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DECEMBER 31, 2011 – JANUARY 1, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 43



Santa Monica Daily Press

WILL BECKS SIGN?
SEE PAGE 16

We have you covered

THE WHAT A YEAR ISSUE

TOP STORIES OF 2011









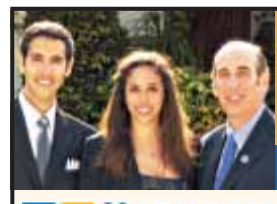
From the Arab Spring uprisings to the Occupy Wall Street movement and austerity rallies, 2011 was the year of the protest. Dictators were toppled and governments put on notice as ordinary citizens used social media to do the extraordinary — spread a wave of dissent across continents. It was a year when global politics became local, and the local was made global.

Being the progressive, civically engaged and eccentric city that it is, it was only fitting that Santa Monica was home to a Occupy protest all its own; a protest that focused on the freedom of speech, both for and against organized religion.

The atheist takeover of Palisades Park this

SEE TOP STORIES PAGE 8

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City of Santa Monica Holiday Trash Schedule
There is no change in Monday through Friday residental collection.
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Sunday, January 1st - No Collection
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, Dec. 31, 2011

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.

2-4-6-8, who do we appreciate?
Santa Monica Pier, 3 p.m. — 5 p.m.
Once again, Santa Monica welcomes the official pep rallies for the Rose Bowl. Saturday features the University of Wisconsin Badgers, as well as specialties from local food vendors. After the show, head over to Santa Monica Place for more festivities. Cost: free. For more information, call (310) 458-8901.

New Year's by the sea
Gladstones Restaurant
17300 Pacific Coast Hwy., 10 p.m. — 2 a.m.
What could be more Californian than New Year's on the beach? Come to Gladstones at 10 p.m. for the party, or come early for dinner and spend the whole evening. Party to feature a live DJ, a premium hosted bar, and of course, a midnight champagne toast. Cost: $75, $50 with the purchase of a meal. VIP table packages available. For more information, call (310) 454-3474.

Sunday, Jan. 1, 2012

Happy New Year!

Brunch in 2012
Santa Monica Place
11 a.m. — 4 p.m.
La Sandia and Zengo at Santa Monica Place are serving up bottomless New Year's Day brunches, including music and drinks. Cost: $20.12 with an entrée at La Sandia or $35 at Zengo. For more information, call (310) 393-3300 for La Sandia, and (310) 899-1000 for Zengo.

Pep rally redux
Santa Monica Pier, 1 p.m. — 7 p.m.
The Rose Bowl pep rallies are back on Sunday, this time with the University of Oregon Ducks' celebration. The entertainment is still open to the public and totally complimentary, and local food will be featured. For more information, call (310) 458-8901.

Monday, Jan. 2, 2012

Ice skating in the sunshine
ICE at Santa Monica
Fifth St. and Arizona Ave., 10 a.m. — 10 p.m.
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) 496-9880.

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



Welcome 2012 with a little style

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE New Year's Eve conjures up images of fabulous people in sparkling dresses, overflowing champagne glasses and club music so loud feet will be tapping four-on-the-floor until Valentine's Day.

If the dance floor isn't calling, Santa Monicans have their pick of a number of unique events to ring in 2012.

Steve Spill and his wife Bozena Wrobel will greet the new year as they have for the last 14 — with magic.

The owners of Magicopolis, located on Fourth Street between Broadway and Santa Monica Boulevard, and their team of two additional magicians hope to delight and entertain ticketholders with their long-running act "Escape Reality."

It won't resemble a club scene, Spill promised, although the magic does look better the more you drink.

"It has a taste of all the different types of magic, kind of a sampling," Spill said.

Attendees can expect high-impact illusions involving a daring escape as spikes fall from the ceiling, as well as close-up slight of hand and mind-reading.

The show evolved over the last decade and a half and it's now "the very best," Spill said.

"It'll definitely give you something to talk about after the event," he said.

The magicians will also do a 30-minute workshop to teach interested children and adults some magic of their own, including a version of the "cut and restored rope" trick and a fortune telling (cellophane) fish, all of which will be included in a souvenir bag of tricks.

The assembled will celebrate with pizza, champagne and sparkling cider.

"I think what's good about it is that it's an all generational sort of thing," Spill said. "It's a date night, but a lot of families come, kids as well as adults. It's not all drinks and dancing."

Tickets for the performance cost $60 and are available at the shop and over the phone at (310) 451-2241.

Players at the Santa Monica Playhouse will also be putting on a show, although it'll involve a little less Led Zeppelin and a little more Jewish patter songs.

The players spend all year taking suggestions for their "best of" end of the year revue, a run down of fan favorites from a season of performances.

SEE **HAPPENINGS** PAGE 10



Brandon *Wise brandonw@smdp.com*

BADGER BOOSTERS: **Thousands of Wisconsin fans gathered near the Santa Monica Pier for their Rose Bowl pep rally last year.**

Home away from home advantage

Local bar a hotbed of Wisconsin activity

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SANTA MONICA BLVD As tens of thousands of Wisconsin fans pour into town for the Rose Bowl, they'll find a welcome sight once they touch ground.

Busby's, a popular sports bar on Santa Monica Boulevard, has for years been ground zero for Southern California Wisconsin grads who long for the days of cheering on their Badgers in storied Camp Randall Stadium.

Bar managers go all out for the cardinal and white. They import beers from Wisconsin and go as far as to fly in cheese curds for their cheese-head patrons, General Manager Mike Hamilton said.

"They are one of our bigger groups, and they are solid," Hamilton said. "They are rabid for football."

The Los Angeles chapter of the Wisconsin Alumni Association is expecting up to 40,000 Badger faithful to make the trip to SoCal to attend the big game with many of them expected to stay in Santa Monica.

The city by the sea will host pep rallies for both Wisconsin and the University of Oregon fans in the parking lot north of the Santa Monica Pier over the weekend.

Wisconsin is up first on Saturday with Oregon getting the spotlight on Sunday. Both rallies begin at 3 p.m. and will be attended by both teams and their adoring fans.

While in town for the rallies and game, Hamilton hopes that his bar's reputation for being welcoming to Badgers will again draw a crowd.

Wisconsin isn't new to the city. The Badgers played in last year's edition of the "granddaddy of them all," losing to TCU.

True to form, Hamilton said that Busby's was jumping, hosting a capacity crowd of over 300.

To accommodate the expected crush, Ye Olde King's Head pub in Downtown will also be opening its doors to Rose Bowl fans. Operated by the same management group as Busby's, the same deals and offerings will be served up for Badger consumption.

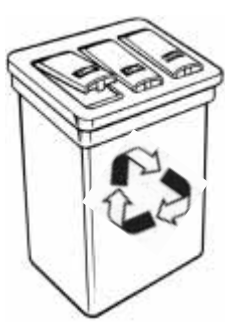
"This is a real exciting year for us," said Robert Webb, the president of the local chapter of the Wisconsin Alumni Association. "[Santa Monica] is the fans' favorite place to stay."

Even the Santa Monica Police Department is gearing up for the onslaught of football fans. They have plans to deploy additional officers to handle the crowds and keep the peace.

Some estimate that up to 30,000 to 40,000 fans will descend on Santa Monica and its compliment of hotels for the game and rallies.

"They are getting quite a treat coming out here," Webb said of his school's fan base. "It's a lot warmer here than back in Madison."

daniela@smdp.com

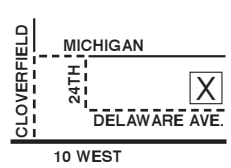


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Permit parking problems

Editor:

I'm afraid to park on my street in Santa Monica. No, I'm not worried about my late model, four-door sedan getting stolen. I'm worried about being ticketed again by officers of the Santa Monica Police Department's Parking Enforcement Division, who are perpetrating an injustice.

I live on a permit parking street near Wilshire Boulevard where these officers ply their trade on a regular basis, ticketing vehicles and thus gaining $64 a pop in revenue for City Hall. So you can imagine my disbelief when I walked out to my vehicle at lunchtime on a recent day to find a ticket on it, despite the fact that the parking permit was clearly displayed from the rearview mirror, that it was a bright sunny day and that I do not have tinted windows.

I promptly called the number on the ticket, which had been given less than an hour previously and was simply told about payment instructions, but I wanted a record that I called in right away to protest this injustice. Not getting any relief, I decided to go to the Santa Monica Police Department, where I was told that they did not handle such things anymore, but that I could fill out a written statement, for which I was given a receipt.

I received a letter basically stating that I needed to pay the $64 before I could request an in-person hearing, which I will do, because clearly my written statement was not persuasive. This is street robbery.

Unbelievably, I saw another vehicle parked in the same place that I had been with a permit displayed, and with a parking ticket on its windshield, which I examined to confirm that they were ticketed for not having a permit. I took a photo of this vehicle and will present it to show that officers are ticketing legally permitted vehicles for no cause and causing people like me a great deal of aggravation, and unnecessary expense.

I've talked to a parking enforcement supervisor to let him know that I will not be parking on my street anymore, and if I have time to make a career out of this, I will contact the permit parking people and ask for a refund of my parking permit, which is obviously useless.

Here's my suggestion, since parking enforcement officers clearly have vision problems in seeing and understanding displayed permits, City Hall should get with the late 20th century technology and issue barcodes as permits that can be placed on the left-hand side of the dashboard and scanned by officers to determine if the car is legally permitted to park on the street.

Hillary Atkin
Santa Monica

Kudos to Kevin

Editor:

Dear ma'am, in your Dec. 28 letter to the editor entitled "Clear example," you apparently characterized Councilmember [Kevin] McKeown as a spendthrift and irresponsible.

Expressing your opinion is your right and I support you in that right. I would, however, respectfully offer another point of view. Many of our residents consider Mr. McKeown as a compassionate council member only exploring ways to save many elderly, long-time Santa Monica residents from being uprooted from their way of life. The LUCE [Land Use and Circulation Element] suggests that solution.

However, whatever the outcome may be, Mr. McKeown embodies in many ways a portion of the conscience of Santa Monica, caring for the community in general and the common man, women and children here in particular. The Daily Press to their credit sampled public opinion on this trailer park issue and most respondents preferred a fair solution. Kudos to The Daily Press.

Eddie Greenberg
Santa Monica

On the Beat

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Tips to stay safe on New Year's Eve

Q: I recall reading an article some time ago about shooting guns in the air in Santa Monica. I wanted to know the laws pertaining to firing a gun in the air toward the beach; have these laws changed at all making it OK to do so?

A: The answer is "no." While law enforcement, in partnership with the community, local businesses and the media, has made an impact on reducing indiscriminate gunfire, the problem persists. The men and women of the Santa Monica Police Department are once again asking the community to celebrate the new year safely and responsibly. Do not fire guns into the air. Remember what goes up, will come down, and when a bullet comes down it is traveling at a fatal velocity, even if the gun is pointed toward the ocean.

Many times individuals involved in celebrating New Year's Eve with gunfire do not realize the dangers posed by their actions. Researchers report that a bullet fired into the air can climb up to two miles into the air and remain in flight for more than a minute. As it falls, the bullet reaches a velocity of 300 to 700 feet per second. A velocity of only 200 feet per second is sufficient to penetrate the human skull. Each year we need to remind citizens of all the safety hazards and violations associated with firearms and fireworks. Here are a few reasons as to why they are both prohibited.

Facts to know:

■ If you are caught shooting a gun into the air you can be charged with a felony. You can spend up to one year in prison if you are caught.

■ If you're arrested for shooting a gun into the air, you will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

■ If a stray bullet from your gun should kill someone, you can be arrested and charged with murder.

If you ever see someone fire a gun into the air, call 911 and give the dispatcher as much information as possible about the shooting. If you only hear gunfire, call (310) 458-8491.

The Santa Monica Police Department seeks your support in persuading all residents of the city not to endanger people by firing guns on New Year's Eve. Don't shoot a gun! The life you save may belong to someone you love!

For more information, visit www.santamonicapd.org.

Q: You guys are really good about providing tips on safety. Anything you can share for celebrating the new year safely?

A: Thank you for the compliment and thank you for asking. The Santa Monica Police Department is always here to ensure the safety of its citizens, especially on joyous occasions and celebrations. New Year's Eve is a huge night for everyone, which means crowds will be swarming toward all of the nightlife this great city has to offer. By simply using some common sense and safety precautions, we can help ensure that we all have a great night and ring in the new year safely!

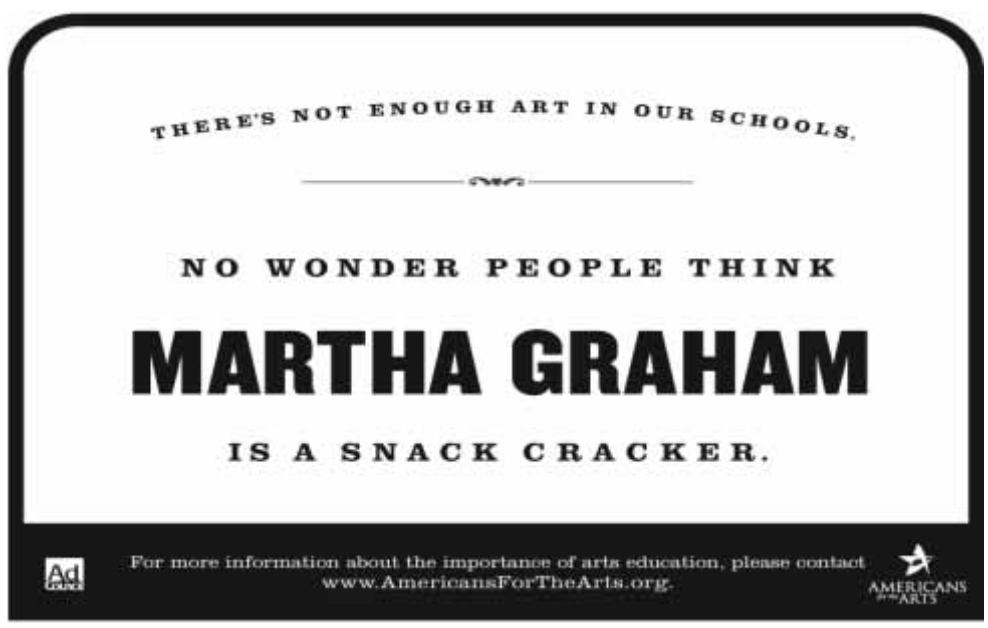
■ Designate a driver: If you are going to be driving during New Year's Eve, don't drink and drive. If you have a friend who does not prefer to drink, make sure they take the wheel. You might even look at a local taxi, limousine or designated driver service. Try to avoid driving at all if you can. More people will be driving under the influence on this particular night, so avoid a potentially dangerous accident by staying off the road. Otherwise, be alert and drive defensively. Most importantly, wear your seatbelt!

■ Be alert: Be aware of your surroundings and how others are acting. Stay away from those who are out of control and might cause harm. Taking preventive measures is key. If someone is really intoxicated, prevent them from trying to drive or leaving with someone they do not know. It's important to keep an eye out for each other.

■ Stick together: This way we can look out for our friends and family. Going out to parties and nightclubs means a fast-paced, crazy night, so be sure to travel in groups. Having a safety net around you in this environment, especially for women, is imperative.

■ Monitor your alcohol Intake: A majority of people will be drinking on New Year's Eve, and there is nothing wrong with that. Just be sure to pay attention to how much you and others are consuming. Drinking too much alcohol can have lethal effects. Be responsible, and one last thing, happy new year from your friends at the Santa Monica Police Department!

This column was prepared by NRO Roberto Lucio (Beat 6: Montana Avenue to Interstate 10, Centinela Avenue to 20th Street). He can be reached at (424) 200-0686 or Roberto.lucio@smgov.net.



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OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

The Q Line

Year in review

This past week, Q-line asked:
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.
Here are your responses:

"YOU COULD DO A REVIEW OF ALL THE stupid actions of the politicians – local, state and national. But you don't have enough paper available to do that."

"THE STUDENT PILOT WHO DEPARTED from Santa Monica Airport and crashed into a house at 21st and Navy on Aug. 29th."

"THE MOST IMPORTANT ARTICLE OF THE year was the nativity on Ocean Avenue. That's got to be the only one, and it was my favorite, and it should be everybody's favorite because they love Jesus and Jesus loves us. And the nativity on Ocean Avenue is very important for all the children, especially. But also for all adults."

"THANK YOU FOR THE QUESTION AND raising the subject once again of secondhand smoke. Any one of those articles that you've printed during the year would be splendid. But today, Thursday Dec. 28, Natalie Lewis gave a very good interview. That should be the top story because I live in that building, and it's a problem, it's a pest. The title was 'Healthy elder stresses over secondhand smoke.' She's not the only one stressing, believe me. I live in the same building, as I say, and it is an annoying, disgusting and smelly problem. Not to mention unhealthy. Some of the elder people here are housebound, due to age, and it's even worse for them. No escape from the unhealthy atmosphere. Smokers should at least be relegated to one or two floors, like they do in some colleges. It would be some relief."

"I THINK THE GREAT LOCAL STORY IS rent control, and the very sad malpractice of it in Santa Monica. There are a lot of units available to low-income people, and yet many building units are empty, and I just think that's terrible. I'm a former landlord, and I think we need to give units to people that need it, such as me now that I'm disabled."

"WHITEY BULGER. THAT'S IT."

"FOR SURE WHITEY BULGER'S CAPTURE, just a few blocks from our proud shopaholic Mecca Third Street Promenade. It's mind boggling that this guy hid in such plain sight in our not-so-sleepy beach town. It is crazy interesting how he hid all that cash in the walls, had a woman who stuck to him like glue and even to this moment sings his praises and defends him. It blows my mind, I think it's a way cool story that he was captured here in our town, Santa Monica, and to think he got away with it for so many years and was living a good time in sleepy Santa Monica. The second big story I believe is that we kept those dog people off our beach. The dog walkers in the morning along the bike path, literally it is a circus of dogs. You will injure yourself from falling over every size of dog. Each of those dogs excretes at least once, many, many more times I'm sure, right along the bike path, on the bike path, and right over the wall into the sand, which I witness every single morning as I run along the bike path. The fact that you asked a timely question, the Santa Monica Daily Press grabbed that subject, asked questions, people answered, and within seven days such a large decision that no dog beach in Santa Monica for now, to me personally is a huge story. They have the beach. There is no enforcement. Venice and Santa Monica blend seamlessly. When you get down to the beach, you don't know where you are. Are you in Venice? Are you in Santa Monica? And those dog people don't give a hoot. They're going to walk their dogs wherever they want, and dogs gotta poop."

"I WANTED TO SAY PLASTIC BAGS BAN, but that's the most ridiculous story, next to your editorial endorsement of it. The biggest story is the $600 million a year budget, along with your hilarious comment about the amenities that come with it. What amenities? $111 million for low-income housing? $65 million for the Big Blue Bus garage and bum offices? $35 million for Sears Automotive, the end stop for light rail? How much extra money is wasted each year on these amenities that I will never use along with the majority of Santa Monicans? Your paper needs a more realistic view of Santa Monica. You need to understand what is truly wrong with our town before trying to fix it. $600 million a year is actually a big part of the problem."

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Celebrity chef lightens up a cold weather classic

ROCCO DISPIRITO
For The Associated Press

CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP MAY HAVE A reputation for helping us beat the winter sniffles, but that doesn't make it health food.

Processed varieties, for example, can be loaded with calories, fat and sodium. And don't even get me started on the lack of flavor and hunks of tough chicken.

In my recipe for chicken noodle soup, I sidestep all these liabilities. I simmer the soup with real chicken and fresh vegetables, like carrots and onions, which are a great source of vitamins. The more veggies you add, the more nutrients you get.

Like many chicken noodle soups, mine is based on broth instead of cream, which saves on fattening calories. And I add thyme for flavor, negating the need for excess salt.

Soup is one of those foods classified as "low energy dense." This mean you can eat a lot of it and fill up without consuming a lot of calories.

Rather than add carb-rich noodles, I've used Shirataki noodles. They're made from konnyaku, a dough of Asian yam (konjac) flour and water. Shirataki noodles are a superb pasta substitute; each serving has 20 calories or fewer, plus 2 grams of fiber. They're low on the glycemic index too, so they won't send your blood sugar through the roof.

These noodles also are gluten-free. If you can't find them in the store, go to miraclenoodle.com. But don't substitute with tofu Shirataki, which are not as good.

Each 1 1/2 cup portion of this soup has an incredibly low 93 calories and 3 grams of fat. If you're feeling really hungry, go ahead and eat two portions and you'll still be under 200 calories! Traditional versions can have up to 560 calories and 18 grams of fat per serving.

TIPS

■ You can make your own stock if you like by simmering chicken bones or parts in water with onions, celery, garlic and carrots. After simmering, strain out and discard the solids, then chill. The fat will solidify on the surface and is easily scraped off and discarded. The flavor of homemade stock is much better than purchased. Plus, you control how much salt is added.

■ This is a great base recipe for noodle soup. You can add different herbs and spices to take the flavor in any direction you like. Some soy sauce, ginger and bok choy or miso and mushrooms, or even some kimchee and peas are great (and healthy) ways to keep it interesting.

CHICKEN NOODLE SOUP

Start to finish: 45 minutes (20 minutes active)

Servings: 8

2 quarts (8 cups) reduced-sodium chicken broth
1 1/2 cups diced (1-inch pieces) carrots
1 1/2 cups chopped (1-inch pieces) yellow onion
1 cup (1-inch pieces) celery
3 bone-in chicken thighs (about 1 pound), skin removed
4 sprigs fresh thyme, tied together with kitchen string
2 bay leaves
1 cube salt-free vegetable bouillon
16 ounces Shirataki noodles, rinsed with cold water
1/2 teaspoon Old Bay Seasoning
Salt and ground black pepper

In a 6-quart stockpot over medium heat, combine the broth, carrots, onions, celery, chicken thighs, thyme, bay leaves and bouillon cube. Bring to a very gentle simmer and cook until the vegetables are tender and chicken is cooked through, about 25 minutes.

Meanwhile, cut the Shirataki noodles into pieces about 3 inches long.

Remove the chicken thighs from the soup and place on a cutting board. Remove and discard the bones. Shred the chicken meat, then return it to the soup along with the noodles and Old Bay Seasoning.

Season with salt and pepper, then remove and discard the bay leaves and thyme. Skim any fat off the top of the soup, then ladle into 8 serving bowls.

Nutrition information per serving (values are rounded to the nearest whole number): 93 calories; 3 g fat (31 percent calories from fat) (1 g saturated); 2 mg cholesterol; 6 g carbohydrate; 10 g protein; 1 g fiber; 659 mg sodium.

Gourmet producers beef up a snacking tradition

MICHELLE LOCKE
For The Associated Press

Everything you think you know about jerky is wrong, says Jon Sebastiani, founder and CEO of Krave gourmet jerky.

"Most people when you ask them their opinion or image of jerky you get a pretty common response which is that it's junk food; it's gas station food; it's dry and leathery; it's not good for you," he says. When made properly, none of the above is true and in fact, "it is good for you."

Oh, you thought jerky was a fun snack to chew on while watching the football playoffs?

Well, that part is true, although Sebastiani is trying to get consumers to think of jerky as something more than a between-meals stopgap and see it more as a source of nutrition and even as the basis for other dishes.

As football heads toward the season-ending showdowns, gourmet jerky lovers have more choices. High-end jerky is available in everything from the traditional beef to turkey, lamb, and even fish.

At Epicurious.com, interest in high-end jerky, especially among men, has become so popular that the site listed Brooklyn-based King's County Jerky in its Foodie Stocking Stuffers gift guide. And when it comes to serving tips for something like a Super Bowl party, Epicurious editor-in-chief Tanya Steel recommends putting out a jerky-filled glass on the buffet along with dips, salsas and chips — "and next to lots of water!"

Sebastiani's introduction to good food and flavors came by way of his upbringing as a member of a Northern California winemaking family. His interest in jerky came when he was training for the New York City Marathon a few years back and was eating a lot of jerky because of its low-fat, high-protein and low-carbohydrate properties.

Gathering around the dinner table

BY JESS HILTON
Special to the Daily Press

During the holidays, one of the ways we celebrate is by gathering around the dinner table with friends and loved ones for the ritual of sharing food. Sadly, for many of us this tradition only happens a handful of times each year.

In the not too distance past, it wasn't uncommon for families to eat together nightly. It provided an opportunity to share the day's events, to communicate and bond as a family.

When I was growing up, my family ate together every day. Sometimes, it felt like a chore, but we still did it. It was the one thing my mom insisted we do every night. Of course there were exceptions, like the nights my brother or I had a sleepover, or my parents visited a restaurant. Almost ever single day my mother made dinner from scratch and we ate the last bite together, even if we didn't like it. She made one dish for everyone; no special requests, substitutions or omissions. She was the Sang Yoon of the day. (Those of you who have visited Father's Office know what I'm talking about.)

These days, however, as families move apart and technology takes over their lives, the tradition of eating together has quietly slipped away. Kids are busy with after-school activities and parents are crazed with work, commutes, and carpools. Homemade meals have been replaced with fast food meals. Family dinners have been replaced with individual family members eating different meals, at different times, in different rooms. I've witnessed parents prepare a gorgeous dinner only to have Little Johnny demand mac 'n' cheese, from a box. He then eats his processed "meal" in front of the TV, while mom and dad sit at the table alone.

But all is not lost because the holiday ritual of eating together does not need to be a once-a-year event. It can become a weekly or even daily routine in your house.

My doctor recently told me he regretted not eating family meals when his kids were young. If he were able to turn back the clock, he would insist upon this tradition at least once a week. My pediatrician just told me about the importance of taking time to eat together as a family, even though my daughter is too young to even eat solid food! They are both aware of the positive impact eating together has on a family.

They both know it is a great place to foster communication. When parents and children come together around the table, conversation usually ensues … I hope. Mom and dad will learn what happened at school and what is going on in the lives of their children. Enjoying family meals also provides a great opportunity for parents to teach their kids the importance of healthy eating. (Of course, I had to squeeze in a bit about healthy eating.)

A recent study found that kids often imitate their parents' eating habits. This includes not only what the parents eat, but how and when. Clearly then we should use meal times as an opportunity to teach kids how to build healthy a relationship with food. Some important lessons to take from the dinner table include:

- Eating and appreciating vegetables.
- Taking time to eat, as opposed to eating on the run, in a car etc.
- Creating balanced meals.
- Communicating and social interaction.
- Appreciating good food made with love.

Some of us no longer have family close by, but you can create your own version of family dinners. I recommend my clients, most of whom are single, eat with other people as often as possible. In Los Angeles, many of us are transplants without family nearby. So get together with friends, neighbors, and roommates to share a sense of community around the table at least once a week. Take turns making dinner or organize a weekly potluck. Try cooking new recipes together and enjoy them with company. Most importantly, make the time to enjoy a homemade meal with the ones you love in the new year.

Roast chicken is one of the best family meals. Serve with roasted vegetables and a green salad, it's also extremely good for you.

Enjoy.

JESS HILTON is a health and nutrition coach in Santa Monica. She can be reached at www.jesshilton.com.

Tuscan roasted chicken

Serves: 8

3 tablespoons rosemary, chopped
1 large sprig rosemary
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
5 garlic cloves, chopped
2 teaspoons grated lemon peel
1 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
1 tablespoon sea salt
1 three pound chicken
1 lemon, quartered

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Mix chopped rosemary, olive oil, garlic, lemon peel, red pepper and salt in a gallon Ziploc bag with chicken.

Place chicken in roasting pan or stainless steel frying pan. Place quartered lemon and rosemary in cavity of chicken.

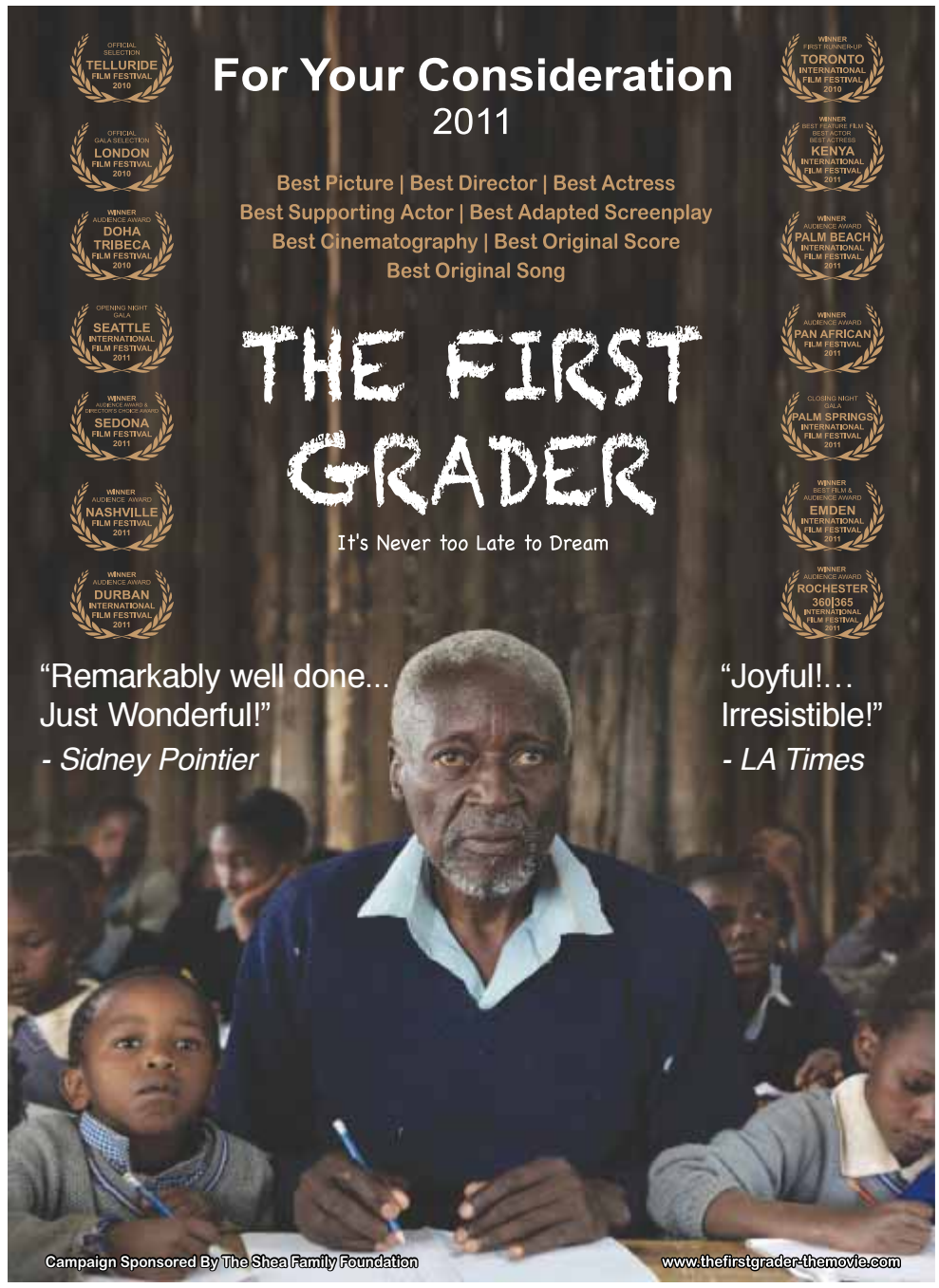
Roast chicken until meat thermometer inserted into thickest part of inner thigh registers 165 degrees, or juices run clear when pierced with a knife, about 1 hour, 15 minutes.

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TOP STORIES
FROM PAGE 1

holiday season, which displaced several nativity displays erected by local churches for over 55 years, caused quite a stir. Dozens of letters and e-mails filled the Daily Press inbox from those on both sides of the issue, which also drew national media coverage.

That is why the atheists' Occupy-style protest in Palisades Park topped our list of the news events that shaped 2011 for Santa Monicans.

TRADITION UNDER ATTACK

There were signs last year that the atheists were planning something. Damon Vix, a Hollywood prop builder, had placed a "Happy Solstice" display in the park to compete with the nativity scenes. The display featured quotes from the founding fathers about the importance of separation of church in state.

At that time, Vix was all on his own and posed no real threat to the coalition of churches and community groups that had up to that point free reign over the park during the holiday season. No one bothered to challenge them until Vix came along.

This year he mobilized and assisted other atheist groups and flooded City Hall with applications for space along Ocean Avenue, forcing city officials to hold a lottery. The atheists won a majority of the spots, leaving room for only three crèches instead of the regular 14.

Many in the community were outraged and disappointed that politics got in the way of tradition during a season when they were trying to hold on to good memories of old times. Others supported Vix and expressed displeasure with the presence of religion in such a public space.

There are calls for city officials to alter the lottery so that the churches have more of a fighting chance. With all of the exposure, Vix seems to have come out ahead in this battle. It will be interesting to see how many other groups apply in 2012 and whether or not the churches change their strategy to come on top.

Meanwhile, more menorahs popped up across the city by the sea, many of them on private property, and with little opposition. Could that be a solution?



Daniel Archuleta daniela@smdp.com

CAREFUL EYE: **Samohi head coach Travis Clark oversees practice on campus early this fall.**

BULGER BAGGED AFTER YEARS ON THE RUN

With its beautiful beach, award-winning restaurants and four-star hotels, Santa Monica has attracted visitors from all over the world who are looking to get away.

James "Whitey" Bulger was looking to get away… away from the FBI. The former Boston mob boss, who was on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted List," was living in a rent-controlled apartment on Third Street when he was apprehended in June after 16 years on the lam.

Thanks to a tip dropped by a former Icelandic beauty queen, FBI agents were able to track down the formerly feared underworld figure and his longtime girlfriend, Catherine Greig. The 81-year-old leader of the vicious Winter Hill Gang was lured outside his building — The Princess Eugenia Apartments — and arrested without incident. Inside his apartment he had stashed 30 weapons and more than $800,000 in cash.

During his time in Santa Monica, Bulger was said to like

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TOP STORIES
FROM PAGE 8

to walk down to the Santa Monica Pier and soak in the view. Sometimes he made small talk with the fisherman or those playing chess on the boardwalk.

Bulger is awaiting trial on a federal indictment that includes allegations that he was involved in 19 murders and oversaw a criminal enterprise that extorted bookmakers, drug dealers and businessmen. His next hearing is Jan. 11 in U.S. District Court in Boston.

WRESTLING WITH RACISM

In May, Santa Monica High School was the scene of what was initially described by district officials as a "racial incident" involving a member of the school's wrestling team. At first, reports had the victim, an African American, being chained to a locker by two white teens, who allegedly shouted "slave for sale." Making matters worse was how the victim's mother was notified; it was not by the school district, but by another parent.

What was most likely a foolish prank exploded into a community-wide discussion on race and bullying, and launched two investigations — one that focused on the incident and the other on the school district's response — that resulted in no criminal charges being filed. The two teens responsible agreed to enroll in a diversion program offered by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office and the victim and his family moved on, still scarred but coping.

What came out of it was a commitment to continue creating a safe learning environment for all students, with the formation of the Intercultural District Advisory Committee and focus on creating new programs that promote racial harmony.

SLICING THE PIE

The Board of Education banned parent groups from raising money for staff salaries at school sites in November, a fundamental shift in the organization of fundraising in the district meant to increase equality between campuses.

Parent Teacher Associations and other fundraising bodies were bringing in vastly different amounts of money to individual schools, causing some sites to get roughly $2,100 in extra funding per child while another received only $65.

The difference in funding led to extra arts programs and instructional aides at wealthier schools, a disparity that new Superintendent Sandra Lyon could not justify.

"Ultimately, it creates a climate in which instruction and instructional experiences can be different from one school to the next," Lyon told Malibu parents, saying that between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., students should be guaranteed the same access to a quality education in the district.



Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

HIGH FLYER: **Samohi's Charles Levy (right) goes up for the ball against San Gabriel during the CIF-SS finals.**



Brandon Wise *news@smdp.com*

REMEMBERING MATTHEW: **Friends of Matthew Mezza gather to pay their respects at his memorial in front of the Sheraton Delfina on Pico Boulevard in January.**

Many parents, notably those from Malibu, were against the move, calling it "mandated mediocrity" and asking the board to raise other schools up rather than bring successful schools down.

After almost 20 hours of public comment and board discussion spread over three meetings, the Board of Education voted unanimously to move the responsibility of fundraising for personnel to the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation, a 30-year-old nonprofit formed to bolster funding for public education.

The shift will take place over 18 months for elementary schools, with the Education Foundation taking full responsibility for extra programs as of the 2013-14 school year.

FLYING TOWARD A BRICK WALL

On Aug. 29, 2011, a pilot with around 40 hours of flight experience fell out of the sky, crashing into a home in Santa Monica's Sunset Park neighborhood.

The pilot survived with a broken leg, and a single bystander sustained minor injuries, but the incident inflamed tensions between those that use Santa Monica Airport and its neighbors, who claim that the airport is a safety hazard and must be closed.

Since, the respective sides have drawn their lines in the sand, with elected officials at the state and local level, including Los Angeles City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl and Sen. Ted Lieu, rallying in support of closure while the Federal Aviation Administration and pilot group Friends of Santa Monica Airport, or FOSMO, stood in defense of the historic location.

Flight schools became regular targets for community ire, with activists blaming the six schools for exposing residents to unnecessary danger both from crashes and from lead, a dangerous element used in fuel for prop planes.

The ruckus came as the City Council launched a series of studies and community outreach to determine the economic impacts of the airport and possible uses for non-aviation land in the face of the impending end of a 20-year contract with the federal government which restricted local control over the airport.

The FAA contends that day won't come until 2023, and that City Hall has an obligation to operate the airport "in perpetuity."

INVESTIGATING THE INVESTIGATORS

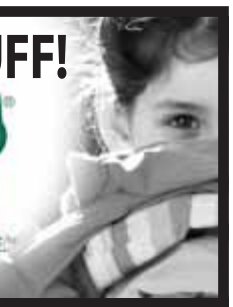
Summer of 2011 saw the conclusion of a year-long saga that began as a police investigation of a prominent elected official and ended in an investigation of the Santa Monica Police Department itself.

A fight between two teenagers near Samohi turned into an investigation of two-term Board of Education member and community activist Oscar de la Torre, who was accused

SEE **TOP STORIES** PAGE 10

Bookkeeping by the Numbers

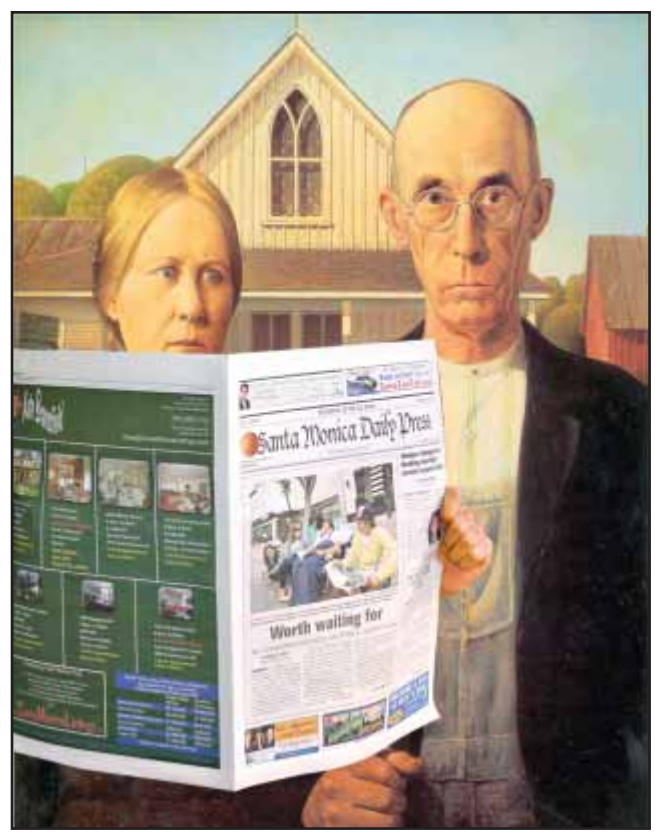
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The following are summaries of Ordinance Numbers 2383 through 2385, which were adopted by the City Council on December 13, 2011.

City of Santa Monica

Ordinance Number 2383 enhances protections for tenants by, among other things, amending the Municipal Code to increase permanent tenant relocation benefits and extending tenant harassment protections to all tenants covered by the City's just cause eviction rules.

Ordinance Number 2384 amends the City's zoning ordinance to allow showrooms for all-electric vehicles on the most northerly block of the Third Street promenade, subject to approval of a performance standards permit.

Ordinance Number 2385 amends the Municipal Code to establish compliance monitoring fees based on the cost of ensuring compliance with the City's affordable housing production program.

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

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HAPPENINGS
FROM PAGE 3

The tradition began 39 years ago, said Evelyn Rudie, co-artistic director at the playhouse.

"We were going to do it just once," she said, laughing.

Fans let the company know what they did well through the year by phone, e-mail and in conversations after the show, and the players use the month of December to spin that into a cohesive performance.

It will run twice, once at 6 p.m. and once at 9:30 p.m. Attendees will get a crack at a complimentary buffet and then celebrate with champagne and cider.

The earlier show lets young children get a chance to enjoy the festivities and still get to bed on time, while the later one feels like New Year's. The audience can rush the stage to dance and toast with the actors.

"We adore it," Rudie said.

Tickets are available at 1211 Fourth St. and cost $39.50 for general admission at the early show and $49.50 for the later.

If a 6 p.m. show will get the kids to bed, a 4 p.m. celebration will just get the party started.

Ye Olde King's Head pub and a number of other British establishments in Santa Monica will host an English New Year's at 4 p.m. complimented by a live broadcast of the celebration at Big Ben in London.

"There are a lot of ex-pats here, and they love to celebrate as all their family at home do," said Dusty Kerr, manager of Ye Olde King's Head.

That doesn't mean they'll be ignoring American traditions, however.

"At 4 p.m. we'll put on the big screen Big Ben from London and go all the way to the American one," Kerr said.

DJs will perform from 12 p.m. to 2 a.m. on Jan. 1, and bag pipe players will travel from pub to pub, spreading a little more United Kingdom color.

"It's really busy, it's our busiest day of the year," Kerr said. "It's a great day, and everyone has fun."

More traditional options abound as well.

Wokcano will host its second annual Black & White Masquerade Ball. Over 500 guests will munch on free hors d'oeuvres as they're dazzled with a laser light show until the champagne toast at midnight.

Loews Hotel's Ocean & Vine restaurant planned a prix-fixe menu for those looking to take it easy and celebrate with some bubbly and seasonal fresh food from chef Keith Roberts.

None of it is enough to tempt Santa Monica resident Rick Smith.

"I'll be celebrating with friends," Smith said, simply.

ashley@smdp.com



Doug Olmedo *news@smdp.com*

THE SCENE: **Safety officials inspect a plane that crashed into a Sunset Park home in August.**

TOP STORIES
FROM PAGE 9

of felony child endangerment for allegedly not breaking the fight up quickly enough.

The district attorney declined to file charges in the case, and instead City Hall brought in the county's Office of Independent Review to clear the air of community accusations that SMPD investigators had acted inappropriately during the course of the investigation.

The OIR report revealed uncommon interview techniques, and that the investigator, Sgt. Dave Thomas, included "an unusual mix of facts and advocacy."

City Manager Rod Gould took full responsibility for the incident in February, followed by Police Chief Tim Jackman in July. The SMPD instituted a number of reforms to prevent a future incident. de la Torre is still waiting for a formal apology from City Hall.

SUICIDE SHOCKS SAMOHI COMMUNITY

When Santa Monica High School freshman Matthew Mezza jumped to his death from atop the Sheraton Delfina hotel in January, it caught the school community off guard.

The seemingly happy baseball player apparently ran away from practice, heading across the street from campus where he would ultimately end his own life in front of a group of his teammates.

The death sent shock waves through town that led to school officials using the opportunity to teach parents and students alike what to look for when a teen is contemplating suicide.

There were workshops held, tears shed and much soul searching in the wake of the tragedy.

A Facebook page has sprung up in the aftermath that Mezza's mother uses to post touching tributes to her son. Mezza's classmates often respond to the emotional posts with encouraging sentiments to the young man's family and loved ones.

SAMOHI SPORTS ROLL ON

Samohi's push to become an athletic powerhouse continued this past year.

In May, the boys' volleyball team rallied to topple San Gabriel in four games to win

SEE TOP STORIES PAGE 12

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Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

YAY! **The Samohi volleyball team celebrates winning the CIF-SS title in May.**

TOP STORIES
FROM PAGE 10

the CIF-Southern Section Division 4 championship at Cypress College.

The team led by Julian Hess and Charles Levy also won an Ocean League title and qualified for the state tournament in the process.

"I feel overjoyed for these boys," Head Coach Liane Sato said after the title match. "This is great for them."

Although Samohi's football team didn't win a CIF-SS title this year, it did post its best season in a decade.

The Vikings went 11-2 on the season, winning its first Ocean League crown in 10 seasons. Samohi used that momentum to propel it to the semi-finals in the CIF-SS Western Division where they were eliminated by league rival Culver City.

The season was unique in that it united the community behind the Vikings as they had the best season in Head Coach Travis Clark's three years leading the team.

As the drama of the season grew, it wasn't unusual to see near capacity attendance at both home and road games. City and school officials even took notice, with a number of them appearing along the sidelines during what would become a season to remember.

The team spawned a number of players who are actively being recruited by major college programs with linebacker Chris Collins and offensive lineman Chad Wheeler garnering the most interest.

BREAKING THE LAW

Santa Monica's crime rate is thankfully low, but that doesn't mean the city is immune to unlawful activity. Unfortunately, families were hit hard by a shooting, a fatal stabbing, and a brutal beating in 2011. If there is anything positive to glean from this, it is that the Santa Monica Police Department arrested suspects involved in all but one of the top crime events this year.

Perhaps the most shocking was the brutal beating of a resident on Santa Monica Boulevard during the early morning hours of Sept. 22. Police said the victim, a 45-year-old movie producer, couldn't sleep and decided to go for a jog. That's when two men approached and attacked the victim with his own hand weights, causing serious injury. Detectives worked with sheriff's deputies in Arizona to apprehend Bryan Hale and Brett Davis, who are fighting extradition to face criminal charges.

The beating was reminiscent of the senseless attack on Giants fan Bryan Stowe at the Los Angeles Dodgers' home opener.

Another violent crime to take place in Santa Monica was the fatal stabbing of an Albertsons employee as she worked at a checkout stand. Police said her estranged husband, Kelvin Green, walked into the grocery store on Wilshire Boulevard and attacked Christina Talley from behind, stabbing her more than 20 times in the head, neck and upper body.

He faces murder charges and is being held on $1 million bail. His next court date is Jan. 10.

A transient named Ron Hirsch caused quite a stir in April when he allegedly set off a homemade bomb near the Chabad House synagogue on 17th Street. Some debris went through the ceiling of a bedroom where a

SEE **TOP STORIES** PAGE 13



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

A SIGN: **The Palisades Park nativity scenes had company this holiday season.**

TOP STORIES
FROM PAGE 12

12-year-old girl was said to be sleeping. Nobody was hurt in the blast but it raised concern amongst religious groups in Santa Monica, who had been relatively free from attacks.

Hirsch was eventually arrested in Cleveland after fleeing Los Angeles via bus. He remains in federal custody awaiting trial.

Other crimes that shook the community included the non-fatal, gang-related shooting of a 16-year-old Samohi student on Dec. 7 and the attempted kidnapping of an infant by a crazed homeless man in July.

And for some closure, Paul Edmond Carpenter was found guilty in October for the death of a German tourist, who was shot and killed during a botched robbery attempt near Loews hotel in Santa Monica in 1998. Carpenter was apprehended in Kingston, Jamaica in 2009. Three others were found responsible for the murder and have since been convicted. Carpenter's sentencing is set for Jan. 18.



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

BANNED FOR GOOD: **A worker at Co-opportunity market uses single-use plastic bags on the last day before a ban took effect.**

BAN THE BAG

In September, a City Council-mandated ban on single-use plastic bags took effect.

Gone are the days of receiving complimentary plastic bags at local markets and stores. If a shopper needs something to cart home their goods, they either have to bring their own reusable bag or pay 10 cents for a paper version.

The ban puts Santa Monica in rare company as one of the few California cities to enact such a ban.

Public response at first was lukewarm as shoppers struggled to accept the new rules aimed at protecting the environment. Local store clerks reported that some shoppers refused to pay for the bags, instead opting to carry their items in their arms to avoid the surcharge.

The reaction has since died down as shoppers and store owners adjust to the progressive law.

Los Angeles County has since OK'd a ban of its own covering unincorporated areas with other SoCal communities considering doing the same.

BLOWN OUT OF PROPORTION

Santa Monica churned out a number of news items that caught national attention, but at least three fell short of their potential.

The 8.9 earthquake and consequent tsunami that devastated Japan in March, claiming thousands of lives and causing the worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl, brought people to the coast to witness the waves that touched shore in America.

In Santa Monica, at least, there was little to see.

Officials closed the Santa Monica Pier and beach parking lots out of caution, but saw nothing more than slightly higher waves.

On the domestic side, officials across the county inundated people with public service announcements and saturated media coverage with tales of the traffic doom that would befall the region when a stretch of the 405 Freeway between the 10 Freeway and the 101 Freeway closed to demolish Mulholland Bridge in mid July.

People were encouraged to stay at home and businesses pulled out "Carmageddon" specials to tempt locals into their shops and restaurants.

Those who drove on July 16 and 17 saw smooth sailing and none of the traffic jams foretold by officials.

Traffic wasn't the only thing people tried to cut short this year.

A San Diego-based organization that opposes circumcision for newborns filed paperwork to place a measure on the 2012 Santa Monica ballot to make it a misdemeanor to perform circumcisions on boys under the age of 18.

The Santa Monica Male-Genital Mutilation Bill ballot initiative, submitted by resident Jena Troutman, sought to protect male babies by making the procedure a crime punishable by a $1,000 fine or a year in county jail.

Troutman eventually bowed under the intense criticism heaped upon her by locals. She pulled the petition out of circulation.

This year in review was written by Ashley Archibald, Daniel Archuleta and Kevin Herrera.

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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

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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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Fake pot a problem for military brass

JULIE WATSON
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO U.S. troops are increasingly using an easy-to-get herbal mix called "Spice," which mimics a marijuana high, is hard to detect and can bring on hallucinations that last for days.

The abuse of the substance has so alarmed military officials that they've launched an aggressive testing program that this year has led to the investigation of more than 1,100 suspected users.

So-called "synthetic" pot is readily available on the Internet and has become popular nationwide in recent years, but its use among troops and sailors has raised concerns among the Pentagon brass.

"You can just imagine the work that we do in a military environment," said Mark Ridley, deputy director of the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, adding, "you need to be in your right mind when you do a job. That's why the Navy has always taken a zero tolerance policy toward drugs."

Two years ago, only 29 Marines and sailors were investigated for Spice. This year, the number topped 700, the investigative service said. Those found guilty of using Spice are kicked out, although the Navy does not track the overall number of dismissals.

The Air Force has punished 497 airmen so far this year, compared to last year's 380, according to figures provided by the Pentagon. The Army does not track Spice investigations but says it has medically treated 119 soldiers for the synthetic drug in total.

Military officials emphasize those caught represent a tiny fraction of all service members and note none was in a leadership position or believed high while on duty.

Spice is made up of exotic plants from Asia like Blue Lotus and Bay Bean. Their leaves are coated with chemicals that mimic the effects of THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, but are five to 200 times more potent.

More than 40 states have banned some of its chemicals, prompting sellers to turn to the Internet, where it is marketed as incense or potpourri. In some states, Spice is sold at bars, smoke shops and convenience stores.

Sellers based in the United States and Europe advertising the incense on the Internet did not respond to emails or calls seeking comment.

The packets often say the ingredients are not for human consumption and are for aromatherapy. They are described as "mood enhancing" and "long lasting." Some of the sellers' Web sites say they do not sell herbal mixes containing any illegal chemicals and say they are offering a "legal high."

Service members preferred it because up until this year there was no way to detect it with urine tests. A test was developed after the Drug Enforcement Administration put a one-year emergency ban on five chemicals found in the drug.

Manufacturers are adapting to avoid detection, even on the new tests, and skirt new laws banning the main chemicals, officials say.

"It's a moving target," said Capt. J.A. "Cappy" Surette, spokesman for the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

The military can calibrate its equipment to test for those five banned chemicals "but underground chemists can keep altering the properties and make up to more than 100 permutations," Surette said.

Complicating their efforts further, there are more than 200 other chemicals used in the concoctions. They remain legal and their effects on the mind and body remain largely unknown, Navy doctors say.

A Clemson University scientist created many of the chemicals for research purposes in 1990s. They were never tested on humans.

Civilian deaths have been reported and emergency crews have responded to calls of "hyper-excited" people doing things like tearing off their clothes and running down the street naked.

Navy investigators compare the substance to angel dust because no two batches are the same. Some who smoke it like a marijuana cigarette may just feel a euphoric buzz, but others have suffered delusions lasting up to a week.

While the problem has surfaced in all branches of the military, the Navy has been the most aggressive in drawing attention to the problem.

It produced a video based on cases to warn sailors of Spice's dangers and publicized busts of crew members on some of its most-storied ships, including the USS Carl Vinson, from which Osama bin Laden's was dropped into the sea.

Two of the largest busts this year involved sailors in the San Diego-based U.S. Third Fleet, which announced last month that it planned to dismiss 28 sailors assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan.

A month earlier, 64 sailors, including 49 from the Vinson, were accused of being involved in a Spice ring.

Many of the cases were discovered after one person was caught with synthetic pot, prompting broader investigations.

Lt. Commander Donald Hurst, a fourth-year psychiatry resident at San Diego's Naval Medical Center, said the hospital is believed to have seen more cases than any other health facility in the country.

Doctors saw users experiencing bad reactions once a month, but now see them weekly. Users suffer everything from vomiting, elevated blood pressure and seizures to extreme agitation, anxiety and delusions.

Hurst said the behavior in many cases he witnessed at first seemed akin to schizophrenia. Usually within minutes, however, the person became completely lucid. Sometimes, the person goes in and out of such episodes for days.

He recalled one especially bizarre case of a sailor who came in with his sobbing wife.

"He stood their holding a sandwich in front of him with no clue as to what to do," he said. "He opened it up, looked at it, touched it. I took it and folded it over and then he took a bite out it. But then we had to tell him, 'you have to chew.'"

An hour later when Hurst went back to evaluate him, he was completely normal and worried about being in trouble.

"That's something you don't see with acute schizophrenic patients," he said. "Then we found out based on the numbers of people coming in like this, that OK there's a new drug out there."

Hurst decided to study 10 cases. Some also had smoked marijuana or drank alcohol, while others only smoked Spice.

Of the 10, nine had lost a sense of reality. Seven babbled incoherently. The symptoms for seven of them lasted four to eight days. Three others are believed to now be schizophrenic. Hurst believed the drug may have triggered the symptoms in people with that genetic disposition. His findings were published in the American Journal of Psychiatry in October.

He said there are countless questions that still need answering, including the designer drug's effects on people with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or traumatic brain injuries.

What the research has confirmed, he said, is: "These are not drugs to mess with."





SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 57-59°

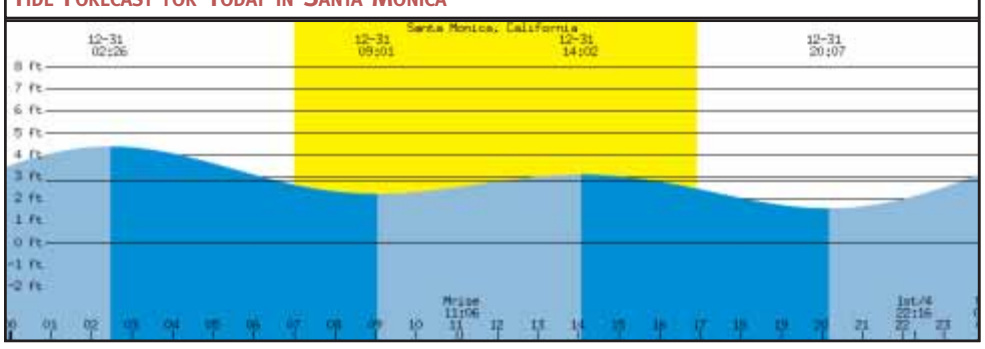
Swell Forecast

Looks similar with possibly a slight increase at west facing breaks.

Long Range Synopsis

Sunday is the ETA for our next swell. Chest to head high is the call for most 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, Groundwork 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
Los Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Seguit 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 Troncas 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 is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to making Santa Monica Bay and Southern California coastal waters safe and healthy for people and marine life.

Heal the Bay

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

NCAA FOOTBALL

Fiesta Bowl not far behind BCS title game for buzz

JOHN MARSHALL
AP College Football Writer

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. Last year's Fiesta Bowl was a dud on the field, in the stands, in the ratings — pretty much any standard you considered.

Not this year.

Oklahoma State and Stanford are creating a buzz for the Jan. 2 game unlike any other bowl outside of the BCS championship game.

"Let's face it, Americans like to score points — that's why we don't embrace soccer," Fiesta Bowl executive director Robert Shelton said Wednesday. "You never know, but I think that's why this is the game to watch this year."

It wasn't like this last year.

With UConn travelling across the country and facing a perennial national power in Oklahoma, the Fiesta Bowl was a tough sell.

UConn was only able to sell 5,000 of its allotment of 17,500 tickets, and University of Phoenix Stadium was 6,000 below capacity. The game lived up to its lopsided billing with the Sooners winning 48-20. Not many people were interested in watching it on TV, and the ratings dropped 22 percent from the year before.

The Fiesta Bowl needed a boost after nearly losing its BCS status due to financial improprieties — CEO John Junker was fired in March for his involvement — and couldn't have asked for a better matchup between Cardinal and Cowboys.

Oklahoma State and Stanford are Nos. 3 and 4 in the BCS standings, giving the Fiesta Bowl the highest possible rankings outside the title game. The Cowboys and Cardinal have two of the most prolific offenses in the country, and their quarterbacks, Brandon Weeden at OSU and Andrew Luck at Stanford, are among the most dynamic anywhere.

Both also happen to be one-loss teams and will have that chip-on-the-shoulder mentality from not getting a chance to play for a national championship, particularly Oklahoma State, which finished .0086 points behind No. 2 Alabama in the BCS standings.

"I think if somebody was going to take a poll across the country, there's a lot of excitement about this game compared to any other bowl in the country," Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy said.

The fans certainly seem to be interested.

After slogging through sluggish ticket sales a year ago, this year's Fiesta is doing just fine.

Stanford snapped up its allotment of tickets in a few days, and the Cowboys weren't too far behind on the trigger in filling theirs. A few thousand tickets are left from the Phoenix market pool — ticket sales are usually down the year after a city hosts the national title game — but those are expected to go quickly as fans from the two teams learn they're available.

Even as they're enjoying the warmth of the Arizona sun, the players can feel the buzz for the game building.

"I know all the guys are excited," Luck said. "We are looking forward to playing a great Oklahoma State team. Preparation has gone well, and we are just excited."

Adding to the excitement is the chance to play on Jan. 2, right after the Rose Bowl, which will feature what should be another offensive showcase between Wisconsin and Oregon.

The Fiesta Bowl originally was scheduled to be played Jan. 5, but a slot three days earlier opened up when the NFL reached a labor agreement and didn't extend its season. The Sugar and Orange bowls both were unable to change dates, but Fiesta officials jumped at the chance, creating what should be an entertaining doubleheader Jan. 2.

"We're happy and have a lot of reasons to be," Shelton said.

INTERNATIONAL SOCCER

Leonardo 'not sure' if Beckham will sign for PSG

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS Paris Saint-Germain's bid to sign David Beckham from the Los Angeles Galaxy may be thwarted by family matters, the French club's sporting director Leonardo said Friday.

Leonardo has made no secret of his admiration for the 36-year-old former England captain. He said at a news conference there are other factors that may influence whether Beckham joins when the transfer window opens next week.

"He is in L.A., he has his family over there. We have talked a lot and we are still talking, but I'm not sure it will be done," Leonardo said while PSG introduced Carlo Ancelotti as its new coach.

Beckham's five-year contract with the Galaxy ended after winning his first MLS Cup last month. He could accept an offer to stay with the Galaxy, and several English clubs also have expressed interest in signing him.

French media reports in recent weeks have hyped Beckham's possible arrival, with talk of an 18-month contract and an estimated monthly salary of $1.05 million.

"We have a very good rapport with David Beckham, but we never said it was a done deal. We have studied it and we are studying it," Leonardo said. "It's always been a question of personal matters (with Beckham)" rather than contract issues.



MOVIE TIMES

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(888) 262-4386

New Year's Eve (PG-13) 1hr 57min
10:45am, 4:20pm, 10:15pm

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

Young Adult (R) 1hr 34min
10:40am, 1:00pm, 3:20pm, 5:45pm, 8:10pm, 10:30pm

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

My Week with Marilyn (R) 1hr 36min
10:35am, 1:00pm, 3:25pm, 5:55pm, 8:20pm, 10:45pm

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

Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG-13) 2hrs 12min
10:15am, 1:30pm, 4:45pm, 8:00pm, 11:15pm

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.
(310) 395-1599

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

Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol (PG-13) 2hrs 12min
11:00am, 2:15pm, 5:30pm, 8:45pm, 10:15pm

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

Darkest Hour (PG-13) 1hr 29min
10:50am,1:15pm, 6:15pm, 11:20pm

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

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

Carnage (R) 1hr 19min
10:30am, 12:45pm, 3:00pm, 5:30pm, 7:55pm, 11:40pm

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

You are perfect tonight, Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ You will know, feel and express the difference in the upcoming year. You vibrate with excitement and direction. Like many generations past, you are likely to take 2012 as a whole new beginning. Tonight: You are perfect no matter what you do.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You sparkle as you greet the new year, yet something is holding you back. Sometimes pushing yourself too hard can cause more of a problem than just accepting the space you are in. Plans change. Tonight: Remember, tonight is not reflective of your entire year.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Knowing what you want is halfway to the finish line. Act rather than sit on your need to change some of the dynamics in your life. Update your life so that it works even better. Meanwhile, bring friends and loved ones together. Tonight: Christen the new year as only you can.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Follow through on what is important to you. Listen to news; understand what works. Don't push an older friend or relative too hard. You might not like the results. Avoid a controlling person. Tonight: Others will take their cues from you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ You could really get into the new year more than many other signs. You are full of fun and festivities. The thought of a new year delights you to no end. The unexpected occurs with communication and those at a distance. Tonight: Surround yourself with music.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ One person wants all your time and attention. However, this person could become erratic. Make sure that behavior is OK. A child or loved one might need more control than you are giving him or her. Tonight: You don't need a large party, just that special person.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Note what is happening. If you are really tuned in, you'll feel more excitement than usual, with a sense of renewal. Do make your resolutions. Sometimes having discussions about resolutions -- though they might feel silly -- points to a new direction. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Your steady pace can make all the difference in the outcome of a personal matter. Others toss mini-boomerangs into your plans, forcing you to regroup several times. Tonight: Greet 2012 in style.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ You are one person who no one in your immediate circle should do without right now. You are up for the calendar change, more so than you have been in a long time. Your childlike side emerges as the day ends. Tonight: Painting the town red.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You might want to head in another direction, which might cause tension around your home and with loved ones. The smart move is to do the party at your house. Your immediate circle might have many different ideas about what would be great to do. Tonight: Your place, please.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Put in the effort and make enough time to complete what you want. You could be overwhelmed by everything that you have to do. Nevertheless, with so many people seeking you out, you cannot say you are lonely. Tonight: Christen the new year with a smile.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You won't want to say no to anything or anyone. As a result, you easily could go to some extremes and over-indulge. Your sense of well-being and happiness could be offset by a very negative person in your life. Tonight: Where it is happening.

Happy birthday

This year waves of surprises keep hitting, forcing you to at least think. What you have taken for granted will be up for questioning. Curb becoming controlling when faced with instability. Learn to flow and trust; you might be delighted at how everything works out. Consider becoming more independent professionally. If you are single, a bond formed this year could be characterized by instability. If you are attached, learn to flow and judge less. Tensions will ease. ARIES frequently delegates projects to you.

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

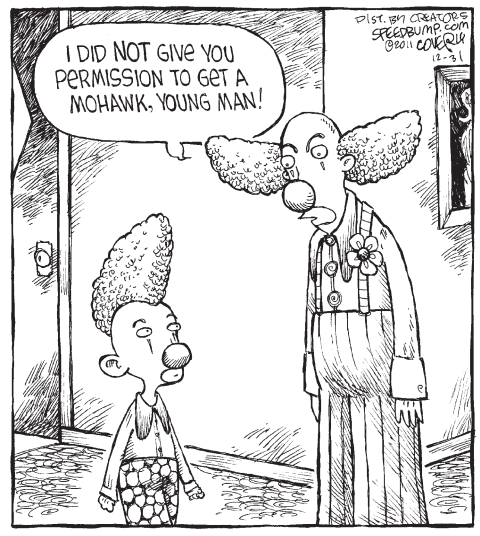


MYSTERY PHOTO

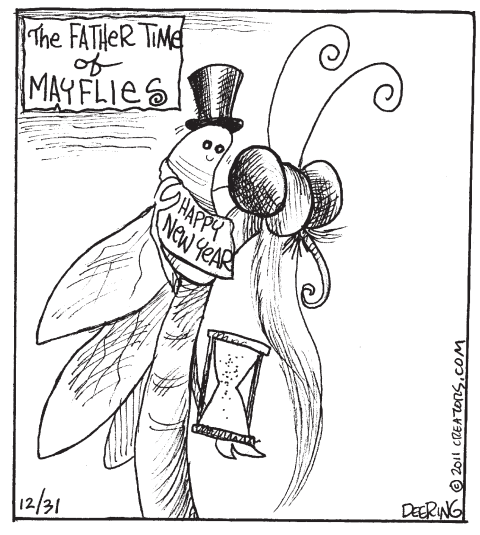
Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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

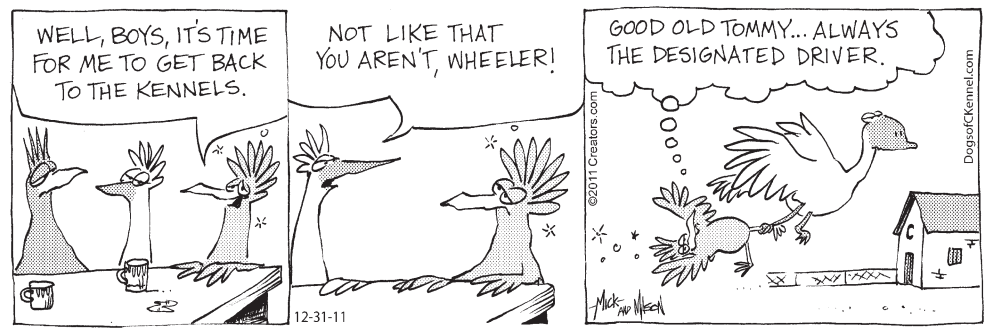
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



Strange Brew
By John Deering



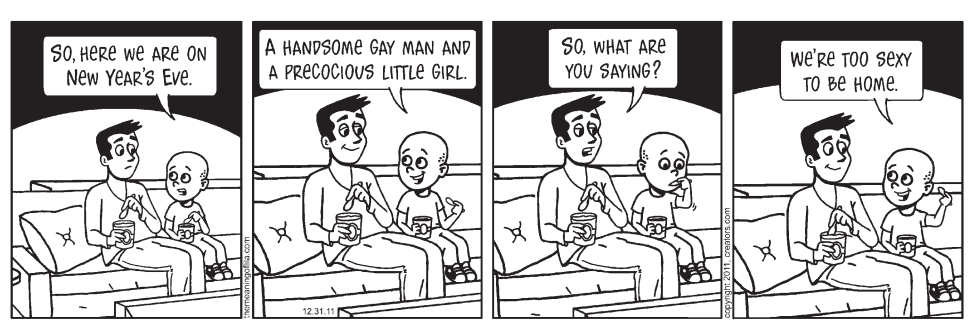
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

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

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Green shade
5 Port closers
10 Physics bits
12 Red as —
13 Seasonal song
14 Soda buy
15 Chicago trains
16 Sargasso Sea swimmer
18 French article
19 Truck fuel
21 Work group
22 Arthur's successor
24 "Forget it!"
25 Hoover's successor
29 Disenchanted
30 City on the Passaic
32 Chapeau
33 Cable modem alternative
34 Chestnut
35 British Columbia neighbor
37 Online periodical
39 Actor Hawthorne
40 Ball, for one
41 Message from the boss
42 Leaves

DOWN

1 Like corsets
2 Stressed type
3 Food scrap
4 Punk-rock offshoot
5 Summon
6 Kimono cinch
7 Computer key
8 Lamented loudly
9 Disperse
11 Shirt parts
17 Football squads
20 Man of Madrid
21 Baseball's Rod
23 Razed
25 Band aid
26 Power problem
27 Barrio resident
28 Spell
29 Tibia settings
31 Where jeans wear out
33 Candidate of 1996
36 Skirt edge
38 Veer to the side

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

12-31

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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.

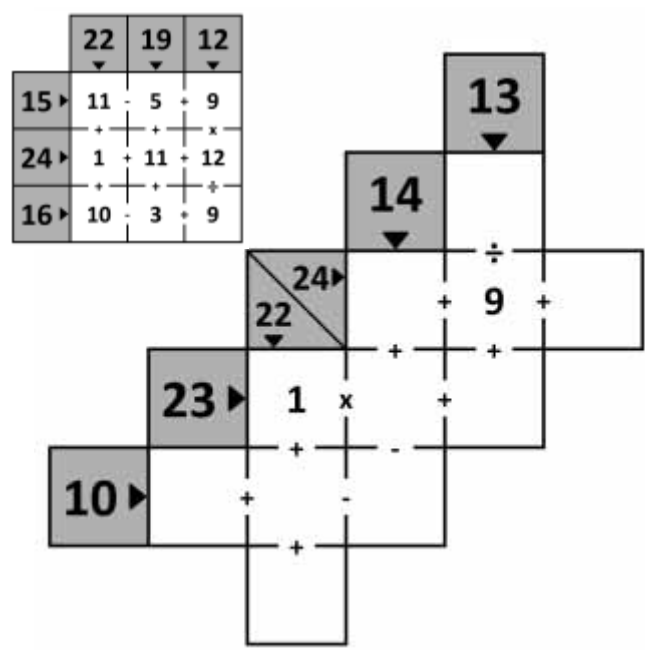
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Fill in the empty fields with the given numbers so when calculated together they satisfy all Equas in the gray boxes:

5, 6, 6, 9, 9, 10, 11, 11, 12

Solution for Task 1276



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In January 2009, the New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services removed three kids from the home of Heath and Deborah Campbell in Holland Township, apparently after becoming alarmed that the Campbells might be white supremacists. Though a court later concluded that the kids had been "abused," the Campbells told the New York Daily News in October 2011 that the state acted only based on the names the parents had given the kids -- Adolf Hitler Campbell, who was then 3, and his then-1-year-old sisters, Honszlynn Hinler Jeannie Campbell and JoyceLynn Aryan Nation Campbell. The Campbells have consistently denied that they are neo-Nazis.

■ It is almost No Longer Weird that Western chefs attempt to get as exotic as they can serving plants, insects and obscure parts of animals in their dishes that are usually only experienced by cultures far removed from America. Jennifer McLagan's recent book on how to cook animals' "odd" parts describes various recipes for cooking hearts, heads, tongues and ears, and guesses that the next big thing in Western eating will be testicles. "(S)teaks and chops are like bulletproof to cook," she said. "Any idiot can cook a steak, right?"

■ Thomas Beatie was big news in March 2008 when he and his wife, Nancy, decided to start a family, except that Thomas, not Nancy, took on the child-bearing responsibilities. (Thomas, born a female, had his breasts removed but retained his reproductive organs.) Thomas got pregnant, appeared on "Oprah," and subsequently had three children (who mugged delightfully for the cameras on the syndicated TV show "The Doctors" in October 2011). He also revealed on the show that it might be time to get his tubes tied, as each pregnancy requires him, irritatingly, to abandon his male hormone regimen.

WORD UP!

lave \ leyv \ , verb;
1. To wash; bathe.
2. (Of a river, sea, etc.) to flow along, against, or past; wash.
3. Obsolete. To ladle; pour or dip with a ladle.



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