wife, Jamie, as part of their divorce settlement.

Fox Sports has argued that a sale of the team itself without the media rights will generate enough money to pay Dodgers creditors in full without subjecting the team or its new owner to damages for breaching the existing contract with Fox.

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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
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(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

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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

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

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

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

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

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



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



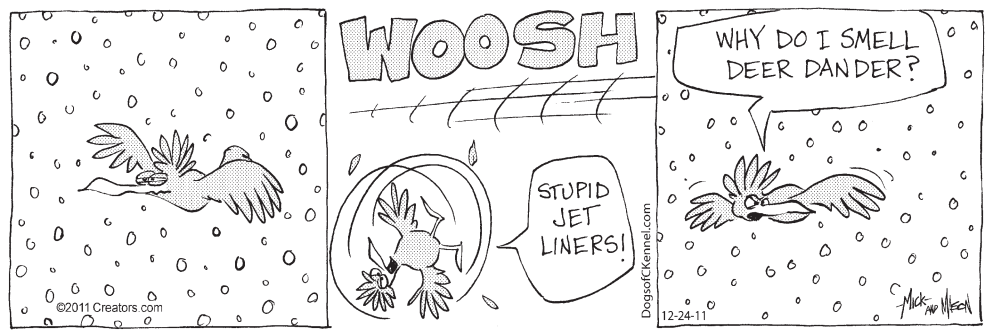
Strange Brew

By John Deering



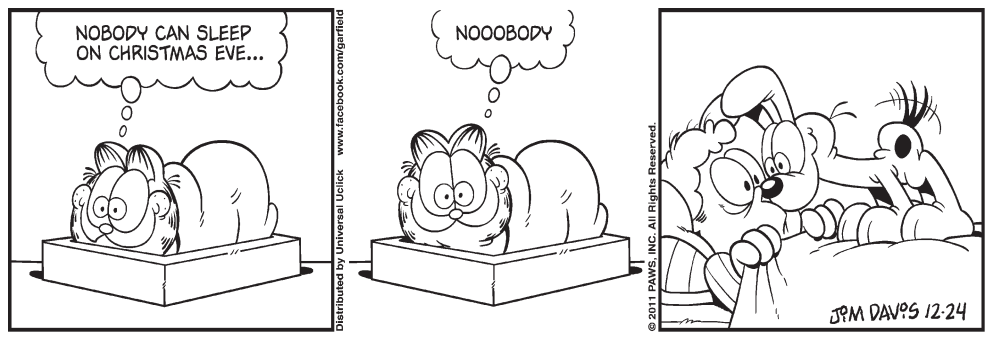
Dogs of C-Kennel

By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



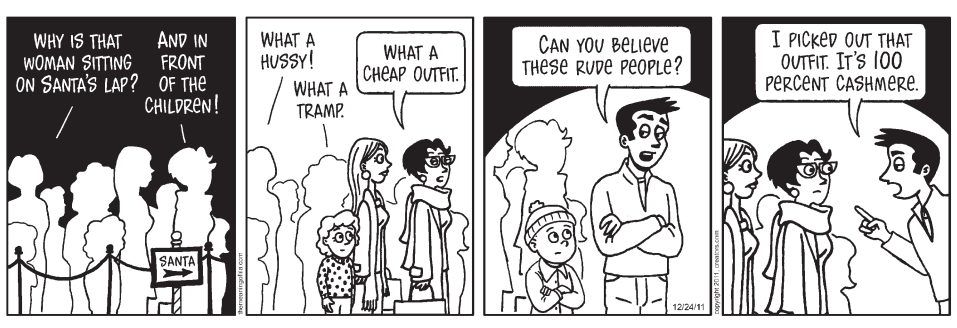
Garfield

By Jim Davis



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Don't go overboard tonight, Sag

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ You might not be as open as others would like. Your organizational abilities come out. When you assume the role of leader, no one worries. Everything will work out perfectly. Tonight: Opt for a new beginning.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★★ Keep reaching out for distant friends you want to wish holiday cheer. News that heads in your direction indicates a faulty assumption. Really, it isn't all that serious yet. Tonight: Put on some music and break out the eggnog.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Deal with one other person directly, and then another person, and then one more. Those contacts -- especially with people you say "hi" and "bye" to, but no more -- mean a lot. You might need to pitch in and help someone at the last minute. . Tonight: A little more tame than usual.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★★ Others request your talents and companionship. Though a sudden change could toss plans to the wayside, you accomplish a lot quite quickly. Ask fewer questions, and focus on helping others instrument their ideas. Good feelings mark these exchanges. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★ You emanate joy nearly everywhere, yet suddenly you become very practical. Some will be relieved to see that side of you emerge, but others will wonder where the playful Leo has gone. You will be perpetually making adjustments right now. Tonight: Giving 100 percent of yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★ You wake up acting like a 5-year-old getting ready to greet Christmas. Every so often, the child in you emerges. What perfect timing! Even those who might be perpetual Scrooges find themselves grinning at your optimism. Tonight: Loving every moment.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ Approach a situation with more understanding than many others. You understand what is needed at this point; be determined to give just that. You might be overwhelmed by everything that is going on and landing in your lap. Tonight: What would anyone do without you?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★★ You might be very happy at the thought of the upcoming holiday. Or you could be overwhelmed and/or tired of the celebration. Still, seeing people you care about who are not readily available creates a warm feeling. Don't forget about that neighbor, too! Tonight: You know what to do.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★ Last-minute errands or a forgotten gift could have you running, whether you like it or not. Though many of you have your day well planned, you still can break out to call someone or invite a loved one over who might be alone. Tonight: Don't go overboard.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ You glide through the day, perhaps the result of excellent planning, but also because you don't have too many expectations. You recognize a new beginning in a key relationship in your life. Don't hesitate to jump on it. Tonight: Flex with a change.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★ A general feeling of malaise or concern permeates your mood. If you haven't connected with a key person, don't stand on ceremony -- make it so. Don't force yourself; be sensitive to those around you. Tonight: How about some eggnog?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★★ Zero in on the moment. At the last minute, you could opt to invite friends over, or join friends at some point in the day. Someone you have counted on keeps changing his or her mind. Tonight: Seize the moment.

Happy birthday

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

This year your birthday falls on a New Moon, creating a new beginning in an area of your life. This lunar position bestows charisma and creativity. Others admire your dynamic energy and willingness to transform as needed. If you are single, you have a slew of admirers and would-be suitors. Decide what type of relationship you want, then choose. The world really is your oyster! If you are attached, make sure to keep the balance between you as a couple. You could be a little too me-oriented. CAPRICORN reads through your defenses.

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 ★★★★

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

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

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Sachet scent
6 Wrong
11 Tenny-son's "— Arden"
12 African tongue
13 Birch's kin
14 Toy builders
15 Prepares for a long fight
17 Santa — winds
18 Low digit
19 Congres-sional period
22 Homer's neighbor
23 Mark and Shania
24 Compass
25 Hold
27 Farm female
30 Concert recording, e.g.
31 Chess pieces
32 Holiday lead-in
33 Be short with
35 Jeans material
38 "Looks good to me"
39 Boxer's dream
40 Kitchen gadget
41 Beginning
42 Wails

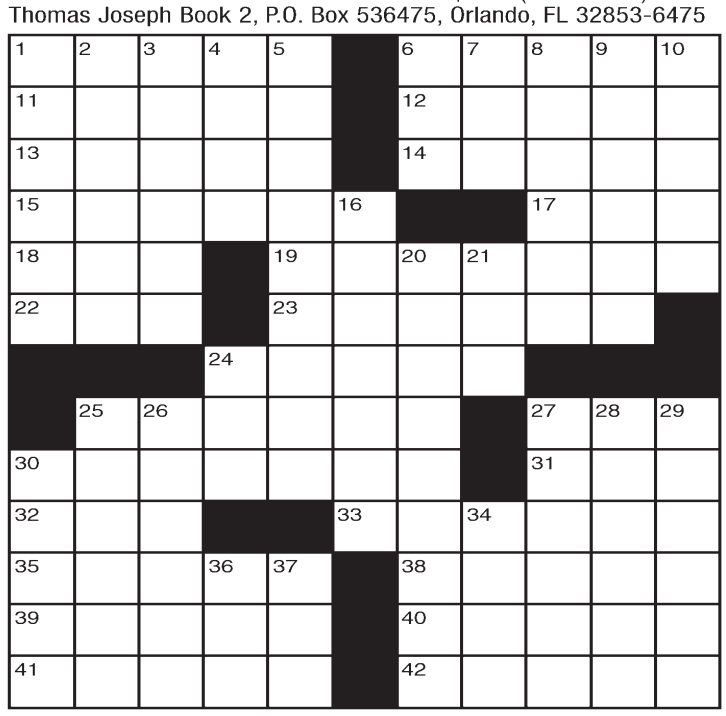
DOWN

1 Entice
2 Skate type
3 Stuck
4 Great serves
5 Present day?
6 Tad's dad
7 — de mer
8 Futilely
9 Dictation takers
10 Writer Sontag
16 Green-horns
20 Annual visitor
21 Canine command
24 Put away
25 Enter complete-ly
26 Calendar items
27 Kingdom
28 Under-mine
29 Comes onstage
30 Brought about
34 Lotion additive
36 — de France
37 Got together

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

Yesterday's answer

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12-24

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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.

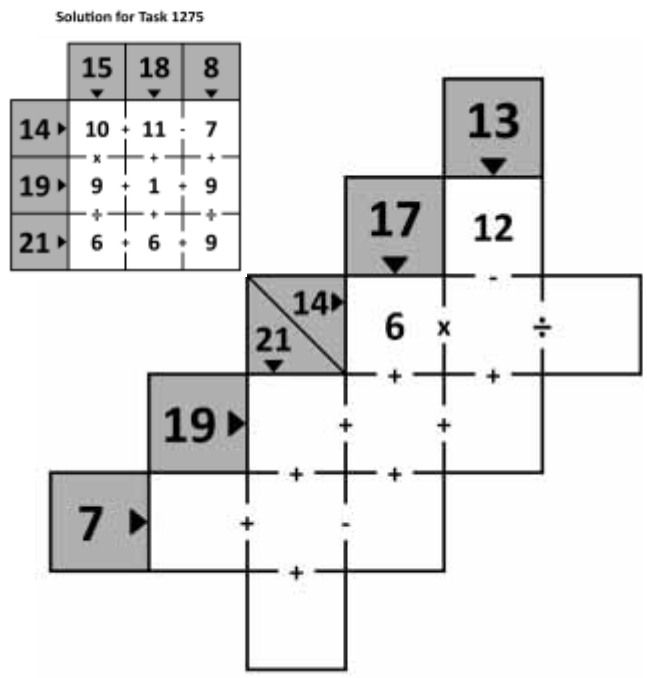
• Remember to multiply or divide before you add or subtract.

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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, 2, 3, 7, 8, 8, 9, 10, 10

Solution for Task 1275



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MEGA MILLIONS: 20 24 27 45 51
Meganumber: 31
Jackpot: $173M

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

Fantasy 5: 13 25 26 29 34

DAILY 3
MIDDAY: 9 1 8
EVENING: 7 4 3

DAILY DERBY
1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 06 Whirl Win
3rd: 03 Hot Shot
RACE TIME: 1:47.09

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Thinning the Herd: (1) In October, a 30-year-old woman and her unidentified boyfriend were killed as they carried their domestic brawl from their car onto Interstate 485 near Pineville, N.C., and were struck by separate vehicles. (2) A 27-year-old man was killed in a one-car crash in Broward County, Fla., in October. He (a passenger) had punched his wife (the driver) in the face, causing her to lose control and careen into a lake. (She and the couple's 3-year-old daughter, in the backseat, survived.)

■ John Moore, 67, golfs nearly every day and has for about 20 years, according to a July (2007) St. Petersburg Times report. The golf he plays, though, consists of hitting 35 long-iron shots (five shots with each of the seven balls he owns) on a grassy median strip along Interstate 275 in downtown Tampa. "You can't play this game one day, two days in a week," he said. "You have to play it all the time if you want to do something with it." What Moore wants to do with it, he told the Times, is to someday soon make his first-ever appearance on an actual golf course.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1777 Kiritimati, also called Christmas Island, is discovered by James Cook.

1814 The Treaty of Ghent is signed ending the War of 1812.

1826 The Eggnog Riot at the United States Military Academy begins that night, wrapping up the following morning.

1851 Library of Congress burns.

1865 The Ku Klux Klan is formed.

1906 Radio: Reginald Fessenden transmits the first radio broadcast; consisting of a poetry reading, a violin solo, and a speech.

1913 The Italian Hall Disaster ("1913 Massacre") in Calumet, Michigan results in the death of 73 Christmas party goers held by striking mine workers, including 59 children.

WORD UP!

swaddle
\ SWOD-l \ , verb;
1. To bind an infant with long, narrow strips of cloth to prevent free movement.

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Notices

ORDER FOR PUBLICATION
Orlando J. Castano, Jr., 4675 MacArthur Court, Suite 465, Newport Beach, CA 92660
Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles, 12720 Norwalk Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650
Plantiff: Kathleen Mazzuca-Johns, Defendant: CMNI General Construction, et al.
IT IS ORDERED that the service of the summons, citation, notice of hearing, or Cross-Complaint in this action be made upon defendant, respondent, or citee Cross-defendant, The paul L. Johns Living Trust by publication thereof in San Gabriel Valley Tribune -Newsgroup a newspaper of general circulation published at Los Angeles, County, California and that said publication be made at least once a week for four successive weeks.
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a copy of said summons, citation, notice of hearing, or Cross- Complaint and of said complaint or petition in this action be forthwith deposited in the United States Post Office, postage prepaid, directed to said defendant, respondent, or citee if his address is ascertained before expiration of the time prescribed for the publication of this summons., citation or notice of hearing. A declaration of this mailing, or of the fact that the address was not ascertained, must be filed at the expiration of the time prescribed for the publication.
DATED: Nov 10, 2011
YVONNE T. SANCHEZ, JUDGE

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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2011128608 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 11/04/2011 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as TATU VALKONEN PHOTOGRAPHY. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Tatu Valkonen 3749 McLaughlin Ave. #23 Los Angeles, CA 90066. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:Tatu Valkonen. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/04/2011. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/03/2011, 12/10/2011, 12/17/2011, 12/24/2011.

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