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Volume 11 Issue 39

GOING UP?
SEE PAGE 3

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

THE COUNTDOWN TO 2012 ISSUE

U.S. cities struggle to control sewer overflows

BY JOHN FLESHER
AP Environmental Writer

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. Twice in recent summers, visitors to parts of Michigan's western coast were greeted by mounds of garbage strewn along miles of sandy beach: plastic bottles, eating utensils, food wrappers, even hypodermic syringes.

At least some of the rubbish had drifted across Lake Michigan from Milwaukee, a vivid reminder that many cities still flush nasty stuff into streams and lakes during heavy storms, fouling the waters with bacteria and viruses that can make people seriously ill.

Thousands of overflows from sewage systems that collect storm water and wastewater are believed to occur each year. Regulators and environmentalists want them stopped, and since the late 1990s the Environmental Protection Agency or state officials have reached legal agreements with more than 40 cities or counties — Atlanta, Los Angeles, Baltimore, St. Louis and Indianapolis among them — to improve wastewater systems that in some cases are a century old. Costs are reaching hundreds of millions or even billions of dollars.

But the price of progress is becoming too high for local governments, with the bad economy cutting into tax revenues and residents rebelling against higher water and sewer rates. Responding to pleas for leniency, the Obama administration is promising more flexibility as hard-pressed cities look for less conventional and cheaper ways to reduce overflows.

"The current economic times make the need for sensible and effective approaches even more pressing," said an October memo to EPA regional offices from Nancy Stoner, who runs the agency's water policy office, and Cynthia Giles, chief of enforcement. They said EPA staffers would work out details of the new policy.

It won't be easy, considering the costs and inflamed emotions involved.

Carol Rodwell and neighbors carted away 18 bags of garbage from a 400-foot stretch of Lake Michigan frontage near Ludington after last year's trash flotilla. She was shocked to learn that federal law lets cities discharge untreated sewage when their plants and stor-

SEE SEWAGE PAGE 7



Kibiwot Limo *news@smdp.com*

ROLLING: **Stats from the Federal Bureau of Investigation indicate that crime is down in Santa Monica and across the country.**

Crime down in Santa Monica in 2011

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY Crime in Santa Monica and across the nation dropped in the first six months of 2011, according to statistics recently released by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The preliminary Uniform Crime Report consisted of information gleaned from over 18,000 city, university, college, county, state, tribal and federal law enforcement agencies reporting out how many crimes in seven categories had been committed in the first six months of 2011.

According to the statistics, all four violent crimes reported — murder, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault — decreased in the first six months compared to the first six months of 2010.

The same was true for the three categories of property crime, which include burglary, larceny or theft and motor vehicle theft.

The biggest drops in violent crime took place in cities the size of Santa Monica, with between 50,000 and 99,999 residents, while larger cities with between 100,000 and 249,999 inhabitants saw the largest drop in property crimes.

Between Jan. 1 and June 30, 12 rapes, 55 robberies, 518 assaults, 216 burglaries, 1,191 thefts, 77 motor vehicle thefts and three arsons were reported in Santa Monica.

Overall, the number of crimes reported in 2011 has dropped significantly compared to 2010, said Sgt. Richard Lewis, spokesperson for the Santa Monica Police Department.

"Crime is down nine or 10 percent from last year," Lewis said. "The numbers can be lower, we all want them to be lower than that."

The police department aims to reduce crime by double digit percentage points every year, Lewis said.

"We're at 9 percent, and we're touching 10," Lewis said. "We'll determine how many crimes come in in the next [few] days to see if we achieve that."

The FBI began putting together the Uniform Crime Report in 1930 after the International Association of Chiefs of Police requested it to meet a need for reliable crime statistics for the nation.

For the last 80 years, law enforcement agencies across the nation have reported the same information in order to create a consistent record.

That practice came under fire last year when activist groups protested the anachronistic definition of "rape" that the bureau

SEE CRIME STATS PAGE 6


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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
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, Dec. 27, 2011

Dancing L.A.
Miles Memorial Playhouse
1130 Lincoln Blvd., 8 p.m.
Boomkat Dance Theatre presents "Stations: A Los Angeles Holiday Story." Its theme features five paths that come together on a bleak December night in L.A. For more information, call (800) 838-3006.

Loud and proud
Senior Center
1450 Ocean Ave., 10: 30 a.m.
Calling all singers. Show off your singing skills during a sing-a-long with Douglas and Mary Jane. Must be a Senior Center member and 50 or older to participate; membership is free. For more information, call (310) 458-8644.

Wednesday, Dec. 28, 2011

Holidays still kicking
Santa Monica Place
Broadway and Third Street, 4 p.m. — 6 p.m.
Rock out with the music of Leftover Cuties during 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.

So fresh, so clean
Arizona Avenue and Fourth Street
This weekly market is considered amongst the best in SoCal. There is everything from seasonal produce to prepared foods. For more information, visit smgov.net/portals/farmersmarket.

Thursday, Dec. 29, 2011

Sounds of the season
Santa Monica Place
Broadway and Third Street, 5 p.m. — 7 p.m.
Carolers will be strolling around the mall singing classic holiday music for shoppers. For more information, call (310) 260-8333.

What's new?
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m.
A free-wheeling review and discussion of the week's key news stories at home and abroad moderated by Jack Nordhaus. For more information, call 310-458-8681.

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



CORRECTION In the Dec. 23 edition of the Daily Press, the Crime Watch series incorrectly stated that police said a man who jumped or fell from a hotel balcony was under the influence of drugs. Police could not confirm whether or not the man was under the influence of a controlled substance. The report also said two suspects in the hotel room who were arrested for possession of drugs were male. One was a female.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CITY HALL

City manager names new director

Karen Ginsberg, currently the assistant director of Community & Cultural Services, has been selected to head up the department.

City Manager Rod Gould chose Ginsberg following what city officials said was an "internal rigorous recruitment process" that took place earlier this month.

Ginsberg, who will receive a salary of $186,300 and oversee a department with an operating budget of $47 million and approximately 400 full- and part-time employees, has served as assistant director of the department for the last 12 years.

She will replace Barbara Stinchfield, who announced that she will retire effective Dec. 29.

"Karen has a proven track record in overseeing community services and in realizing improvements to the city's parks, open spaces and public facilities," Gould said in a statement released by City Hall last week. "Her clear, strategic thinking has served the department well in budget matters, team management and creative problem-solving. Under Karen's steady hand, the strength and competence of the current ... management team will ensure a continued excellence in service to the community."

During her tenure as assistant director, Ginsberg has overseen the expansion of Virginia Avenue Park and the development of both Euclid and Airport parks – Santa Monica's first two new parks in 24 years. She also spearheaded the state and local regulatory review process for the Annenberg Community Beach House, and facilitated the completion of an agreement with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District to provide a funding stream totaling $56 million for recreational improvements on the Santa Monica High School campus that the broader community will be able to use when school is not in session.

Prior to her appointment as assistant director, Ginsberg was planning manager for the Santa Monica Planning Department from 1994 to '99. She also worked for the Los Angeles City Community Redevelopment Agency in a planner capacity.

Ginsberg received a master's of science in historic preservation from Columbia University in New York City. She earned a bachelor of arts in art history from Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

"It is an honor to lead [Community & Cultural Services] and continue its tradition of excellent service to ... residents and the broader public," Ginsberg said in the statement.

– KEVIN HERRERA



Photo courtesy Google Images

HEADING UP THE MOUNTAIN: **Industry experts say that ski lift accidents are rare and deadly accidents are even rarer.**

Ski experts: Riding in car riskier than ski lift

BY DAVID SHARP
Associated Press

CARRABASSETT VALLEY, Maine It was a perfect day for skiing at Sugarloaf on fresh powder left by a December snowstorm the day before. But something seemed amiss as Rick Tonge and his son rode a chairlift up the mountain. First he heard some banging and clanging. Then the lift stopped and started several times.

As they dangled about 30 feet above ground, Tonge noticed a mechanic working on one of the lift towers. Their chair moved closer, and Tonge's eyes widened — the grooved wheel assembly that holds the lift cable in place was crooked.

Moments later, Tonge and his son plunged to the ground.

"They're lucky people didn't get killed," said Tonge, who hurt his back in the fall a year ago. His 26-year-old son spent months in a brace while recovering from a compression fracture of his spine. Six others were injured and taken to the hospital.

Though undoubtedly little comfort to Tonge and the others who were injured, ski lift accidents are rare and deadly accidents are even rarer. Industry experts say skiers are more likely to be injured or killed while driving to the slopes or skiing down the mountain than riding the lifts.

There have been 12 deaths attributed to ski lift malfunctions since 1973, and the last one happened 18 years ago, according to the National Ski Areas Association. Those include a 1976 ski lift accident that killed four people in Vail, Colo., and another in 1978 in Squaw Valley, Calif., that also killed four people

Jim Fletcher, a Colorado-based engineering consultant for ski resorts, said the onus is on resort operators to be careful with maintenance and operational training.

"This is an ongoing thing. You drop your guard, and you can get hurt," Fletcher said. "Over the years, that's what I see most — accidents being fostered by people not being vigilant."

Each state regulates the maintenance and safety aspects of ski lift operations.

In the Dec. 28 accident at Sugarloaf last year, inspectors from the Maine State Board of Elevator and Tramway Safety could not pinpoint the cause of the cable popping out

SEE **SKI LIFTS** PAGE 5

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Taking away joy to make a point

Editor:

With the entrance of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals to the nativity scene brouhaha, and CNN having a field day, the proverbial pile the city stepped in is not going away. All we need now are the jugglers, some trained seals, and a popcorn booth. To his credit, Mayor [Richard] Bloom admitted City Hall had misjudged, and I am certain they will do a better job next year. In Santa Monica speak, they will "revision the process so as to better inform the seasonal lottery."

Mr. [Damon] Vix and his merry band of Van Nuys atheists are certainly free to live their apparently joyless lives. What I can't fathom is their unmitigated selfishness in making a point by intentionally ruining the joy of others, especially at a time of celebration; kind of like hanging an empty piñata at a child's birthday party.

There is some humor to be found. Mr. Vix claims, in his crusade to separate church and state, he used thousands of dollars of personal funds to create his three displays. Fair enough. But he got royally ripped off by the work, and then paid the bills in U.S. currency emblazoned with "In God We Trust."

Robert Scura
Ocean Park

Flight schools' offer an empty gesture

Editor:

Regarding: "Airport flight schools promise to restrict hours," Dec. 23, page 1.

Although marketed as some sort of holiday gift to the communities from the six flight schools at SMO, this is a major insult to the airport's neighbors. It amounts to a gift-wrapped present that contains nothing of any substance. Who are they kidding? "Voluntary" is not even enforceable!

What stands out from both the fight schools' letter and the city of Santa Monica's press release is the lack of any reference to the fact that there already exists tougher restrictions to pattern flying. ("Touch and Go" and "Stop and Go" operations are prohibited on Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, and during weekdays between one-half hour after sunset and 7 a.m. of the following morning). The flight schools have circumvented the spirit and intent of this by using a maneuver called taxi-backs.

The airport's neighbors will not be fooled and should be outraged by this empty and insulting gesture, as noise from pattern flying will continue throughout the day, most of the evening, and weekends.

If the six SMO flight schools wanted to do the right thing they would move to an appropriate airport not surrounded by residential communities.

Martin Rubin
Director, Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution

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Simon Says

Simon Salloom — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Buy a condo for the holidays

A WISE PERSON ONCE SAID THAT WHEN the price of renting vs. owning your own home was equal, prices were at their comfortable median. Lately, I have been saying that when it is less expensive to own vs. lease, it is a good time to buy. Apparently, a lot of people don't see things this way.

The prices of condos are still coming down, albeit very slightly, about 3 to 5 percent this year, and the price of rents are still going up. Rental rates have increased approximately 10 percent since 2010. The factors contributing to this situation are greater demand for housing combined with apprehension about the future of home values.

There will come a time when most people will no longer be concerned about dropping home values. They will only consider what makes the most sense for them at that moment. When this change comes it will be quick and no one will realize what has happened until a few months of sales all of a sudden show an increase in values. At that moment, it will no longer be a great time to buy.

Given this dramatic surge in lease values, I am pretty sure that we are near or at the bottom of condo values. Since it is impossible to know where the exact nadir is, you have to target your purchase as close as possible. And I think we are close. At any rate, things are moving so slowly that if you get a sound buy now it will still look sound six months from now.

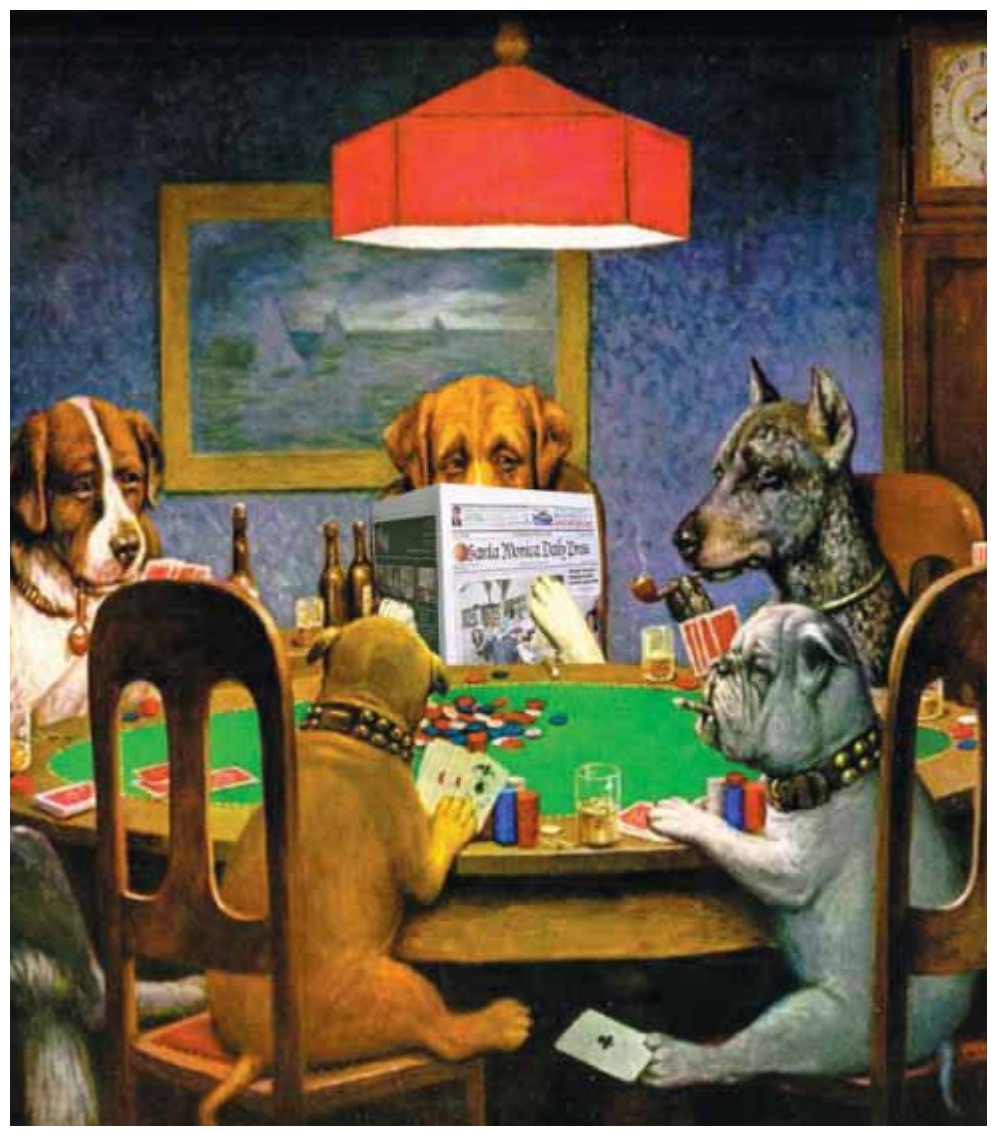
If you are considering buying a condo in the next year or so, now is a great time to do it. A 1,300-square-foot two bedroom condominium north of Wilshire Boulevard (arguably the most desirable condo neighborhood in Los Angeles County) will cost you about $600,000. You will pay about $3,000 to lease the same property. With 10 percent down and a loan of $540,000, your total monthly cost with a 4.5 percent interest rate, $300 a month in dues and the typical 1.25 percent property tax, will be approximately $2,950 — not including funds that go toward your equity.

The average state and federal tax rate professional people who buy properties like this have is typically around 33 percent. The mortgage interest of $2,025 and property taxes of $625 after the tax savings is $1,749. When you add the homeowner's dues of $300, you have an effective monthly cost of $2,050; saving you $800 to $900 per month over leasing.

The stock market is incredibly risky and it is difficult to discern where the value resides. A collective madness has descended on the gold market; meanwhile, a far more tangible commodity, real estate, has plunged in value. It takes some courage to buy a home. However, when before tax advantages it is even with renting, and after tax advantages the savings are dramatic, it's not nearly as difficult.

Take a virtual ride into outer space via Google Earth and look back at where our tiny part of the world is. You should be able to see just how special the dirt is that we inhabit. You can be uncertain of a lot of things, but this is just not one of them.

SIMON SALLOOM is a Santa Monica resident and a realtor at Partners Trust Residential Brokerage. To learn more about Simon or respond to this article go to http://santamonicarealestatesearch.com/



PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Ashley Archibald
ashley@smdp.com

CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Bill Bauer, David Pisarra, Meredith Carroll, Jack Neworth, Lloyd Garver, Ron Hooks, Taylor Van Arsdale, Merv Hecht, Cynthia Citron, Tom Viscount, Michael Ryan, JoAnne Barge, Katrina Davy

NEWS INTERNS
Colin Newton, Kelly Zhou, Sophia Zhorne
news@smdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERN
Ray Solano
news@smdp.com

VICE PRESIDENT–BUSINESS OPERATIONS
Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Steven Stuart
stevens@smdp.com

ADVERTISING TRAFFIC COORDINATOR
Rebecca Martinez
admin@smdp.com

OPERATIONS COORDINATOR
Michele Emch
michele.e@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Darren Ouellette
production@smdp.com

PRODUCTION DESIGNER
Alejandro Cantarero
production@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Osvaldo Paganini
circulation@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
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1640 5th Street, Suite 218
Santa Monica, CA 90401
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SKI LIFTS
FROM PAGE 3

of its grooved track on the wheel assembly, sending chairlifts hurtling to the ground.

But they found signs of wear and noted a design modification to the 35-year-old East Spillway Lift. The lift itself was so old that the original maintenance manual was nowhere to be found. Other factors that played a role that day included high winds, and problems with maintenance and procedures.

They further noted that a Sugarloaf worker had to manually hit a button afterward to stop the lift from moving after a safety mechanism failed to work as intended.

The 56-year-old Tonge watched it all unfold as he sat next to his son, who was home for the holidays from Johns Hopkins University. As the lift stopped and restarted three times, Tonge saw the worker climb the lift tower, attach his safety harness to a loop, and then inch his way out onto one of the lift arms holding the crooked wheel assembly.

The metal wheel assembly, called the sheave train, had been modified with a turnbuckle assembly to help keep it stable in high winds and to allow for adjustments. Investigators say a weld on the turnbuckle assembly failed but they don't know whether it snapped before the cable dropped or because the cable dropped.

When the cable popped out of its track, five chairs plummeted onto the snowy mountain underneath. The other chairs holding another 150 skiers bounced like yo-yos.

It happened quickly.

"I'm fully cognizant of what's going on, but there's nothing I can do about it," Tonge recalled. "You've got a sudden realization that you're falling. It's very real. I'm falling. And literally, I looked down, and I said, 'This is probably going to really hurt, and I could get killed."

When he hit the ground, Tonge's skis popped off their bindings and he rolled backward out of the chair. His son remained in the chair and was dragged before the lift stopped.

Since the accident, Sugarloaf removed the East Spillway and another lift that ran parallel to it and replaced them with a modern $3 million quad-chair lift that went into service earlier this month.

Spokesman Ethan Austin said the state investigation cited lapses in documentation and maintenance practices, and the resort is renewing its focus on those areas moving forward. The resort also has added a new director-level position to oversee lift operations and lift maintenance, he said.

Over the year, the Ski Maine trade association and the Board of Elevator and Tramway Safety have been working together to enhance quality assurance programs at each of Maine's ski areas.

"Maine has a very good track record of safety and it has a well-developed inspection and licensing program," said Doug Dunbar, spokesman for the Maine Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, which includes the tramway safety board.

Maine has never recorded a death due to mechanical failure on a ski lift, Dunbar added.

The 35-year-old East Spillway lift was one of the oldest in Maine, part of an aging infrastructure at many resorts. Nationwide, most lifts were installed during the 1970s, 80s and 90s, and hundreds of old lifts remain in service across the country, industry officials say.

No organization keeps track of the age of aerial lifts at ski areas, nor is there any standard for how long they should remain in operation before being retired.

Fletcher said most ski lifts were originally designed for a lifespan of 20 to 30 years. He said they're considered to "aging equipment" at 20 years and just plain "old" at 25.

Older lifts that become functionally obsolete are not necessarily unsafe, especially if they're properly maintained Fletcher said. Skiers don't like older lifts because they're slow, and operators find them more costly because they require more maintenance, much the same way an older car needs extra care to remain roadworthy, he said.

An Associated Press review of inspection reports by the tramway safety board found that the average chairlift is 22 years old in Maine. A review of the annual reports, obtained under the Maine Freedom of Access Act, found that inspections typically uncovered relatively minor problems.

Spillway East was old but it passed its annual state-mandated annual inspection and was deemed safe to operate before it failed last December.

Mark Di Nola, a ski safety consultant based in Manchester, N.H., said ski resorts don't cut corners on safety, particularly when it comes to chair lift maintenance.

"There's a risk in anything you do," Di Nola said. "Considering how many millions of people ride on a particular lift over time, they're pretty safe."

The Q Line

Year in review

The Daily Press is currently debating internally which stories should be included in our best of 2011 edition. We would love to hear from our readers.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
What were the top local stories of 2011? Remember, local.

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







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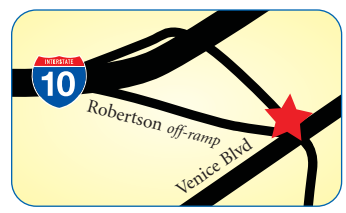
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CRIME STATS

FROM PAGE 1

used for the reports.

According to the FBI, rape was "the carnal knowledge of a female forcibly and against her will," a definition that excluded rapes against men, transgender people and other kinds of violations.

"Ms. Magazine" launched a "Rape is Rape" campaign to try and force the FBI to change the definition to something more representative of the number of sexual assaults and rapes that actually take place, which the magazine suggested could be 24 times higher than that which appeared in the report.

The campaign worked, said Bill Carter, a spokesperson for the FBI.

FBI Director Robert Mueller appeared before Congress last week and confirmed that the definition would be changed to a "more modern definition," Carter said.

Some states are expanding the kinds of information that they collect to include the nature and types of specific offenses in the incident, characters of the victims and offenders, types and value of property stolen and recovered and characteristics of people arrested in connection with a crime.

The new system, called the National Incident-Based Reporting system, would provide considerably more information than the Uniform Crime Report, but because the FBI relies on agencies to collect and report out the information, the more detailed reports are slow to spread, Carter said.

"It's a matter of the states coming online," Carter said.

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Photo by Carol Rosegg

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SEWAGE
FROM PAGE 1

age facilities are flooded.

"It was maddening that they had permission to do this and we had to live with the consequences," Rodwell said.

Kevin Shafer, executive director of the Milwaukee sewage system, insisted it was only partly to blame, saying some of the rubbish probably came from trash cans or dumpsters swamped when the area got about 9 inches of rain in a single day.

Milwaukee has spent $4 billion since the 1980s improving its sewer system, Shafer said. It now has 521 million gallons of storage capacity in underground tunnels. Since the mid-1990s, less than 2 percent of the water entering the system each year has been released without treatment.

The ultimate goal is zero overflows, but officials don't expect to get there until about 2035 because it will require being able to handle the kind of flooding that previously happened rarely but is becoming more common.

"It gets a lot more expensive to get that last drop," Shafer said. "The way the economy is today, you have to balance that cost with all the other needs we have. You don't want to bankrupt a community."

One partial solution gaining popularity with cities is "green infrastructure" — natural and man-made features that enable more water to soak into the ground instead of washing into storm drains and creeks. Stoner and Giles of EPA instructed field staff last year to incorporate green features into storm water and sewer permits as much as possible.

Examples would include requiring office buildings to cover flat roofs with plants, using permeable pavement on roads and parking lots, and increasing parkland and urban green space.

Milwaukee is encouraging residents to use rain barrels and plant "rain gardens," which have wildflowers and deep-rooted vegetation particularly suited to absorbing excess water.

Indianapolis last year renegotiated an earlier deal with EPA that cuts the city's costs by hundreds of millions through greater use of green features, Mayor Greg Ballard said.

A new ordinance in Santa Monica, Calif., orders building developers to capture the first three-quarters of an inch of rainwater in a storm and encourages meeting the requirement with green infrastructure. Cleveland has pledged to spend $42 million over eight years on green projects, said Jennifer Elting, spokeswoman for the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District.

An assortment of measures are required in Chicago under a deal struck with EPA this month that sets deadlines for completing a gigantic tunnel and reservoir project, which has lagged since work began nearly 40 years despite repeated sewer overflows.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors has pressured EPA to give cities more time and options for limiting overflows. Testifying before Congress this month, Omaha Mayor Jim Suttle said the agency's embrace of green infrastructure was a welcome change from a heavy-handed approach that demanded big-ticket investments in conventional water treatment equipment.

"Using enforcement actions as the default option sends the message via the mass media to our citizens that mayors are not trustworthy, and that they condone water pollution," Suttle said.

The federal government should help struggling cities pay for sewer improvements but shouldn't let them off the hook for overflows, said Lyman Welch, water quality program manager with the Alliance for the Great Lakes, a Chicago-based environmental group.

"Cities have had decades to deal with this problem," Welch said. "We need firm deadlines and we need strong enforcement so it can finally be solved."

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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

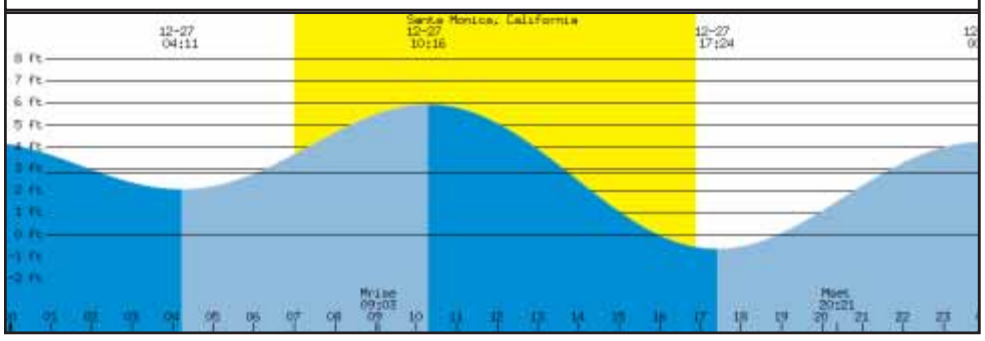
Swell Forecast

The ETA for our next NW swell. Chest to head high sets are expected at west facing breaks with some occasional overhead pluses at standouts when the tide is right.

Long Range Synopsis

Wednesday looks a bit smaller, about chest max for west facing breaks.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **December 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 Lechuza 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 fence.	A	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	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's Beach Report Card℠ is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A–F scale based on the risk of ocean users becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

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

Heal the Bay is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life.

Heal the Bay

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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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MONDAY	
4:00–5:00pm	(1st & 3rd Monday/Month) Criminal, DMV & Traffic Law: Felony and Misdemeanor Crimes, with former Deputy D.A. and Attorney Jacob Glucksman
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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MOVIE TIMES

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New Year's Eve (PG-13) 1hr 57min
10:40am, 1:25pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 10:05pm

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

My Week with Marilyn (R) 1hr 36min
11:20am, 1:50pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:20pm

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

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

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

War Horse (PG-13) 2hrs 26min
11:25am, 12:05pm, 3:00pm, 3:35pm, 6:30pm, 7:05pm, 9:55pm, 10:35pm

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

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

Muppets (PG) 1hr 38min
9:30am

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

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

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

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

Shame (NC-17) 1hr 39min
1:40pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:10pm

AMC Criterion 6
1313 Third St.
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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

Darkest Hour (PG-13) 1hr 29min
1:15pm, 6:15pm, 11:20pm

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

Darkest Hour 3D (PG-13) 1hr 29min
10:50am, 3:45pm, 8:40pm

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

Say 'yes,' Leo

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Gossip and information swirl around you. Knowing what to believe and what to discard will take more than talent. Recognize the importance of getting feedback from associates. You want and need to know what is fact and what is gossip. Tonight: Where your friends are.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You want to stay on top of your game. How you deal with another person and what occurs at this time could make a big difference. Your sense of humor emerges when having an important conversation. Tonight: Know that you will make the right choice.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Bridge a problem by detaching and understanding what set it in motion. You might feel that someone doesn't care. Be direct when dealing with others, but do whatever you need to do in order not to get into a convoluted situation. Tonight: Let your imagination wander.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Deal directly with a partner who can be cantankerous. You'll finally have a conversation that helps clarify what is happening. Open up a conversation involving a work-related matter. Tonight: Continue a talk over dinner.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ You find others to be unusually responsive and touchy. Use the moment to have an important meeting. Allow an associate to have equal say. This person's feedback triggers ideas. If you are single, an encounter might be light yet worthwhile. Tonight: Say "yes."

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You have so much ground to cover, you could be startled by feedback from someone close. Your mind is everywhere but on your domestic life. You are right to complete one project before moving on to another. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise and center yourself.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Keep asking questions, making calls and reaching out for someone you care about. You could discover that a child or loved one wants to share more of his or her feelings. You hold up your hand, trying to slow down this person's pace. Verbalize and set a better time in the next 24 hours. Tonight: Opt for fun.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Listen to forthcoming news. You might feel a little odd, as you don't have the control you desire. Involvement in a personal or domestic issue circles around finances. Focusing on other matters could be close to impossible. Tonight: Your treat.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ You will communicate what you think to an audience -- just be sure it is the right audience. You have kept so much pent up that now you are the opposite -- an ongoing verbal waterfall. You'll gain balance by tapping into your excellent listening skills. Tonight: Meet friends at a favorite haunt.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Use care when dealing with your finances. Any pressure you might feel could be self-inflicted through a judgment you are making. Test out some of your judgments to see if they are grounded. Your instincts guide you with a risk. Tonight: Enjoy the moment.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Apply yourself to the issue at hand, and you'll come out ahead. Your focus and ability to handle feedback mark your success. Tonight: Any excuse to be with your friends seems to work.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Kick back as soon as you can. A conversation with someone in charge could be important. You cannot get around the issues involved. You might choose to listen more than talk. Tonight: Take a much-needed timeout.

Happy birthday

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

This year you tend to be slightly more bohemian and intuitive about certain decisions. You easily could make an investment that to others might look fraught with risks. Truth be told, you have done your homework. Your mind always seems to be thinking, rethinking and analyzing. Consider a yoga class or some other relaxing pastime. If you are single, your antenna is up. Trust your intuition. You will learn much more about a person in the first few encounters than you think.



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.

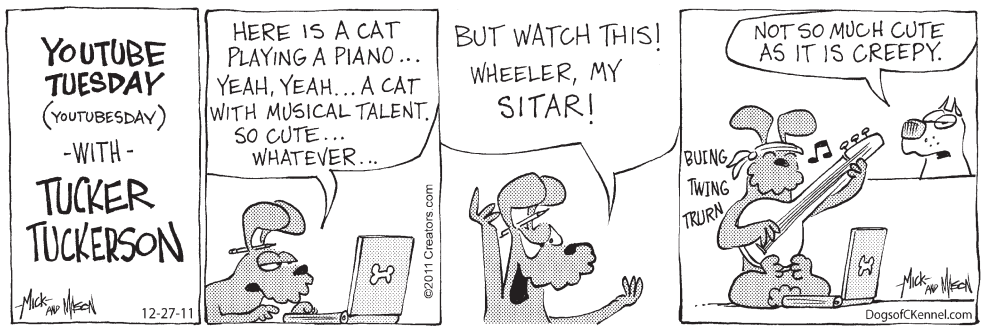
Speed Bump
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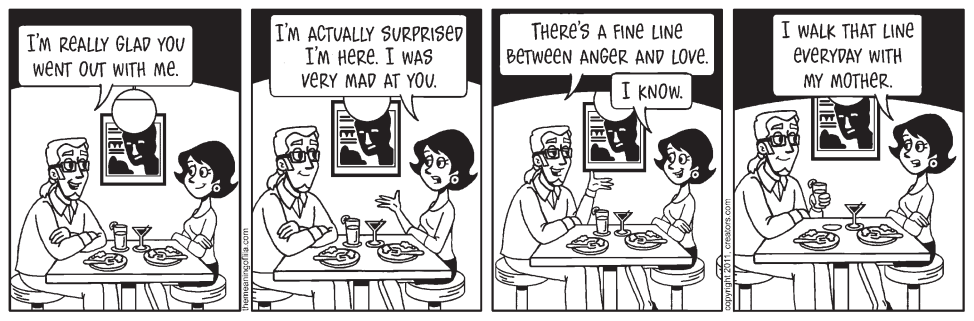
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★

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

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

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Negotiate a price
7 Crime boss
11 First name in aviation
12 Track shape
13 Site of New Year's Eve celebration
15 Really dug
16 Prepares for war
18 Sighed cry
21 NFL players
22 Would-be loser
24 Objective
25 Chum
26 Tall tale
27 Platter spinner
29 Set of cards
30 Diner order
31 Diamond corner
32 Matt of "Today"
34 Math class topics
40 Resting on
41 One-celled creature
42 Siestas
43 Because of this

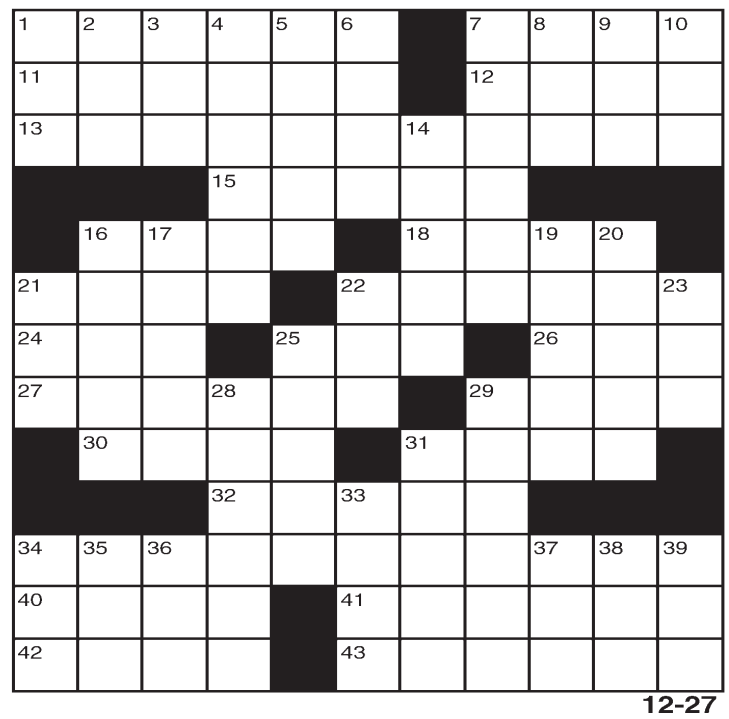
DOWN

1 Pillbox, for one
2 "How — to know?"
3 Sparkler
4 Sparkles
5 Rosters
6 Comfort
7 Twosome
8 Gardner of "Mogambo"
9 Golf goal
10 Bullfight cry
14 Partridge's cousin
16 Zodiac ram
17 Juliet's love
19 Travel aid
20 Paris river
21 Spot to jot
22 Calendar box
23 Sunburnt
25 Half of a '60s rock group
28 Minty drinks
29 Docking site
31 Former NYC mayor Abe
33 Golden Spike state
34 Shoe hue
35 "Give — rest!"
36 Unruly do
37 Rebel general
38 Flow out
39 Utter

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

Yesterday's answer

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12-27

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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.

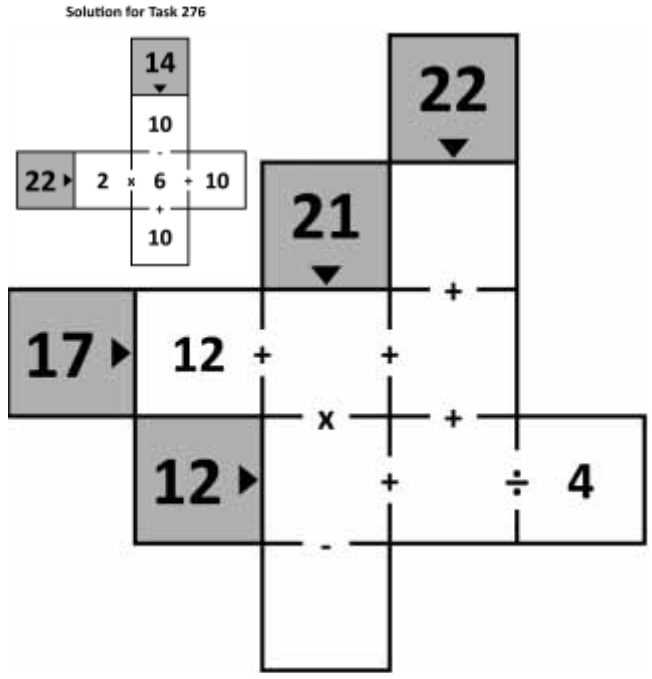
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Fill in the empty fields with the given numbers so when calculated together they satisfy all Equas in the gray boxes:

2, 3, 6, 8, 9, 12

Solution for Task 276



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Corruption in some Latin American prisons has allowed powerful criminals to buy extraordinary privileges behind bars. News of the Weird's report on Venezuela's San Antonio prison in July described the imperial reign of one drug lord-inmate, who presided over a personal armory, a local-community drug market and private parties (and with his own DirecTV account). In a surprise raid in November on a prison in Acapulco, Mexico, the usual drugs and weapons turned up, but also 100 fighting roosters for daily gambling, along with a prisoner's two pet peacocks.

■ The lives of many choking victims have been saved by the Heimlich Maneuver -- even one received inadvertently, such as the one a Leesburg, Fla., motorist gave himself in 2001, after gagging on a hamburger, then losing control and smashing into a utility pole. As he was thrust against the steering wheel, the burger dislodged. In November 2011, as the mother of 8-year-old Laci Davis drove her to a Cincinnati hospital after a locket stuck in her throat and caused her to double over in pain, Mom hit a pothole, which jarred Laci and dislodged the locket loose into her stomach (later to come out naturally).

TODAY IN HISTORY

1512 The Spanish Crown issues the Laws of Burgos, governing the conduct of settlers with regards to native Indians in the New World.

1657 The Flushing Remonstrance is signed.

1703 Portugal and England sign the Methuen Treaty which gives preference to Portuguese imported wines into England.

1814 Destruction of schooner Carolina, the last of Commodore Daniel Patterson's make-shift fleet that fought a series of delaying actions that contributed to Andrew Jackson's victory at the Battle of New Orleans.

1831 Charles Darwin embarks on his journey aboard the HMS Beagle, during which he will begin to formulate the theory of evolution.

WORD UP!

solatium \ soh-LEY-shee-uhm \ , noun;

1. Something given in compensation for inconvenience, loss or injury.

2. Law. Damages awarded to a plaintiff as compensation for personal suffering or grief arising from an injury.

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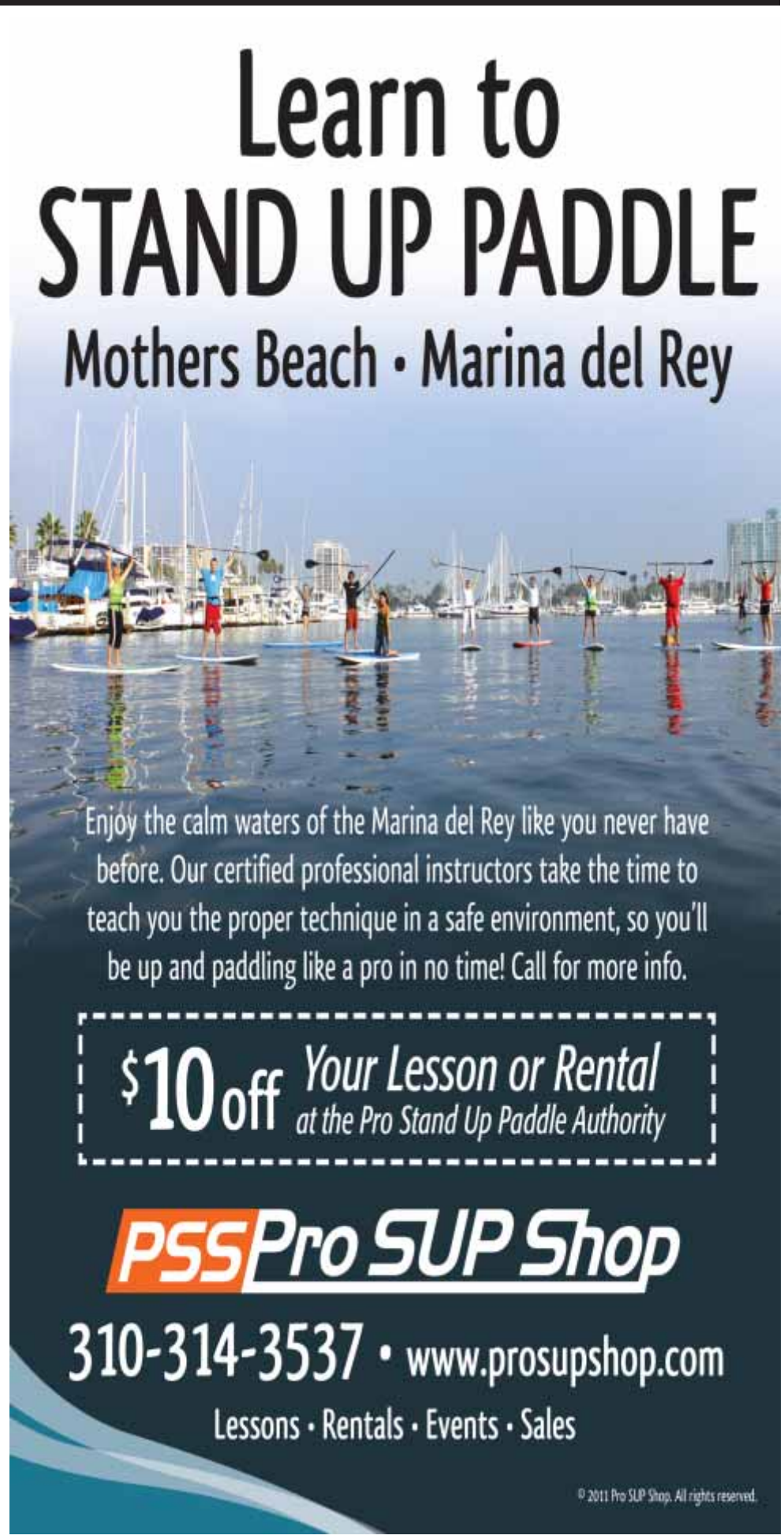
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2011127425 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 11/09/2011 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as CONTRAPTION DIGITAL. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Michael McNeff 975 S. Barrington Ave. #3 Los Angeles, CA 90049. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)10/14/2011. /s/: Michael McNeff. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/09/2011. 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 11/29/2011, 12/06/2011, 12/13/2011, 12/20/2011.

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