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Santa Monica Daily Press
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12.31.15
Volume 15 Issue 37

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Record heat sets the tone for year's searing headlines

ADAM GELLER
AP National Writer

When a devastating heat wave hit India this year, it killed more than 2,500 people and melted the pavement of New Delhi's streets. In California, where an ordinary year sees mountain snow pile six feet deep or more - supplying much drinking water - surveyors had nothing to measure in some spots but bare grass.

By the time 2015 is over, it is certain to go down as the warmest year on record. But if the heat was unsettling, it also set the tone for many of the headlines that defined the year, even when they ranged far beyond matters of extreme weather or changing climate.

SEE NEWS PAGE 3

2015: A year of sports scandals with a silver lining

JOHN LEICESTER
AP Sports Writer

For the past 12 months, scandals off the field of play eclipsed exploits on it. Beyond the usual cases of doping and cheating that are sadly common in modern sports, shocking corruption in soccer and athletics begged the question of whether the vast riches and accompanying greed generated by professional sport are rotting the entire multi-billion dollar industry to its core.

On the upside, the stink got so bad that 2015 also saw the forces of law and order sit up and take action, opening criminal investigations, making high-profile arrests and recovering tens of mil-

SEE SPORTS PAGE 6

For Congress in 2015, GOP upheaval overshadows legislating

ALAN FRAM
Associated Press

For Congress, 2015 was a year of ideological clashes, showdown votes and harsh words. And that was just among Republicans.

It was the first year of Barack Obama's two presidential terms when the GOP ran both the House and Senate. That meant a blend of compromise and confrontation. Each side won some priorities and blocked the others', a hallmark of divided government.

Republican infighting overshadowed everything for most of the year. Even interventions from on high - a first-ever papal address to Congress by Pope Francis and a Florida man's unau-

SEE POLITICS PAGE 7

Painting the town

Samohi grad's mural brightens up wall near Pico Boulevard

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff Writer





Julie Withers and Rey Macias

VIBRANT: Local artist Gus Harper has transformed a formerly bland section of wall into a large mural. The project is part of the Beautify Earth program and Harper said he enjoyed the work because it brought him back to town following his 1990 graduation from Samohi.

The wall along the Interstate 10 off-ramp near the intersection of Pico Boulevard and 34th Street always seemed like an eyesore to Gus Harper.

The proud Santa Monica High School alumnus certainly saw room for improvement on an expansive vertical surface that stared blankly back at motorists and pedestrians near a major entryway into Santa Monica.

"That whole corner looked really dumpy," he said.

Harper, a professional artist for the last 16 years, has done his part to spruce it up. With the support of a nonprofit organization, local businesses and community leaders, he recently painted a multi-paneled mural that he hopes will inspire curiosity in the countless people who pass it on a daily basis.

"Instead of driving by a gray wall, there's a vibrant mural welcoming you to the city," he said of his first major public creation. "It brings a sense of optimism. You're replacing an old, dilapidated wall with a piece of art, so it's definitely an upgrade. There's a lot of really good stuff popping up around town. People are proud of the street art in their communities."

The project, which has been dubbed "Minor Identity Crisis," features a series of more than a dozen separate but related paintings. Harper explained that the mural explores the idea that access to information in a digital age forces society to enter unknowns as it begins to question old paradigms.

"When you have unknowns, you have fear," he said, "so it's about overcoming fear and becoming the best version of ourselves."

The mural's panels stand for chapters in people's lives, Harper said, and the elephants migrating across the bottom of the piece represent humankind's journey. The work is based on a series of paintings, the originals of which will be on display from 6:30 to 11 p.m. Jan. 23 during a showing at Harper's gallery, 11306 Venice Blvd., in Los Angeles.

Although Harper has Santa Monica roots, he didn't get involved in the project until a chance encounter at an event organized by Create:Fixate, an area collective that supports emerging artists. That's where he met Heather Rabun of Beautify Earth, a nonprofit group that aims to unite communities through street art.

Harper told her he was interested in painting a mural and eventually landed the gig after being selected by the building's owners. The 1990 Samohi grad said it was particularly satisfying to do the mural, which was also backed by the Pico Improvement Organization, because he is from Santa Monica and has a personal connection to the city.

Harper completed the piece in August, working from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. every day for eight warm summer days. Motorists shouted words of encouragement from their cars. Upper West, a nearby Pico Boulevard restaurant that has displayed Harper's art, brought him cold beverages during the day. A client had dinner waiting for him in the evenings.

"A lot of people saw me while I was making it, but I still have friends who say, 'I just saw your mural,'" Harper said. "I tried to do something where people would know it's my work."

Harper said some Upper West patrons have posed for selfies under the crowns that are featured in one of the mural's panels, a paradigm shift for what was once a blank wall.

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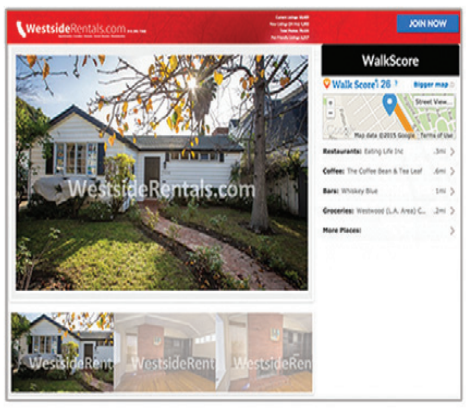
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, Dec. 31

Annenberg Community Beach House - CLOSED

The Beach House will close at 12 p.m. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH, 12 p.m.

Winter Break Family Fun: LEGO Block Party @ Main

Use your creativity to make something remarkable. We provide the Legos, you provide the fun! Ages 4 and Up. Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., 2 - 3:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 1

Gallery

Exhibit: Art Bank: Selections from the City's collection; Open through Jan 12 in Event House Gallery. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Guest House

Free tours begin at 11 a.m., 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. No reservations needed. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 2

Saturday Certified Farmer's Market

Fresh seasonal produce sold direct by California's farmers! Parking for the market is available in the lot along Pico Blvd., at meters along Pico Blvd. or adjacent to Virginia Park in the parking lot on north/east corner of Pico and Cloverfield. Virginia Avenue Park, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Santa Monica Certified Farmers Market Downtown

The organic market boasts the largest percentage of certified organic growers of the City's four markets. 2nd St. @ Arizona Ave., 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Gallery

Exhibit: Art Bank: Selections from the City's collection; Open through Jan 12 in Event House Gallery. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Guest House

Free tours begin at 11 a.m., 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. No reservations needed. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 PCH, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

For help submitting an event, contact us at **310-458-7737** or submit to editor@smdp.com



NEWS

FROM PAGE 1

From searing tragedies to blistering campaign rhetoric to boiling crises, the top news of 2015 made for one of the hottest years in recent memory, literally and figuratively.

In a year that visited carnage upon worshippers who opened their church to a stranger in Charleston, South Carolina, and fans that gathered on a Friday night for a rock concert in the center of Paris, the news left the public with little refuge. Headlines spotlighting bloody clashes for control of Syria and the angry debate over whether to take in those fleeing the violence, radiated heat, but often not much light.

Instead, many of the year's biggest news stories fueled a narrative of intensifying conflict.

It began just days into the New Year, when two brothers who called themselves members of al-Qaida forced their way in to the offices of Paris humor magazine Charlie Hebdo and a nearby Jewish market, gunning down 17.

"Our great and beautiful France will never break, will never yield, will never bend," President Francois Hollande told those gathered days later to honor two police officers killed in the assault. But by year's end, France was hardly alone in its vulnerability.

In the U.S., the tensions of the old year bled into the new one. In Baltimore, the April death of Freddie Gray, a black man tossed in the back of a van by police officers, set off rioting whose destruction echoed that in Ferguson, Missouri, the previous year. In North Charleston, South Carolina, Tulsa and Chicago, police shootings of black men prompted resignations and indictments. A protest at the University of Missouri over racial discrimination forced the departure of the school's president.

In June, a young man invited into a Bible study at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, opened fire, killing nine. The shooter was white. All the victims, including the congregation's pastor, were black, killed in an attack police said was motivated by racial hatred.

But, along with the grief, the alleged killer's veneration of the Confederate flag ignited pained debate over the Civil War banner's place in modern Southern life.

"I cannot believe that we do not have the heart in this body to do something meaningful such as take a symbol of hate off these grounds," Jenny Anderson Horne, a Republican state representative, said in an emotional speech delivered on the chamber's floor. "I have heard enough about heritage."

The flag came down, at least in South Carolina. But the heat did not let up.

In July, a Kuwait-born engineer shot and killed four Marines and a sailor at a military recruiting center and a U.S. Navy Reserve center in Chattanooga, Tennessee, an attack authorities later characterized as "inspired" by terrorist group propaganda.

In August, a live morning news broadcast erupted in gunfire when a man fired from the Roanoke, Virginia, station more than two years earlier killed a cameraman and a reporter - and filmed himself committing the crime.

In October, a 26-year-old student at a community college outside Roseburg, Oregon, shot and killed a professor and eight fellow students during their writing and English classes.

In November, three people were gunned down at a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs. The alleged gunman, apprehended after a five-hour standoff, told authorities: "No more baby parts."

But as politicians and advocates clashed over abortion, guns, race and religious extremism, there was little, if any, movement toward resolution.

Instead, with 17 Republicans initiating bids for the presidency, campaign rhetoric often verged on explosive.

Billionaire developer Donald Trump was almost always the loudest, starting when he launched his campaign in June at the gleaming Manhattan office tower he named for himself, by assailing Mexican immigrants.

"They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people," he said.

The remark provoked anger among Latino voters. But Trump did not let up, attacking rivals, particularly Jeb Bush, whose status as an early favorite faded amid the criticism.

Others candidates, too, embraced tough talk.

After the Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage in June, former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee said the jailing of a Kentucky county clerk for refusing to issue marriage licenses to gay couples amounted to "the criminalization of her faith and the exaltation of the faith of everyone else who might be a Fort Hood shooter or a detainee at GITMO."

And with anxieties rising about how to confront Islamic State militants in Syria, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz was all-in.

"We will carpet-bomb them into oblivion," he told Iowa voters in December. "I don't know if sand can glow in the dark, but we're going to find out."

The race for the Democratic nomination, meanwhile, sharpened attention on front runner Hillary Clinton. Revelations that she used a private email server for her communications as secretary of state, most notably during the 2012 terrorist attack on a U.S. diplomatic compound in Libya, dogged her campaign.

But after testifying for more than eight hours before a Republican-led investigatory committee in October, Clinton gained in polls and a potential rival, Vice President Joe Biden, stepped aside.

The heat of the campaign season was paralleled by the weather, itself. Global temperatures hit records in nine of the year's first 11 months, with scientists pointing to a potent El Nino pattern combined with accelerating human-caused climate change.

"This is all bad news for the planet," said Michel Jarraud, secretary-general of the United Nations' weather agency, in announcing that 2015 would almost certainly break the annual record for warmth set just last year.

But the most closely read statement on climate change came not from a scientist but Pope Francis - who, in fact, is trained as a chemist.

"Doomsday predictions can no longer be met with irony or disdain," he said in a June encyclical, pleading for action. "The pace of consumption, waste and environmental change has so stretched the planet's capacity that our contemporary lifestyle, unsustainable as it is, can only precipitate catastrophes..."

Francis sounded that message again when he visited the U.S. in September, taking the floor of the House of Representatives. Officials from nearly 200 countries followed through in a December conference outside Paris, culminating years of negotiation with a first-of-its-kind pact to fight climate change by reducing greenhouse gas pollution.

That step toward resolution, though, was an anomaly in a climate of rising tension.

Month after month, migrants surged into Europe from the roiling Middle East, with scores drowning in the Mediterranean, packing refugee camps as countries struggled to respond.

In Tunisia, terrorists killed 22, mostly European tourists, at a museum in March and another 39 tourists at a beach resort in June.

In October, a Russian airliner crashed in the Egyptian desert, killing 224, and a bomb was blamed. A pair of suicide bombers killed more than 40 people in Beirut in November. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for that attack and for downing the jet, contradicting Egyptian investigators' assertion that there was no indication of any "illegal or terrorist act."

The threat, though, would not stay contained to the Middle East. On a Friday night six weeks before Christmas, eight Islamic State terrorists, wielding rifles and suicide belts, killed 130 people in closely coordinated assaults around Paris.

"This attack is the first of the storm and a warning to those who wish to learn," the group said in a communiqué distributed via social media.

The attack spurred a cross-border manhunt. But it simultaneously refocused attention on the civil war that has enveloped Syria since 2011, killing more than 250,000 and uprooting millions, creating a vacuum filled by Islamic extremists and, increasingly, drawing governments from far beyond the region into a vortex of conflicting agendas.

Just three weeks after Paris, Syed Farook, and his wife, Tashfeen Malik, masked and clad in tactical vests, opened fire on his coworkers in San Bernardino, California as they gathered for a holiday meeting, killing 14 and wounding 21. The couple, radicalized Muslims, were inspired by ISIS, investigators said.

The attack inflamed already intense debate over whether to allow the entry of Syrian refugees and how to confront Islamic extremism. President Obama sought to quell public distress with an Oval Office address calling for resolve and deliberate action.

"Let's not forget that freedom is more powerful than fear," he said.

But as the threat of terrorism, the complexities of war and misgivings about Islam continued to stoke the headlines, the notion that cooler heads might prevail was running up hard against anxiety.

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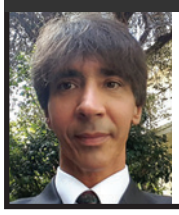
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Tales From Hi De Ho Comics

Eddie deAngelini
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Happy Birthday Stan

WE RECENTLY CELEBRATED THE 93RD birthday of comic book legend Stan Lee. He is adored by so many and his effect can be felt worldwide through the characters he co-created. Millions of fans identify with the adventures of The Amazing Spider-Man, The Incredible Hulk and The Uncanny X-Men, but there is one story about the man himself that has had the greatest effect on me.

Stan Lee began working for Timely Comics, later to become Marvel Comics, at the age of 17 in 1939. Starting as a lowly assistant and occasional nuisance to Jack Kirby and Joe Simon, he worked his way up to writer, art director and editor-in-chief. Over the next two decades, Marvel's business model was very different than how we know it today. Before publishing the many superheroes we all know and love, the company merely followed the trends. After World War II, they jumped on the popularity of others publishers' monthly titles, copying whatever was the flavor of the month. Stan helped to churn out fleeting and lackluster titles featuring funny animals, horror, crime, romance, war and giant monsters up until the early 60s. Nearing 40 years old, Stan had enough. He felt his talents were being wasted and considered quitting the field. What happened next may be half truth and half myth.

Stan told his wife that he was ready to quit and focus on writing something more substantial. She insisted that before he quit, he write a comic the way he wanted rather than follow any trend. What followed was Fantastic Four #1, featuring a new kind of superhero team. They fought, bickered and couldn't get along. They didn't wear superhero costumes (in the first couple of issues) and their exploits dripped with melodrama and pathos. The title was an instant hit, leading Lee to co-create several more superheroes in this new "Marvel style": Spider-Man, The Hulk, The Avengers and The X-Men. In his forties and beyond, Lee found both creative and financial success doing what he wanted rather than what was dictated to him.

The parallels of this story to my own life and the inspiration it has given me is part of what helped me to reach where I am now. At nearly 40 years old, I was working as a web and graphic designer. It was the career I went to school for and I stuck with it longer than I cared to. Over the years my love for the field had waned and I can admit now that the quality of my work toward the end became lackluster. I knew I wasn't happy, but I believed that finding yourself and what you really want to do was meant for people in their twenties, not for those in their forties.

I grew up reading and latching on to Stan Lee's creations. As an adult, I learned more about the man and how he found his success later in his life. This gave me the courage to chart a whole new path for myself. I knew one thing: I loved comics. I wanted to be part of that world and also express myself creatively in it. My first step was leaving behind my old career. I began working for Geoffrey Patterson (later to become my partner in owning Hi De Ho) at Geoffrey's Comics in 2008. The pay was less than what I was used to, but I was finally happy. I saw this work as the first step in a larger journey. This led to a yearlong side job in 2009 on a film called "With Great Power," a documentary on the life of Stan Lee. If anything solidified that I was on the right path, this was definitely it! People say you should never meet your heroes because they will find a way to disappoint you. That year I met mine and that old saying couldn't be more wrong.

In 2012, I fulfilled another goal and became a cartoonist. I began writing and drawing "Collectors," a humor comic strip about my marriage and my obsessive comic book collecting, and have published three books collecting my work (all of which are available at Hi De Ho Comics). The biggest step on this new path was taking the huge leap to become co-owner of the legendary Hi De Ho Comics. As a comic shop owner and comic creator, I'm a long way off from where I was when I reached seven years ago and I couldn't be happier. If you measure success in the joy of doing what you love on your own terms, then I achieved it later in life, just like Stan Lee. However, I don't see this road ending just yet. Now in his nineties, Stan is still in demand because he continues to move forward and take on new projects. This has become my new inspiration and I can't wait to see where my journey takes me in another 10, or 50, years.

To learn more about all things comic books, visit Hi De Ho Comics at 1431 Lincoln Blvd., in Santa Monica.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Pass sane, sensible gun regulation now

Editor:

It is astonishing that anyone, absolutely anyone, can buy an assault rifle without a background check at a gun show in the U.S.! Assault rifles and similar military weapons should simply not be legal for civilians to own, and no one should be allowed to buy a gun of any kind without passing a background check.

William Schoene
Santa Monica

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Culture Watch

Sarah A. Spitz
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Rainn's Pain

I FIRST SAW ACTOR RAINN WILSON ON HBO's groundbreaking series "Six Feet Under" in his role as a dark, quirky mortician. Most of you know him as the edgy, eccentric character, Dwight Schrute on the beloved NBC sitcom "The Office."

Rainn Wilson is appearing on stage at The Geffen Playhouse in Westwood, in a one-man show by playwright Will Eno called "Thom Pain (based on nothing)," opening next week at the more intimate Audrey Skirball Kenis Theatre.

Wilson's not just an actor, he's a director, an author-his recent memoir is "The Bassoon King: My Life in Art, Faith, and Idiocy"-and the mastermind behind a book, a website, a YouTube channel and a media company that creates short-form content and branded entertainment all under the umbrella "Soul Pancake" (http://soulpancake.com), featuring such catch phrases as "chew on life's big questions" and "we make stuff that matters."

Chewing on life's big questions seems to be an overarching theme of Rainn Wilson's career and his personal life.

At the heart of it all is his Bahá'í faith, which believes in a unifying vision for humanity that aspires to usher in an age of peace and justice. It was founded in the 19th century by Bab, who bore a message about humanity's spiritual transformation and spoke about a second messenger, Bahá'u'lláh, whose writings form the framework for followers of this faith. Bahá'u'lláh was imprisoned, tortured and exiled because of his writings.

I have not had the chance to read "The Bassoon King," but it goes into depth about Rainn's troubled family life as he was growing up, his young and wild days, his spiritual crisis and his ultimate return to the Bahá'í faith.

I asked him how his faith guides his work. He took a long pause and said, "In this faith, art is considered the same as worship. So if you are creating something beautiful and with a pure intention, especially if it's of service to others, you're emulating the Creator in a way, and that is a kind of worship, a kind of devotion."

How does the play "Thom Pain" fit into that context? Wilson says, "It's a work of tremendous humanity. It's really strange, dark and funny but also is about the human experience, why we're here, why we go through what we go through. It deals with pain and life and trauma and love and the meaning of life, all the big questions, like good theatre does, and does so in a really unique and entertaining way."

As to the plotline, he says, "There's not much of a story, Thom's a man in pain, who comes out into the audience to tell several stories about his life and he says at one point, 'I'm like you, in terrible pain trying to make sense of my life.' But it's written in an oddly poetic language."

Wilson has been a friend of playwright Will Eno for many years, and says that about 10 or 12 years ago, he saw a production of "Thom Pain" in New York "that just blew me away." He's been talking to Eno about performing it here in Los Angeles.

"It's always hard, if you're mostly doing TV and film, because theater requires a commitment of three or four months." After "The Office" ended its long run, he did a few movies, and starred in a curiously fascinating TV detective show called "Backstrom" that got cancelled.

"So I had time to spare, and I called [artistic director] Randall Arney at The Geffen and said, 'We've got this crazy play,' and he told me, 'Well, we have this second stage that's open for about five or six weeks.' So the pieces fell into place at the right time."

Wilson's not just about stage, screen, TV and the Internet, he's also a philanthropist. He and his wife Holiday Reinhorn formed The Wilhorn Foundation to support a project of The Mona Foundation, a non-profit organization supporting educational initiatives around the globe. Wilson serves on the board of the Mona Foundation.

Their project is called Lidè, which has two meanings, says Wilson. "It's a Creole word and when you say 'li-duh' it means leader, and 'li-day' it means idea," touching on key aspects of their mission.

Over a number of years, Wilson and Reinhorn had visited Haiti as volunteers and fell in love with it. Their work is focused on "using the arts to empower adolescent girls," he said, with the mission of integrating literacy through writing, drama, photography, film and art, as a gateway to academic education.

"Part of the reason why I work in Haiti is the cost effectiveness," he continued. "It costs $500 to put a girl through school for a year. So if I can raise just $500, I can effectively help change someone's life. Currently we have 500 girls in our programs, in seven different locations in rural Haiti."

While his philanthropic work is ongoing, when asked what's next in his professional life Wilson joked, "I have no idea! I will be completely unemployed, so if you have any ideas let me know!"

Rainn Wilson performs "Thom Pain (based on nothing)" by Will Eno beginning Wednesday, Jan. 6 through Feb. 14 at the Geffen Playhouse's Audrey Skirball Kenis Theatre. Details at www.geffenplayhouse.com.

SARAH A. SPITZ spent her career as a producer at public radio station KCRW-Santa Monica and produced freelance arts reports for NPR. She has also written features and reviews for various print and online publications.

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SPORTS

FROM PAGE 1

lions of ill-gotten dollars. That legal pressure sped change, notably at soccer governing body FIFA, forcing administrators to abandon some of their old-school, shoddy, backroom and amateur management practices and enact reforms that should make them behave more professionally.

"What we're going through now, it's like a tectonic shift," says International Olympic Committee veteran Dick Pound. "Sports organizations are coming to realize — voluntarily or involuntarily — that they can no longer operate outside of the larger social and legal orders."

"In the old days, sport was well outside of anything that governments had focused on," Pound said in an Associated Press interview. "They were all private organizations and they were kind of run informally like clubs and so on, and have tried to pretend that they can do that even in 2015 — and they can't."

In short, this was a year that left a sour taste for sports fans but also offered some hope of a brighter future. It was bookended by "Deflategate," which saw star NFL quarterback Tom Brady accused of throwing deliberately under-inflated (and theoretically easier to grip) footballs in January's AFC title game on his way to winning the Super Bowl, and by the disgrace of Sepp Blatter, kicked out of soccer in December for unethical conduct, ending his 17 scandal-scarred years as president of FIFA.

His heir-in-waiting, France's former midfield star Michel Platini, also was banned for a dubious $2 million payment that Blatter approved for the FIFA vice-president in 2011. Their appeals of the eight-year bans that decapitated the leadership of the world's most popular sport, as well as ongoing criminal probes in Switzerland and the United States of soccer bribery and corruption, promise to cloud FIFA's ambitions for a fresh start with the election of a new president in February.

In track and field, a cornerstone of the Olympic Games, a World Anti-Doping Agency-ordered investigation that Pound led concluded explosively in November that doping in Russia was not only widespread and deep-rooted but also likely tacitly sanctioned by President Vladimir Putin's government.

A resulting blanket-ban from competition could see Russian track and field athletes miss the Rio de Janeiro Olympics unless the sporting powerhouse can convince the International Association of Athletics Federations that it has made real changes. In March, the IAAF's ethics commission also started investigating alleged doping cover-ups in distance-running power Kenya, which topped the world championships medal table in August.

Those probes were just the beginning of a scandal that threatened to sink the IAAF in 2015, gravely undermining not only the federation but trust in the entire sport it oversees. In November, three months after stepping down as IAAF chief, Lamine Diack was taken into police custody in France, suspected of pocketing more than 1 million euros ($1.1 million) in an alleged scheme to blackmail athletes and hush up their doping cases.

Diack, who presided at the IAAF for nearly 16 years, is under formal investigation for corruption and money laundering. If proven by France's investigating magistrates, the allegations could be even graver than soccer's massive scandal. The U.S. Department of Justice's sprawling soccer case alleges more than $200 million in bribes and kickbacks in the selling of media and marketing rights. Although grievous, the schemes seemingly didn't affect the outcome of matches. The alleged wrongdoing at the IAAF, however, raised the possibility that on-track results were corrupted by off-track criminality, and that dopers may have robbed competitors of medals by paying the sport's guardians to look the other way. Contacted repeatedly by the AP, Diack's lawyer has refused to comment.

Tasked with cleaning up the mess is British former middle-distance running great Sebastian Coe, elected in August as Diack's successor. But just months into his new job, the credibility of the chief organizer of the 2012 London Olympics suffered a blow when the BBC uncovered in November that Coe had spoken privately to an executive at Nike, his long-time personal sponsor, about hosting the 2021 world championships in Eugene. The Oregon city about 100 miles (160 kilometers) south of the sportswear giant's headquarters outside Portland was subsequently and controversially awarded the competition without an open bidding process.

Coe denied that working for both the IAAF and Nike represented a conflict of interest and severed his ambassadorial role with the company. But the affair left doubts about Coe's judgment and, more broadly, fed into a dominant theme of 2015, which was that sports administrators often appeared chronically out of touch with a shift in the public mood against their clubby ways and, in worst cases, their criminal habits.

"It simply won't work in this day and age," Pound said. "You have to be more transparent, which doesn't mean that you run around buck naked, but people have got to understand how a decision was reached, and by whom, and for what reasons, and that sort of thing that never used to happen. There was a code of silence."

"Sport has got to change ...," he added, "or it's going to be changed."

John Leicester is an international sports columnist for The Associated Press. Write to him at jleicester@ap.org or follow him at http://twitter.com/johnleicester



POLITICS

FROM PAGE 1

thorized landing of a gyrocopter near the Capitol - barely distracted from the GOP upheaval.

"There were a number of procedural snafus and dysfunctional moments that made this year much more difficult," said moderate Rep. Charlie Dent, R-Pa.

Congress enacted bipartisan deals recasting federal education policy, restricting government access to bulk phone records, extending highway programs, easing approval of future trade agreements and resolving a vexing problem of how Medicare reimburses doctors.

Before adjourning for the year, Congress sent Obama legislation Friday boosting defense and domestic spending in 2016, lifting a 1970s-era ban on U.S. oil exports and extending dozens of expiring tax cuts.

"The Republican Senate majority is proving that you can still get a lot done with a president from a different party," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said Saturday in his party's weekly address.

But Republicans failed to repeal Obama's health care law, eliminate Planned Parenthood's federal money or block the international agreement curbing Iran's nuclear program. They fell short on closing the door to Syrian refugees, forcing the president to allow construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline and blocking regulations on clean water, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

Obama, in in his weekly address, said the 11th-hour spending and tax bills he signed were "a pair of Christmas miracles in Washington."

Some of the year's turmoil flowed from the GOP's presidential campaign, in which Donald Trump and others have profited by targeting the political establishment. It was bad enough when Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, one White House candidate, took to the Senate floor to accuse his McConnell, his own party's chief, of telling him "a flat-out lie" about scheduling a controversial vote.

Plenty of GOP senators defended McConnell, but things got worse.

After years hounding by tea party conservatives, House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, abruptly announced his resignation in September. It took a tumultuous month and public begging by GOP elders to persuade Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., the youthful 2012 vice presidential nominee, to take the post.

At the eye of the Republican maelstrom was the House Freedom Caucus, numbering about 40 hard-right lawmakers. They made Boehner's life miserable because they felt he didn't challenge Obama enough.

In an early sign of trouble, 25 conservative Republicans cast symbolic votes last January against making Boehner speaker, a job he had held since 2011.

The following month, 52 of them abandoned GOP leaders and joined Democrats to oppose a bill financing the Homeland Security Department. They were angry that the measure did not curb Obama's immigration policies. In a symbolic warning, conservative Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., proposed ousting Boehner in July with a nonbinding motion accusing Boehner of "diminishing the voice of the American people."

Relations between the two camps never healed.

Conservative Rep. Matt Salmon, R-Ariz., said Boehner would be "on very thin ice" if he relied on Democratic votes to pass bills opposed by conservatives. Leadership stalwart Rep. Devin Nunes, R-Calif., accused the rebels of "playing fantasy football with their voting cards."

So deep were the GOP divisions that Republican perspectives on 2015 depended on who was asked.

Rep. Tom Cole, R-Okla., an ally of GOP leaders, said the year was "the most productive Congress in five years." But conservative Rep. Tim Huelskamp, R-Kan., called the year-end spending bill "an early Christmas gift for Donald Trump" that would feed anti-establishment GOP frustration.

For many Republicans, major accomplishments were partly measured by what did not happen.

A chief goal that Boehner and McConnell attained was preventing battles with Obama from escalating into a government shutdown or federal default - fights viewed as unwinnable and potentially damaging for the GOP in the 2016 elections.

That prompted scoffing from Democrats, who said passing basic legislation financing federal agencies and renewing the government's borrowing authority were hardly worthy of boasting.

"Our heroic accomplishments ought to be routine," said Rep. Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y.

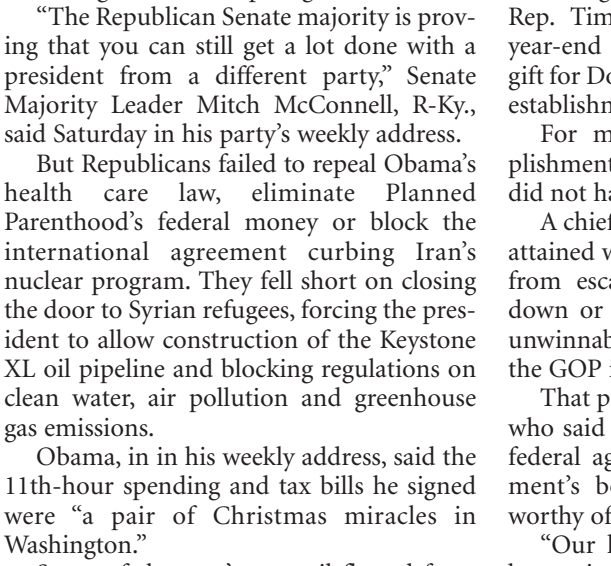
But neither was 2015 a picnic for Democrats.

It began inauspiciously on New Year's Day when their Senate leader, Harry Reid of Nevada, lost the sight in his right eye in an exercise accident. Several Democratic priorities went nowhere by year's end, including eased immigration restrictions and - despite more mass shootings - tightened gun curbs.

Ryan, aided by compromises Boehner struck with Democrats before leaving Congress, capped the year by steering budget and tax bills through the House. That cheered many Republicans, but conservatives said they will be watching.

"Paul inherited this and I think we've got to give him some grace on it," conservative Rep. Gary Palmer, R-Ala., said of the year-end budget work. "I think after the first of the year, though, what we do from that point on, he owns it."

AP Congressional Correspondent **ERICA WERNER** and Associated Press writers **ANDREW TAYLOR, MATTHEW DALY, MARY CLARE JALONICK** and **DEB RIECHMANN** contributed to this report.



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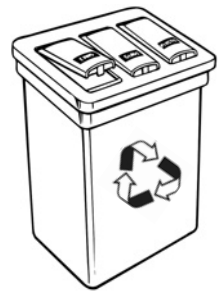
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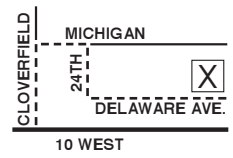
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SURF REPORT



SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **58.3°**

THURSDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high
Minimal mix of old NW swell leftovers and SW swell. Good wind/weather with offshores for at least the AM. Incoming tide in the morning will help most

FRIDAY – **FLAT** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high
Minimal NW and SW swells, Good wind/weather with offshores for at least the AM.

SATURDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high occ. 3f
New WNW-NW swell moves in.

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 **January 12, 2015**

HEAL THE BAY - 1444 9th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 - beachreportcard.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 -- 14
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 33 / 20
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 5 / 19

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: SIMA, Swain Barber Foundation

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

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

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

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 nonprofit environmental organization making Southern California coastal waters and watersheds, including Santa Monica Bay, safe, healthy and clean. We use science, education, community action and advocacy to pursue our mission.

Heal the Bay

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CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF



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

ON DECEMBER 15 AT ABOUT 4:21 P.M.

Officers were dispatched to the Co-Opportunity Market, 1525 Broadway, regarding a disturbance at the business. The suspect was detained outside while leaving the store. One of the officers said this was the same suspect who earlier in the day was seen cutting power cords and cables to a computer at a Honda dealership. When he was confronted, the suspect brandished a large pair of scissors and attempted to assault the dealership employees. The suspect left the Honda dealership and began causing a disturbance at the market.

While inside the market, the suspect was walking around yelling and opening up food items. The suspect then grabbed $1,000 from a register, pushed the cashier who tried to stop him, and ran out the front door. The suspect was detained by a customer and several employees.

Romero Anthony Fields had bail set at $50,000.

DAILY POLICE LOG

The Santa Monica Police Department responded to 352 calls for service on Dec. 29

HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

Family disturbance, 1500 block of Yale, 12:01 a.m.
Party complaint, 500 block of Pier, 12:28 a.m.
Overdose, 2300 block of Washington, 1:43 a.m.
Vandalism, 300 block of Olympic, 6:55 a.m.
Vandalism, 1000 block of Ocean, 7:02 a.m.
Traffic accident, Cloverfield/Colorado, 8:21 a.m.
Traffic accident, 1400 block of Ocean, 9:21 a.m.
Vandalism, 100 block of Wilshire, 9:42 a.m.
Fraud, 2000 block of Wilshire, 9:47 a.m.
Fight, 1500 block of Ocean, 9:59 a.m.
Traffic accident, Main/Marine, 10:05 a.m.
Fraud, 2100 block of Navy, 11:12 a.m.
Vandalism, 2500 block of Broadway, 11:41 a.m.
Vandalism, 2800 block of Neilson, 12:44 p.m.
Burglary, 1200 block of Euclid, 1:12 p.m.
Traffic accident, 4th/Santa Monica, 1:28 p.m.
Fire, 2200 block of Delaware, 1:38 p.m.
Arson, 2000 block of Delaware, 2:14 p.m.
Grand theft auto, 1100 block of 9th, 2:33 p.m.
Traffic accident, 500 block of I-10, 2:54 p.m.
Vandalism, 2900 block of 31st, 3:03 p.m.
Traffic accident, 2500 block of Santa Monica, 3:25 p.m.
Person down, 22nd/California, 3:34 p.m.
Vandalism, 3000 block of Lincoln, 4:07 p.m.
Grand theft, 2500 block of Santa Monica, 4:23 p.m.
Hit and run, 1700 block of Michigan, 4:45 p.m.
DUI, 1600 block of Santa Monica, 4:50 p.m.
Family disturbance, 1800 block of Pearl, 5:01 p.m.
Urinating/defecating in public, 1100 block of 26th, 5:07 p.m.
Harassing phone calls, 300 block of Olympic, 5:28 p.m.
Critical missing person, 1400 block of Yale, 5:42 p.m.
Traffic accident, Main/Ocean Park, 6:11 p.m.
Indecent exposure, Ocean/Colorado, 7:06 p.m.
Vandalism, 400 block of Hill, 7:35 p.m.
Grand theft, 2500 block of Santa Monica, 8:36 p.m.
Grand theft, 3200 block of Wilshire, 8:42 p.m.
Battery, 1200 block of 15th, 8:53 p.m.
Rape, 100 block of Wilshire, 9:03 p.m.
DUI, Lincoln/I-10, 9:21 p.m.
Assault with a deadly weapon, 2300 block of Ocean, 10:08 p.m.
Report of shots fired, 900 block of Grant, 11:21 p.m.

DAILY FIRE LOG

The Santa Monica Fire Department responded to 38 calls for service on Dec. 29.

HERE IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

EMS, 2300 block of Washington, 1:43 a.m.
EMS, 1200 block of Lincoln, 1:55 a.m.
EMS, 1700 block of Michigan Ave, 2:03 a.m.
EMS, 800 block of Georgina Ave, 2:17 a.m.
EMS, 1900 block of 18th, 2:24 a.m.
EMS, 1200 block of Lincoln, 3:44 a.m.
EMS, 1700 block of 16th, 4:04 a.m.
EMS, 300 block of Olympic, 4:37 a.m.
EMS, 1600 block of Franklin, 5:27 a.m.
EMS, 1900 block of 18th, 6:58 a.m.
EMS, 3200 block of 17th, 7:33 a.m.
EMS, 2600 block of 23rd, 8:21 a.m.
EMS, 1300 block of 15th, 8:33 a.m.
Request fire, Ocean/Bay, 10:24 a.m.
Automatic alarm, 1500 block of Stanford, 11:53 a.m.
EMS, 1800 block of 20th, 11:55 a.m.
EMS, 300 block of Santa Monica Pl, 12:08 p.m.
EMS, 2100 block of Ocean, 12:10 p.m.
EMS, 1700 block of Pine, 12:16 p.m.
Injuries from assault, 1500 block of Ocean Front, 12:21 p.m.
EMS, 800 block of 9th, 2:22 p.m.
EMS, 1600 block of Franklin, 2:37 p.m.
EMS, 22nd/California, 3:32 p.m.
EMS, 800 block of 2nd, 4:27 p.m.
EMS, 100 block of Broadway, 4:31 p.m.
EMS, 800 block of 2nd, 5:00 p.m.
Haz Mat - level 1, 1500 block of 4th, 5:17 p.m.
EMS, 2000 block of Santa Monica, 5:24 p.m.
Injuries from assault, 800 block of Ocean Park, 5:34 p.m.
EMS, 500 block of Colorado, 7:59 p.m.
EMS, 2200 block of 3rd, 8:17 p.m.
EMS, 2600 block of 29th, 8:51 p.m.
EMS, 2000 block of 20th, 9:37 p.m.
Smoke investigation, 1100 block of Euclid, 9:50 p.m.
Injuries from assault, Ocean/Hollister, 10:21 p.m.

CROSSWORD
By THOMAS JOSEPH

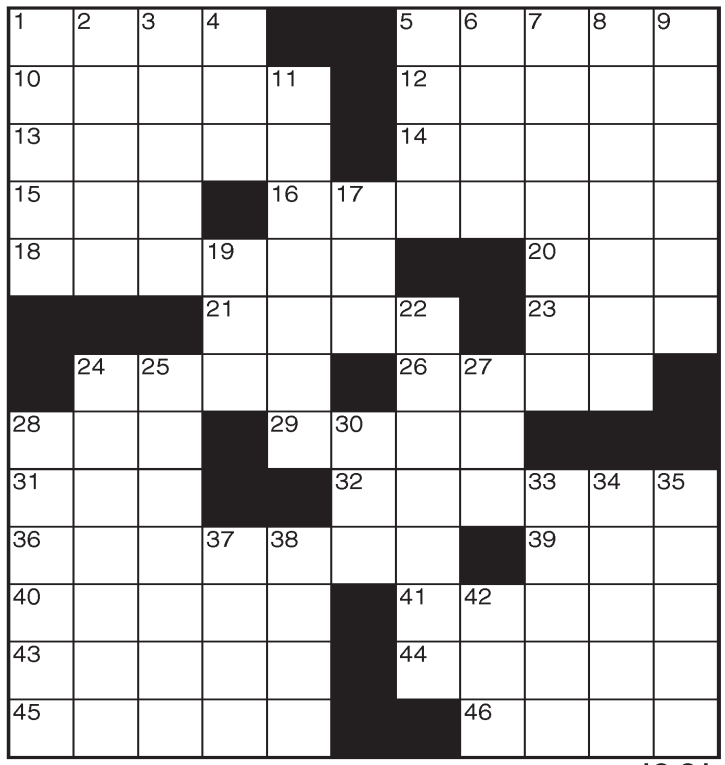
ACROSS
1 Shucking units
5 Record company
10 Inuit's cousin
12 Digression
13 Sandra Dee role
14 Slugger Roger
15 Thurman of "Kill Bill"
16 Cute girls, in British slang
18 Cotton fabric
20 Uncle, in Acapulco
21 Movie pooch
23 Great weight
24 Extremely
26 Speckled horse
28 Soup buy
29 Asian sport
31 Supporter's vote
32 Willow's cousin
36 Hot
39 Lennon's wife
40 Clear
41 Musical set in Argentina
43 Is furious
44 Took a risk
45 Winter gliders
46 Hardy heroine

DOWN
1 "Dig in!"
2 Battle site of 1836
3 Move borders, perhaps
4 Total
5 Aladdin's find
6 Pronto, in memos
7 Cardinal's cap
8 Newspaper issue
9 Course unit
11 Pool participants
17 Neighbor of Mich.
19 — Palmas
22 Like tanks
24 Like some elections
25 Short, as a report
27 Alley —
28 Pickled garnishes
30 — tree
33 River through Nantes
34 Pays to play
35 Byways
37 Previously owned
38 Reduced amount
42 Brewery sight

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

Yesterday's answer

THOMAS CROSSWORD BOOKS 1-8! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) for each book to 628 Virginia Dr., Orlando, FL 32803



12-31

MYSTERY REVEALED

Matthew Hall *matt@smdp.com*



The Mystery Photo is located on the memorial plaque outside the Public Safety Building (333 Olympic Dr.). Richard Neuman and Benjamin Steers correctly identified the image.

PROMOTE YOUR BUSINESS HERE!
Yes, in this very spot!
Call for details
Santa Monica Daily Press smdp.com (310) 458-7737

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 ★★★

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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

King Features Syndicate

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL (calottery)
Draw Date: 12/26
27 40 44 59 65
Power#: 20
Jackpot: 300M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 12/29
20 25 55 62 74
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: 130M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 12/26
3 4 25 37 47
Mega#: 11
Jackpot: 7M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 12/29
9 13 18 33 34

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 12/30
MIDDAY: 0 5 9
Draw Date: 12/29
EVENING: 0 7 1

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 12/29
1st: 10 - SOLID GOLD
2nd: 02 - LUCKY STAR
3rd: 03 - HOT SHOT
RACE TIME: 1:47.84

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

WORD UP!

PROBITY
1. integrity and uprightness; honesty.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1965 - Jean-Bédel Bokassa, leader of the Central African Republic army, and his military officers begins a coup d'état against the government of President David Dacko.

1967 - The Youth International Party, popularly known as the "Yippies", is founded.

1981 - A coup d'état in Ghana removes President Hilla Limann's PNP government and replaces it with the Provisional National Defence Council led by Flight lieutenant Jerry Rawlings.

1983 - The AT&T Bell System is broken up by the United States Government.

1983 - In Nigeria a coup d'état led by Major General Muhammadu Buhari ends the Second Nigerian Republic.

1986 - A fire at the Dupont Plaza Hotel in San Juan, Puerto Rico, kills 97 and injures 140.

1988 - Pittsburgh Penguins' Mario Lemieux becomes the only National Hockey League player to score goals in five different ways: even strength, shorthanded, power play, penalty shot, and empty net, during an 8-6 win over the New Jersey Devils.

1988 - First Winter Ascent of Lhotse (8,516m) by Krzysztof Wielicki (solo).



Ad Council
Feed your kids the Arts. Involvement in the arts helps kids increase test scores and get better grades. For 10 Simple Ways to get more art into your child's life, visit **AmericansForTheArts.org.**
AMERICANS for the ARTS NAMM Foundation

Out late tonight, Virgo

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You will try hard to be mellow as the new year approaches. You have spent a lot of energy on touching base with key people and getting together more often. Be careful not to overshare some plans, even though they already might be public knowledge. Tonight: Your efforts pay off.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Reach out to others at a distance before you allow New Year's excitement to grab hold. You also might decide to do a different type of happening this year. Whatever you choose to do, put yourself in a position where you can just let go. Tonight: Greet 2016 as only you can.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You could be at your wits' end, as you have so much ground to cover. Whether you decide to stay close to home for New Year's or you have many friends popping in, you will be busy. Plans can change if you are not comfortable with what is happening. Tonight: All smiles.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ You might need to ask for more information before making a decision. A partner will be unusually open and caring. This person tends to have very different ideas from yours. Listen to what is being shared by those around you. Tonight: Get into the New Year's celebrations early.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Curb a need to spend too much, whether it's to please you or a friend, or for any other reason. This New Year's Eve has the makings of a wonderful beginning. Recognize how much a key person gives of him- or herself. Tonight: All smiles ... and it only gets better.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You smile all day long, no matter what goes on or where you are coming from. You have an innate radiance that attracts many people. If you are single and wanting to make plans, you'll be happiest roving around. You could meet someone quite special as a result. Tonight: Out late.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ How you feel on this final day of the year will have nothing to do with how you feel in 24 hours. You might be somewhat reflective and thoughtful about 2016, yet you could be questioning yourself about recent actions you have taken. Tonight: Relax with the moment.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Zero in on what you want. You could be overly tired and withdrawn. You also might wonder what would be the best way to proceed. Someone you care about could be unusually touchy. Remember, this day is not easy on some people. Tonight: Hang out with loved ones.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Pressure builds to join in and be part of the crowd. Don't be surprised to find yourself at a spontaneous happening that sets the mood for New Year's. Resist saying "no," and enjoy the moment. An unexpected opportunity is likely to present itself. Tonight: Make it your pleasure.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Reach out to someone at a distance whom you care about. You might be ready for a long-overdue talk. Starting the new year with a clean slate and a different viewpoint could make all the difference in how you feel. Communication flourishes. Tonight: Wait until the midnight hour.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Reach out to several loved ones at a distance. You might want to hear about what is happening with them. Catching up on news will prove to be very rewarding, as it will make you happy. Realize what is happening between you and someone else. Tonight: Surprises lie ahead.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Defer to someone else, and let him or her do whatever he or she wants. Your heightened sense of emotional well-being seems to permeate your interactions. Calls and inquiries come in from every direction. Tonight: Love the one you are with.

Thursday, December 31, 2015

This year you'll learn to take an overview when you feel uptight or stressed. Travel and vacations will play an important role in your year. You are likely to meet someone who might be so unusual that interacting with him or her could be a real learning experience. If you are single, you could become involved with a foreigner. Before committing to this person, make sure you can accept his or her uniqueness. If you are attached, your in-laws might play a greater role in your life. You and your sweetie will pursue a long-term desire to experience a new adventure together. VIRGO is lucky for you.

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

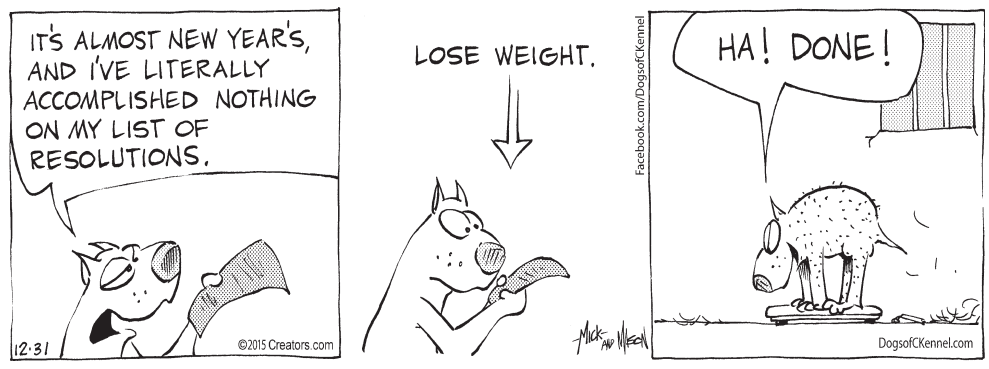
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



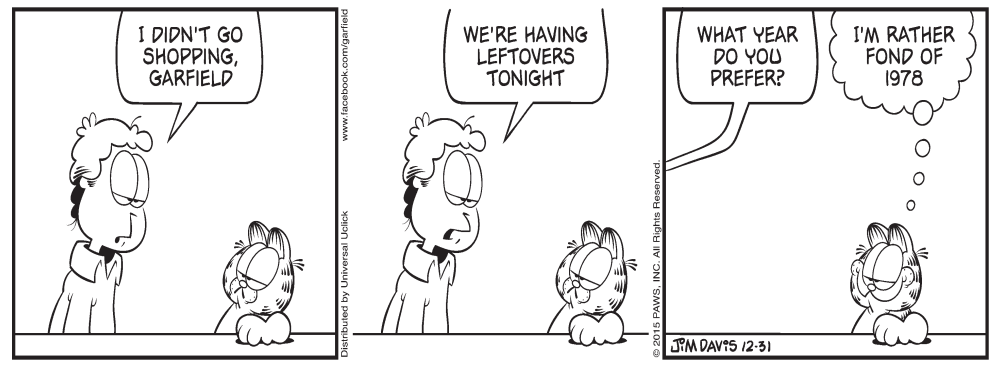
Strange Brew
By John Deering



Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



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Announcements

Announcements

* * * * * * * * * * * * * R E - WARD********** Dog missing. Golden doodle, tan male. Missing since December 17th. REWARD, please call (920) 819 - 8809.

Employment

Help Wanted

Market Specialist - Intl Film Sales. BA & 6 mo exp. Send resume to Content Media, 225 Arizona Ave, suite 250, Santa Monica, CA 90401. (310) 576-1059

RUSH Legal Notices

RUSH Legal Notices

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2015290809 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 11/16/2015 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as ROGER DUBUIS, ROGER DUBUIS NORTH AMERICA. 9490 BRIGHTON WAY, BEVERLY HILLS, CA 90210. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: RICHEMONT NORTH AMERICA, INC. 3 ENTERPRISE DRIVE SHELTON, CT 06484. This Business is being conducted by: a Corporation. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:RICHEMONT NORTH AMERICA, INC.. RICHEMONT NORTH AMERICA, INC.. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 11/16/2015. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 12/17/2015, 12/24/2015, 12/31/2015, 01/07/2016.

Real Estate

Commercial

SANTA MONICA OFFICE SUITES- For Lease in beautiful garden building. Approx. 300-600 square feet, Office suite. Utilities included. †30th Street near Ocean Park Boulevard. $1,100.00 - $1,195.00 a month.†(310) 456-7031 ext.175.

West Side Rentals

Brentwood SPACIOUS ONE BEDROOM IN BENTWOOD! 1-car Tandem Parking, Paid water & trash & gas, Rent $2,195.00 to Per Month, Deposit 2195, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=740588

Santa Monica OCEAN VIEWS, CHIC SETTING 2-car Permit parking, Paid utilities, Rent $4,000.00, Deposit 1500, Available 3516. westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1237265

Marina Del Rey AVAILABLE NOW! 2 STORY END UNIT PENTHOUSE, AMAZING VIEWS! 3-car Parking included, Paid partial utilities, Rent $7,950.00, Deposit 7950, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1225427

Brentwood 2 BED 2 BATH 2-car Parking included, Paid water & trash, Rent $2,895.00, Deposit 2895, Available 1116. westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=588332

West LA WALSH MARINA DEL REY 2-car Parking available, Paid utilities, Rent $6,000.00 to and up, Deposit 1000, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1236551

Santa Monica ****GREAT PLACE IN THE MIDDLE OF IT ALL!*** SANTA MONICA'S 4TH STREET** 1-car Parking included, Paid water & hot water & trash & gardener, Rent $2,300.00, Deposit 3450.00, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=980718

Brentwood GORGEOUS 1 BDRM APARTMENT IN THE HEART OF BRENTWOOD 1-car Carport parking, Paid water & trash, Rent $2,095.00, Deposit 2095.00, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1038396

Marina Del Rey 1 BEDROOM, 1 BATH Parking included, Paid pool service, Rent $3,458.00, Deposit 800.00, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1232949

Santa Monica 1 BEDROOM, 1 BATH Parking included, Rent $6,265.00, Deposit 0.00, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1235965

Marina Del Rey STUNNING MARINA PENINSULA ARCHITECTURAL 3-car Garage parking, Rent $14,978.00 to 00, Deposit 32000, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1238987

West LA 2 BEDROOMS, 2 BATHS Parking included, Rent $3,507.00, Deposit 0.00, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1235975

West LA 2 BED2.5 BATH WCITY-MOUNTAIN VIEWS. BRIGHT TOP FLOOR APARTMENT! 2-car Garage parking, Rent $4,099.00, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1206536

Brentwood AMAZING 2 BEDROOM 1-car Parking included, Paid water & trash, Rent $1,895.00, Deposit 1895, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1239724

Venice CHILL SPOT IN VENICE Parking available, Rent $8,800.00, Available 3116. westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1239274

Santa Monica JUNIOR ONE BEDROOM ACROSS FROM SANTA MONICA PLACE! 1-car Parking available, Rent $2,595.00, Available 3716. westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1154710

Santa Monica 3 BEDROOMS, 2 12 BATH Parking included, Rent $4,695.00, Deposit 4695.00, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1246927

West LA AMAZING AND SPACIOUS 2 BEDROOM WITH 1 BATHROOM APARTMENT MINUTES FROM VENICE Street parking, Paid water & trash & gardener, Rent $1,850.00, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1239330

Santa Monica 2 BEDROOMS, 2 BATHS Parking included, Paid pool service, Rent $3,850.00, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1242961

Venice VENICE APARTMENT 12 BLOCK FROM BEACH! $ No Parking, Paid water, Rent $1,595.00, Deposit 1595, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1136444

Santa Monica FULLY REMODELED 22 (1000 SQ FT) IN PRIME LOCATION 2-car Subterranean parking, Paid utilities, Rent $4,300.00, Deposit 4300, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1245369

Marina Del Rey MUST SEE! SPACIOUS APARTMENT WITH HUGE SAVINGS Parking available, Paid gardener & pool service, Rent $2,473.00 to and up!, Deposit 199.00, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1238880

Venice HUGE 3 STORY TOWNHOUSE IN THE HEART OF VENICE BEACH 2-car Private Garage, Paid partial utilities & water & hot water & trash & gas & gardener & association fees, Rent $7,450.00, Deposit 7500, Available 123115. westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1247473

Santa Monica REMODELED APARTMENT 2 BLOCKS TO THE BEACH 1-car Parking included, Paid water & trash & gardener, Rent $2,750.00, Deposit 2750, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=833888

Santa Monica NEW, FULLY RENOVATED 2 BDRM LOFT 2 12 BATH WITH WOOD FLOORS AND WASHERDRYER IN UNIT 2-car Tandem Parking, Paid water & hot water & trash & gardener, Rent $5,400.00, Deposit 7500, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1051347

Santa Monica CLASSIC SPANISH BUNGALOW NEXT TO CLOVER PARK 2-car Parking included, Paid gardener, Rent $4,500.00, Deposit 6000, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1233962

Santa Monica 1 BEDROOM, 1 BATH Parking included, Rent $3,914.00, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1243492

Marina Del Rey 2 BEDROOMS, 2 BATHS Parking included, Paid pool service, Rent $4,495.00, Deposit 1000.00, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1232952

Santa Monica QUIET SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD AND JUST REMODELED FURNISHED ONE BEDROOM 1-car Parking included, Paid utilities, Rent $3,100.00 to month, Deposit 3100, Available 11016. westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1092462

Marina Del Rey SPACIOUS & BRIGHT SOUTH FACING 2X2! MOTHER'S BEACH VIEW! LARGE PANTRY! 2-car Parking included, Paid water & hot water & trash & gardener & pool service, Rent $4,491.00, Deposit 1000, Available 12416. westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1245107

Santa Monica HURRY IN TODAY 2-car Carport parking, Rent $3,999.00, Deposit 3999.00, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1184807

Santa Monica OCEAN VIEWS! 2-car Parking included, Paid trash & gardener & association fees, Rent $12,700.00, Deposit 12700, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1223066

Brentwood 2 BEDROOMS SPACIOUS UNIT WITH LAMINATE WOOD FLOORS Parking available, Rent $2,350.00, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=778364

Venice MOMENTS AWAY FROM ALL THE EXCITEMENT OF ABBOT KINNEY, THE LINC & VENICE BEACH. 3-car Covered parking, Rent $4,995.00, Deposit 9990, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1243846

Santa Monica BEAUTIFULLY FURNISHED 1 BEDROOM CONDO Garage parking, Rent $4,950.00, Deposit 1125, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1218051

Santa Monica LARGE APARTMENT 1-car Gated parking, Paid water & hot water & trash & gas & gardener & pool service, Rent $3,000.00, Deposit 3000.00, Available 1116. westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1217686

Santa Monica BEAUTIFUL SANTA MONICA UNIT FOR LEASE! 2-car Garage parking, Paid partial utilities, Rent $11,200.00, Deposit 11200, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1183051

Venice BOUTIQUE VENICE BEACH 3 LEVEL ARCHITECTUAL TOWNHOUSE 2-car Gated parking, Paid utilities & water & hot water & trash & gas & electricity & cable & gardener & association fees, Rent $5,500.00, Deposit 500, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1193784

Venice PRIVATE AND CHARMING 2 BEDROOM1 BATH HOUSE OFF ABBOT KINNEY IN HEART OF VENICE BEACH! 1-car Parking included, Paid utilities, Rent $6,000.00 to month, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1178357

Marina Del Rey 2 BEDROOMS, 2 BATHS Parking included, Paid pool service, Rent $5,000.00, Deposit 0.00, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1233132

Marina Del Rey LOVELY CONDO ON A QUIET WALK STREET 2-car Carport parking, Paid water, Rent $4,200.00 to 4200, Deposit 6300, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1191181

Marina Del Rey 2 BEDROOMS, 1 BATH Parking included, Rent $5,247.00, Deposit 0.00, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1233841

Santa Monica SANTA MONICA - HUGE 2 BED WLOFT - ROOFTOP DECK - STUNNING!!! 2-car Subterranean parking, Rent $3,650.00, Deposit 3650, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1240080

Santa Monica 4 BED 4 BATH 2 CAR GARAGE CONDO SHORT TERM OK 2-car Garage parking, Paid utilities & water & hot water & trash & gas & electricity & cable & gardener & association fees, Rent $7,500.00, Deposit 7500, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=873045

Santa Monica OCEAN TOWERS 2-car Garage parking, Rent $13,500.00, Deposit 27000, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1158808

West LA APARTMENT 1-car Carport parking, Paid water & hot water & trash & gardener, Rent $2,500.00 to per month, Deposit 3000.00, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=834810

Santa Monica APARTMENT IN A GREAT LOCATION!! 1-car Carport parking, Paid water & electricity, Rent $1,700.00 to month, Available 123115. westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=28212

Santa Monica FABULOUS APARTMENT!!! Street parking, Paid water & trash, Rent $2,195.00, Deposit 1000, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1240948

Santa Monica 2 BEDROOM PLUS LOFT TOWNHOME 2-car Carport parking, Rent $4,995.00 to 4995, Deposit 4995, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1205964

Venice VENICE! AMAZING WATER VIEWSPRIVATE CANAL...SPACIOUS AND UPDATED 3 BDRM HOME! 4-car Garage parking, Paid water & trash & gardener & pool service & association fees, Rent $7,495.00, Deposit 7495, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=722401

Santa Monica SAN VICENTE FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT 1-car Garage parking, Paid utilities & water & hot water & trash & gas & electricity & cable & gardener, Rent $3,200.00, Deposit 1000.00, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1060559

Brentwood LARGE ONE BEDROOM PLUS DEN 2-car Parking included, Paid water & hot water & trash & gas & gardener & pool service & association fees, Rent $3,050.00, Deposit 3050.00, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=540160

Marina Del Rey SPACIOUS AND BRIGHT 2 BEDROOM IN MARINA DEL REY 1-car Parking available, Paid utilities & cable, Rent $4,125.00, Deposit 500, Available 1116. westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1204595

Santa Monica BEST LOCATION & QUALITY BLDG. - N.OF WILSHIRE, NEAR PROMENADE & BEACH-ELEVATOR 1-car Parking included, Paid water & hot water & trash & gardener, Rent $2,195.00, Deposit 2195, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=283686

Santa Monica NORTH OF WILSHIRE, LARGE ONE BEDROOM PRIME NEIGHBORHOOD Street parking, Rent $2,595.00, Deposit 4500, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1175629

Santa Monica 2-STORY PENTHOUSE IN THE HEART OF SANTA MONICA! 2-car Gated parking, Paid water & trash, Rent $4,600.00, Deposit 4600, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1236466

Brentwood 3 BEDROOMS, 2 BATHS Parking included, Rent $7,150.00, Deposit 0.00, Available Now! westsiderentals.com/listingdetail.cfm?id=1233846

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