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


"Born and raised in Santa Monica. **The only local cab company.**"
Taxi ! Taxi !
310-444-4444
Hybrid • Vans SantaMonicaTaxi.com
Not valid from hotels or with other offers • SM residents only • Expires 12/31/12
SM to LAX $30

smdp.com
JANUARY 5-6, 2013
Volume 12 Issue 48



Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

WHAT'S ON TAP THIS WEEKEND?
SEE PAGE 2

THE HAPPY BIRTHDAY MOM! ISSUE



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

BELLY UP TO THE BAR: **Bartender Jessica Krzygocki pours a few craft brews at The Commons on Broadway in Downtown.**

Fun in the suds

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor-in-Chief

BROADWAY Ever since Beth Rich moved to California a few months ago, all she's done is drink craft beers. While others would call that a problem, she calls it research.

"I love good beers and I want to get to know the local ones," Rich said.

It makes sense given that Rich, her son and his father are now the owners of a new pub in Downtown called The Commons, which features roughly 20 beers on tap ranging from hoppy IPAs to smooth, chocolate porters and bubble-gum Belgians.

But as any bar owner knows, it's not all about sipping suds and socializing, especially when the pub used to be known more for cocaine and cockroaches than craft beers.

SEE PUB PAGE 8

Six people charged in high-end art heist

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

DOWNTOWN Los Angeles County prosecutors have charged six people in connection with the theft of $3.2 million worth of paintings, wine, jewelry and a luxury car from bond trader Jeffrey Gundlach's Santa Monica home last September.

Darren Agee Merager, 43, is charged with two counts each of first-degree residential burglary and conspiracy to commit a crime and one count of receiving stolen property stemming from break-ins at Gundlach's home last Sept. 12 and 13.

Merager has a string of felony convictions dating back to 1991. If convicted he faces more than nine years in state prison.

Jay Jeffrey Nieto, 45, is charged with one count each of first-degree residential burglary, receiving stolen property and being an accessory after the fact and two counts of conspiracy to commit a crime.

Wanis George Wahba, 29, and his 26-year-old brother, Ely George Wahba, are charged with two counts of conspiracy to commit a crime and one count each of receiving stolen property and being an accessory after the fact.

Merager's mother, Brenda Joyce Merager, 68, is charged with one count each of conspiracy to commit a crime, receiving stolen property and being an accessory after the fact.

Wilmer Bolosan Cadiz, 40, is charged with one count each of conspiracy to commit a crime and receiving stolen property.

All six plead not guilty.

Darren Merager is accused of breaking into Gundlach's home and stealing valuable art work, jewelry and wine, according to Deputy District Attorney Alva Lin.

Merager allegedly returned to the house hours later at Nieto's behest and stole

SEE CHARGED PAGE 6

Residents vie for spot on Planning Commission

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL As of Friday at 4:30 p.m., eight civic-minded souls had put themselves up for consideration for a single vacancy on the Planning Commission, a role that offers up long hours, little recognition and a huge amount of influence on land use decisions in Santa Monica.

That role is only magnified this year as Santa Monica continues several major planning efforts, including the Downtown Specific Plan, Bergamot Area Master Plan and the zoning ordinance update.

All three will define the kinds of development and uses that occur throughout the city and will be inextricably linked to the coming of the Exposition Light Rail line in 2015.

Land use is one of the main powers that local government holds, said City Manager Rod Gould, and the Planning Commission has a big say in how that plays out in Santa Monica, including permitting processes in

SEE PLANNING PAGE 6


Proudly Serving City of Santa Monica!
Your Local Taxi Cab Company
Metro Cab
SANTA MONICA
310-444-7777
Promotional LAX Flat Rate $29.00
310-807-8000 www.metrocabsm.com


$12.95 SERVED FROM 4 PM
SIZZLING DINNER SPECIALS... COOL PRICES!
SOUP OR SALAD, CHOICE OF ENTRÉE & BEVERAGE
DELI TO THE STARS
IZZY'S
1433 Wilshire Boulevard, at 15th Street
310-394-1131 OPEN 24 HOURS


Turn your Stress in to Success, Hire Former Rent Control Commissioner Kronovet to Manage your Properties.
310-829-9303
Robert Kronovet is a California Association of Realtors Director.
Kronovet Realty
DRE # 01128992
Rent@Kronovet.com

Experienced Cosmetic Dentistry

MODERN, COMFORTABLE AND SPA LIKE ATMOSPHERE
Top of the line technology | Amazing Yelp reviews | Using the best dental labs in the country

SANTA MONICA TOOTH DOCTOR

Basic Cleaning, Exam and full Mouth Xrays
$65.00
Free Cosmetic Consultation
– Modern facilities, gentle dentistry, sedation

Ali Mogharei DDS
(310) 829-2224
2222 SANTA MONICA BLVD, SUITE 202, SANTA MONICA, CA 90404

Check our monthly promotions on our website www.SantaMonicaToothDr.com

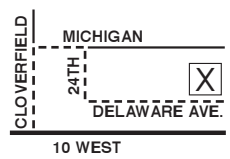
RECYCLE NOW!



Aluminum Cans
$1.80 per pound
with this coupon expires 1-31-13

Aluminum Plastic Glass Bi-Metal Newspaper
CardboardWhite/Color/Computer Paper Copper & Brass

Santa Monica Recycling Center
2411 Delaware Avenue in Santa Monica
(310) 453-9677



Your Trusted Source
Adult Day Service Center



The Right Choice for Your Loved One ...
Daily socializing with peers
A safe, enjoyable environment
Tailored activities for each person
Open 11 hours daily, Monday – Friday
Trained and caring staff

The Right Choice for You ...
Peace of mind
The break/respite you need
Support group meetings

Call for a Complimentary Sample Day
(310) 394-9871
WISE & Healthy Aging
1527 4th St., 2nd Floor • Santa Monica, CA 90401
A nonprofit social services organization

WISE/Santa Monica Dial-A-Ride
Including Door-Through-Door Service
Are you a Santa Monica resident who is 60+ years or 18+ years and disabled?
Let us help you with your transportation needs.
WISE & Healthy Aging
For Information:
(310) 394-9871 ext. 455
www.wiseandhealthyaging.org

What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, Jan. 5, 2013

Drop it off
City Yards
2500 Michigan Ave.,
9 a.m. — 2 p.m.
Residents are invited to drop off household hazardous materials to the city's waste center. A technician will unload and process the materials for you. For more information, visit www.smgov.net.

Get published
Montana Library
1704 Montana Ave.,
12:30 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.
In this informative seminar, you will learn to self-publish your book, convert it to an e-book, sell it, make it available for download, create podcasts and protect your intellectual property. Author Mike Rounds leads the class. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Cuba on film
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 p.m.
Filmmaker Jennifer Paz presents video selections and anecdotes from her film, "Cubaphile." This screening will include a visual portrait of the island as well as autobiographical segments that recount Paz' experiences in Cuba as a filmmaker and cultural exchange trip leader. For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

Sunday, Jan. 6, 2013

Happy b-day, Marion
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 PCH, 11 a.m. — 2 p.m.
Everyone's invited to the second annual Happy Birthday Marion! Celebration. Santa Monica Conservancy docents turn the spotlight on Marion Davies: actress, philanthropist, famed party hostess and mistress of media tycoon William Randolph Hearst at Davies's 1928 Julia Morgan-designed guest house. This year's celebration will feature a 30-minute beginner swing dance lesson with world-renowned instructor Giovanni Quintero and dancing with Rusty Frank's Lindy by the Sea Dancers. Cost: free. For more information, call (310) 496-3146.

Art by Iris
Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Santa Monica
1260 18th St., 11 a.m.
Iris Klein paints, sculpts, acts, directs and coaches talent in Los Angeles and around the globe. She paints landscapes, real and imagined, exploring the human condition. She also collaborates with her husband, Jim Klein, and their work can be found in many private collections. Each Sunday in January, their work will be on display. For more information, call (310) 829-5436.

Fresh jokes
Mi's Westside Comedy Theater
1323-A Third Street Promenade,
7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
Check out the best up-and-coming comics Comedy Central has to offer during a night of jokes dubbed Freshman Faces. For more information, call (310) 451-0850.

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



Shangri-La asks for retrial in discrimination suit

Problems with jury, evidence warrant new hearing, court filings say

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM COURTHOUSE The Muslim owners of a Santa Monica luxury hotel are asking for a new trial in a discrimination case in which a jury found they had shut down a group's event because they were Jewish.

Attorneys for Shangri-La Hotel owner Tehmina Adaya held in a Dec. 24 filing that the court should grant a new trial based on a number of "issues," including irregularities with the jury and insufficient evidence presented in the case.

"We are challenging certain events that occurred during the trial including certain judge rulings, the admissibility of certain testimony and the judgment itself being contrary to the facts and the law," said attorney Steve Richman with Epport, Richman & Robbins, a new law firm brought in on the case.

The attorneys are also contesting over $2 million in attorney fees requested by James Turken, the lawyer who represented the plaintiffs in the case.

In August, a jury awarded 19 members of the Young Leadership Division of the Friends of the Israel Defense Forces, or FIDF, $1.2 million in statutory and compensatory damages and an additional $445,000 in punitive damages when it found that Adaya had ordered her hotel staff to stop a charity event held by FIDF at the hotel pool.

According to its website, FIDF offers educational, social, economic, spiritual and other programs for IDF soldiers and their families.

The plaintiffs testified that hotel staff and security began hassling them after they set up a table with leaflets and other informational materials explaining their mission and the IDF.

They removed stanchions that had been used to close off an area near the pool for the event and took away a table that had been set up for towels and asked them to take down their banners and other paraphernalia.

Attorneys leaned on a deposition by Nathan Codrey, a former hotel employee who told court officials that Adaya had aggressively asked to get "the Jews" out of her hotel.

Adaya denies ever having made the state-

SEE **SUIT** PAGE 6

Poll: Fight obesity crisis but keep the junk food

BY JENNIFER AGIESTA & LAURAN NEERGAARD
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Everyone could use a little help keeping those New Year's resolutions to slim down. But if it means the government limiting junk food, the response is an overwhelming, "No."

Americans call obesity a national health crisis and blame too much screen time and cheap fast food for fueling it. But a new poll finds people are split on how much the government should do to help — and most draw the line at attempts to force healthier eating.

A third of people say the government should be deeply involved in finding solutions to the epidemic. A similar proportion want it to play little or no role, and the rest are somewhere in the middle, according to the poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Require more physical activity in school, or provide nutritional guidelines to help people make better choices? Sure, eight in 10 support those steps. Make restaurants post calorie counts on their menus, as the Food and Drug Administration is poised to do? Some 70 percent think it's a good idea.

"That's a start," said Khadijah Al-Amin, 52, of Coatesville, Pa. "The fat content should be put up there in red letters, not just put up there. The same way they mark something that's poisonous, so when you see it, you absolutely know."

But nearly six in 10 people surveyed oppose taxes targeting unhealthy foods, known as soda taxes or fat taxes.

And when it comes to restricting what people can buy — like New York City's recent ban of supersized sodas in restaurants — three-quarters say, "No way."

"The outlawing of sugary drinks, that's just silly," said Keith Donner, 52, of Miami, who prefers teaching schoolchildren to eat better and get moving.

"People should just look at a Big Gulp and say, 'That's not for me.' I think it starts when they are young and at school," he added.

Despite the severity of the problem, most of those surveyed say dealing with obesity is up to individuals. Just a third consider obesity a community problem that governments, schools, healthcare providers and the food industry should be involved in. Twelve percent said it will take work from both individuals and the community.

That finding highlights the dilemma facing public health experts: Societal changes in recent decades have helped spur growing waistlines, and now a third of U.S. children and teens and two-thirds of adults are either overweight or obese. Today, restaurants dot more street corners and malls, regular-sized portions are larger, and a fast-food meal can be cheaper than healthier fare. Not to mention electronic distractions that slightly more people surveyed blamed for obesity

SEE **POLL** PAGE 5



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

ROUND TWO: **The Muslim owners of the Shangri-La Hotel on Ocean Avenue are seeking a new trial in a discrimination lawsuit filed by supporters of the Jewish armed forces, claiming there were problems with the jury and insufficient evidence presented at trial.**

"Your Neighbor and Real Estate Specialist for 25 Years."
PETERMULLINS REAL ESTATE INC Lic. #00973691
1623 Crescent Place – **Listed** at $2.965 million
A Unique Compound on Famous Walk Street. Steps to Abbot Kinney Boulevard.
cell: 310.600.6976 | petermullinsrealestate@gmail.com

SMALL BUSINESS STARTUP?
LET ME HELP YOU SUCCEED
TAXES • BOOKKEEPING • STARTUPS • CORPS. • LLCS
(310) 395-9922
SAMUEL B. MOSES, CPA
100 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1800 Santa Monica 90401

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

More than just dust

Editor:

I am a tenant of the La Terra Dulce Apartments, and I have to point out that there was no effort to get a balanced viewpoint from residents of the building for that article ("City attorney halts tenant harassment investigation," Dec. 19), leaving us open to the snarky comments on your website as if the sum of the harassment in this building was construction noise bothering wannabe screenwriters or having to pick-up keys.

The construction the new owners are doing will make this very old building much more livable, and I think that is well worth the noise during the day. If I believed they were going to allow the long-term tenants to stay in our rent-controlled homes, I would be delighted.

My issue is harassment. They are changing all the locks on the building and refusing to give out keys that can be copied, as always has been the policy. Plus they are changing the door code on the front door and not giving it out to anyone. No key or door code for my boyfriend, housekeeper or petsitter, no way for them to enter my home when I am gone. They are essentially denying me the right to choose who and when my loved ones or employees may access my own home. Not even FedEx and UPS will be allowed to enter with a key code to deliver here. That is tenant harassment, blocking reasonable entrance to bonded delivery personnel in order to make life difficult.

Another example of harassment? A month ago they ripped out the water pipes to my master bedroom, which I rent to my roommate, in an obvious effort to drive my roommate out. They've ignored my many requests to replace them.

My biggest complaint, however, is that the new owners have told us, in the presence of representatives from the City Attorney's Office and Rent Control, that they plan to enforce the old leases, which means to evict us because we signed leases, most of us many years ago, that the previous owner/managers told us would never be enforced. We were told we could, and were always allowed, to have pets even though the leases say no pets. These new owners can serve us with three-day "perform or quit" notices (which have been filed on people here already) to force us to give up our pets or be evicted.

The previous managers of the building rarely agreed to amend leases to add roommates; they did not care and neither did we. Only now we will each come home one day to a three-day notice to evict our roommates because they are not on the lease, and if they don't leave the new owners can start eviction proceedings.

The new owners will not allow us to add our roommates to the lease even though they know that the former owner/ manager allowed them and knew them. Just as the new owners refuse to let us add our pets, even though almost everyone here has a pet and they know they are here with the full knowledge and permission of the former owners (oral and implied contracts).

Whomever forces them to take this to court will win and the new owners know it, but how many can afford thousands of dollars in legal fees? When faced with the horrible reality of losing their homes unless they can come up with the money for lawyers, they will take the settlement offered by the new owners to get out. They will have to. And then the new owners will more than double the rents and few will be able to afford to live here.

And we should all fear that.

Pamela Lane
Santa Monica

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO

Santa Monica Daily Press

• Attn. Editor: • 1640 5th Street,

Suite 218 • Santa Monica, CA 90401

• **editor@smdp.com**



Stranger in a Strange Land

Tahreem 'Tammy' Hassan **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Finding comfort in an unfamiliar place

LIFE IS ALL ABOUT CHANGES. EVERY DAY we have to face things that are changed from our daily routine. It's good to have positive changes in life. Being an exchange student has been a major change in my life. The exchange students are those who are willing to accept adjustment and challenges without their own family members in a whole different place with a diverse group of people and strange environment as well. It's really hard work and one needs a plethora of courage and flexibility.

I am going through the same process these days. My name is Tahreem Hassan, and I am an exchange student from Karachi, Pakistan. I am living here in Santa Monica with a great host family, and I am going to Santa Monica High School. My experience so far has been incredibly amazing and I love the way I am being treated. I have learned numerous things that I know I couldn't learn back in my home town. I am here through YES (Youth Exchange and Study Program) sponsored by AFS (American Field Service). AFS program is so spread out and hundreds of fortunate students from different parts of the world are coming to the U.S. and a number of students from the U.S. are going to different countries and we are having the time of our lives.

Pakistan is a wonderful country with every resource and necessity of life. It is located in the center of the Asian continent, and it is surrounded by four of the most important countries including India, Afghanistan, China and Iran. Pakistan is a land of natural beauty; we have five rivers, mountains, plateaus, valleys and the second highest peak of the world: K2. It is basically an agricultural country, because 50 percent of its economy is based on cotton, wheat, rice, maize, tobacco, sugar cane, many vegetables and fruits. It produces surplus amounts of crops every year, so most of the countries of Asia import these food products from Pakistan. It is a developing country, and a large amount of work is going on to make it a prosperous land. In fact, there are a number of talented people that will take it to the height of prosperity and development.

My homeland is so special to every Pakistani because after a long struggle and fight with Britain and India, we won it. Prior to our independence 65 years ago, Pakistan was part of India, and then the British took over the sub-continent and ruled over 100 years. British ruling was based on inequality and injustice. There were two important nations living in the sub-continent: Muslims and Hindus. Both the nations realized that they wanted their own country and wanted freedom form British slavery. After a long struggle of Muslims and Hindus, they got their own countries where they were allowed to follow their rituals and customs. Muslims got their homeland when we lost thousands of precious lives and when thousands of families were mourning for their sons, husbands and fathers. This is why we, all Pakistani, celebrate our independence day, Aug. 14, 1947 with great zeal and enthusiasm.

It's true it has crimes, but crimes are in every corner of the world. Criminals are everywhere, but in Pakistan they have more freedom to break the law because we are not fully developed and we don't yet have a strong backbone. Pakistan is a newly born country. It has just been 65 years since Pakistan got independence, and 65 years are nothing to develop a country. Surely Americans can relate since this country got its freedom from British rule only 200 years ago. But we certainly have strong hearts, minds and a powerful younger generation, like me, that will lead my country.

I think these exchange programs are the best way to learn about a new country and to remove misconceptions. I am an exchange student, and it's been four months I am living here. I am here with a host family and my experience with them has been wonderful because I personally learned a lot from them and they learned a lot form me too. In the beginning it was hard to adjust in a new environment with new people. Everything was really different: food, language, dresses, religion and customs. But I love everything that has been a change because as AFS says: "Nothing is better or worse, it's just different."

I celebrated Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas for the first time in my life ever, and my time celebrating these events was remarkable. Would you believe I left cookies and milk for Santa and he left me a thank you note in my language, Urdu? It was so fun to learn new traditions and to meet new people every day. My family also celebrated my festival "Eid" with me; it was a great time too. It felt so good that someone is curious about my customs and wants to know more about them.

I got so much respect and love from the people here, so it just took two or three weeks for me to adjust completely. The hardest part for me was schooling. Schools here are remarkably different from Pakistan. Studies are easier here, but schools are colossal. In Pakistan I attended a private school with only 300 students, and here I have 3,000 students, so it's a massive difference. In the beginning making friends was hard, but I am so happy that I made so many friends on the first day of school already. And things never are in stagnant position; they always change. So now my life is wonderful. Everything is so different: school, family and friends. Things are just the way I always wanted, a great family and a huge group of loving friends.

Although I miss my country Pakistan and family sometimes, I will never get this unique experience again, so I am making the most of it.

TAHREEM can be reached at tahreemhasan@hotmail.com.



PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Ashley Archibald
ashley@smdp.com

CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Bill Bauer, David Pisarra,
Meredith Carroll, Jack Neworth,
Lloyd Garver, Sarah A. Spitz,
Taylor Van Arsdale, Merv Hecht,
Cynthia Citron, Michael Ryan,
JoAnne Barge, Katrina Davy

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERN
Ray Solano
news@smdp.com

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

JUNIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Chelsea Fujitaki
chelsea@smdp.com
Justin Harris
justin@smdp.com

OPERATIONS COORDINATOR
Michele Emch
michele.e@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Darren Ouellette
production@smdp.com

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
Nathalyd Meza

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Osvaldo Paganini
ross@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
We have you covered

1640 5th Street, Suite 218
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

smdp.com

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

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2012. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West LA. Members of CNPA, AFCP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

© 2012 Newlon Rouge, LLC, all rights reserved.

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

Priorities for 2013

Everyone is talking about making resolutions for the new year. Plenty of people are going to focus on their finances or their bulging waistlines. Others will try and be more compassionate by volunteering. It's all about charting a new course in life. Which had us thinking about the future of Santa Monica.

This past week, Q-line asked:
What course should the City Council, the school board and other powers that be take in the new year? Where do you want to see Santa Monica end up at the end of 2013?

Here are your responses:

"I WOULD LIKE TO SEE SANTA MONICA end up as an enlightened community, meaning that the residents, especially the older ones, stop living in the last century when there was no central heating and stop using fireplaces that cause lung cancer, bronchitis and even stroke. And also I would like the City Council to give a better explanation as to why they closed off the most convenient parking lot and put a patch of grass to pacify people because somebody likes to play hockey in their convenient time."

"SANTA MONICA IS A PERFECT EXAMPLE of the socialist rot that clever politicians have manipulated the gullible, low-informational voter into supporting. Ego, greed, uncontested tax monies, abortive power are the indispensable needs of the false shamans in our city government. The high priest of civic power needs the voter dullards to support the communal exchange of taxpayer largesse. The ... view of 2013 Santa Monica should be an absence of egotistical and personal financial thought. Foremost is the conviction for simplicity and common sense. Let us pray to a power beyond us that a City Hall sponsorship of politically correct nothingness is consumed by righteous indignation of Santa Monicans for political and fiscal simplicity."

Editor's note: It looks like people thought the "fiscal cliff" was an actual cliff and that there would not be a 2013, hence the two responses to our Q-Line question this week. Or perhaps it was just a dud. We'll do better next week.

PROUDLY BROUGHT TO YOU BY

Kate Bransfield
Estates Director
Coldwell Banker - Montana Ave
310.395.1133
What is Your Home Worth?
Contact Me to Find Out.
for local, current real estate info...
SantaMonicaListings.com

POLL
FROM PAGE 3

than fast food.

In the current environment, it's difficult to exercise that personal responsibility, said Jeff Levi of the nonprofit Trust for America's Health, which has closely tracked the rise in obesity.

"We need to create environments where the healthy choice becomes the easy choice, where it's possible for people to bear that responsibility," he said.

The new poll suggests women, who have major input on what a family eats, recognize those societal and community difficulties more than men do.

More than half of women say the high cost of healthy food is a major driver of obesity, compared with just 37 percent of men. Women also are more likely than men to blame cheap fast food and to say that the food industry should bear a lot of responsibility for helping to find solutions.

Patricia Wilson, 53, of rural Speedwell, Tenn., says she must drive 45 minutes to reach a grocery store — passing numerous burger and pizza joints, with more arriving every year.

"They shouldn't be letting all these fast-food places go up," said Wilson, who nags her children and grandchildren to eat at home and watch their calories. She recalls how her own overweight grandmother lost both her legs and then her life to diabetes.

More than 80 percent of people in the AP-NORC poll said they had easy access to supermarkets, but just as many could easily get fast food. Another 68 percent said it was easy for kids to purchase junk food on their way to school, potentially foiling diet-conscious caregivers like Wilson, who doesn't allow her grandchildren to eat unhealthy snacks at home.

"If they say they're hungry, they get regular food," she said.

Food is only part of the obesity equation; physical activity is key too. About seven in 10 people said it was easy to find sidewalks or paths for jogging, walking or bike-riding. But 63 percent found it difficult to run errands or get around without a car, reinforcing a sedentary lifestyle.

James Gambrell, 27, of Springfield, Ore., said he pays particular attention to diet and exercise because obesity runs in his family. He makes a point of walking to stores and running errands on foot two to three times a week.

But Gambrell, a fast-food cashier, said he eats out at least once a day because of the convenience and has changed his order at restaurants that already have begun posting calorie counts. He's all for the government pushing those kinds of solutions.

"I feel that it's a part of the government's responsibility to care for its citizens and as such should attempt to set regulations for restaurants that are potentially harmful to its citizens," he said.

On the other side is Pamela Dupuis, 60, of Aurora, Colo., who said she has struggled with weight and has been diagnosed as pre-diabetic. She doesn't want the government involved in things like calorie-counting.

"They should stay out of our lives," she said.

The AP-NORC Center survey was conducted Nov. 21 through Dec. 14. It involved landline and cellphone interviews with 1,011 adults nationwide and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 4.2 percentage points

MILLIONS OF SATISFIED AIRPORT TRAVELERS SINCE 1977


• $29 Flat Rate from SM to LAX
• Hybrid Sedans, Mini-Vans
• Door To Door Service 24/7
• Professional, Courteous Drivers
• Corporate Accounts
• Reservations Welcome For Individuals & Groups
SAFETY YOU CAN RELY ON
Fully Insured for your protection
Lic. #173654
BOOK ONLINE AT:
424-777-TAXI | 1-800-LA1-TAXI | www.LATAXI.com
Fast at Your Door Within 15 Minutes | 24 HRS. DEPENDABLE

KANAN
CONSTRUCTION
Building Dreams Since 1989
• CUSTOM HOMES • REMODELS
LOCAL REFERENCES
DANIEL J. KANAN
General Contractor
Pacific Palisades Chamber member since 1991
(310) 451-3540 • (800) 585-4326
BONDED–INSURED www.DanKananConstruction.com LIC. NO. 554451

When Bad Things Happen to Good People Because of the Carelessness or Negligence of Others.

Robert Lemle
Free Consultation
Over $25 Million Recovered
• Catastrophic Personal Injuries
• Wrongful Death
• Motor Vehicle Accidents
• Bicycle Accidents
• Spinal Cord Injuries
• Traumatic Brain Injuries
• Dog Bites
• Trip & Falls
You Pay Nothing Until Your Case Is Resolved
310.392.3055
www.lemlelaw.com
Lemle Law Group, pc



Photo courtesy David Caro

SAFE AND SOUND: **Some of Gundlach's paintings that were recovered by law enforcement.**

CHARGED
FROM PAGE 1

Gundlach's Porsche; Nieto is accused of helping to conceal the stolen art and other items at a Pasadena store where he worked; and the Wahba brothers and Merager's mother allegedly tried to conceal and sell the stolen items.

Gundlach, the CEO of DoubleLine Capital, offered rewards of nearly $2 million for return of the artwork, as well as watches, rare wine, currency and a red 2010 Porsche Carrera 4S that had been taken.

The art that was taken included works by Piet Mondrian, Jasper Johns, Philip Guston and Richard Diebenkorn.

Santa Monica police said last September that most of the stolen paintings had been recovered.

The Los Angeles Police Department, FBI, Department of Justice and Interpol worked with the Santa Monica and Pasadena police departments on the investigation.

All six defendants were ordered jailed on $10 million bail while awaiting their next appearance Jan. 18 at the Airport Branch Courthouse in Los Angeles.

news@smdp.com

SUIT
FROM PAGE 3

ment, and Codrey never appeared in court in person, having apparently gone out of state before the trial.

Attorneys for the defense failed to sway the jury to their side, and ultimately all 12 voted in favor of the plaintiffs.

Court documents associated with the request for a new trial, however, include a declaration by one juror who felt that at least one other member of the jury was biased by her own experiences with discrimination and another intimidated other jurors to "stick it to" the defendants.

Turken, the plaintiffs' attorney, didn't seem surprised by the filings.

"I wish them luck," he said. "I'm familiar with the record, and the trial was conducted fairly and properly. I don't see any issues whatsoever with what was done."

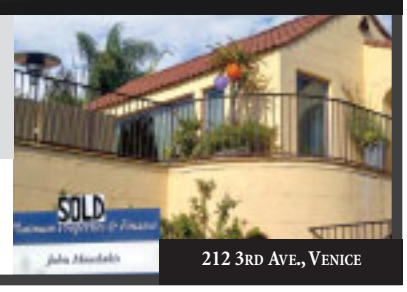
In the meantime, the hotel will still play host to an event co-hosted by the Zionist Organization of America and the Creative Zionist Coalition in February.

The ZOA won the promise to throw the Purim-themed party as a concession from Adaya to keep the organization from protesting in front of her hotel after the trial concluded.

She also donated $3,600 each to the Koby Mandell Foundation and the Zahal Disabled Veterans Organization. The amounts were a nod to Jewish culture, in which multiples of 18 are symbolic of the word "chai," which translates to "life."

The court has until Jan. 31 to decide whether or not it wants to rehear the case. If the judge chooses not to, Adaya can appeal to a higher court.

ashley@smdp.com

Platinum Properties & Finance
FIND OUT WHAT YOUR HOME IS WORTH TODAY Call John!
John Moudakis DRE # 01833441
jgmrealestate@aol.com (310) 663-1784


212 3RD AVE., VENICE

PLANNING
FROM PAGE 1

which they have the last word.

"In many cases, unless it's appealed, the Planning Commission decision is final and binding," Gould said. "It's not for every casual volunteer. Happily, in Santa Monica there are quite a few people to provide the effort and work to do the job well."

The spot opened up after former Planning Commissioner Ted Winterer became the top votegetter in the Nov. 6 election and ascended to the City Council, the body that appoints commissioners and the only place to appeal decisions made by the commission.

Contenders include the technically-minded like civil engineer Armen Melkonians and software developer Valerie Griffin and those with extensive planning and land use backgrounds including Leslie Lambert, Kent Smith and Renee Weitzer, who have each spent at least a portion of their career working for municipalities.

Frank Gruber, a former planning commissioner himself, spent over a decade following issues that came before the commission and analyzing them in his weekly column before taking a leave of absence to run for the City Council in November.

Laurence Eubank, a member of the Wilshire-Montana Neighborhood Coalition, and Jodi Summers have each worked in different aspects of the real estate world.

Melkonians was originally inspired to run for City Council in the November election out of concern for new development coming in around the future Exposition Light Rail Line. The Planning Commission would help him serve the same goals, Melkonians said.

"Ultimately, my goal is to try to make Santa Monica a better place to live," he said.

A civil engineer by trade, Melkonians is concerned not that development is necessarily inappropriate or excessive, but that it's outpacing expectations built into critical planning documents like the 2010 Land Use and Circulation Element, or LUCE, and that infrastructure will suffer as a result.

"I just think that if we don't do it in a technically sound manner, we will end up with a city that has a lot of traffic instead of all of the things promised in these picturesque plans," he said.

Griffin was the first to announce her bid for the Planning Commission spot.

Formerly the chair of the Wilmont neighborhood group, Griffin is a regular at public meetings and is responsible for an analysis of planning assumptions around office space use that revealed potential problems with several environmental impact reports in the city.

She sees herself as a holistic thinker who approaches problems across systems, and also as one of the few applicants who has involved themselves in the local neighborhood groups and worked with City Hall to influence planning through public process.

"It's a tremendous amount of work, but I want to be participating in this," Griffin said. "I want to be part of turning the LUCE into more than just a vision."

If approved, Lambert will be up for round two on the Planning Commission.

Now retired, the 34-year Santa Monica resident served on the commission from 1987 to 1990 after six years spent on the Rent Control Board.

"I'm a glutton for punishment," she said.

Lambert spent 27 years of her career involved in planning and redevelopment where she worked with the Los Angeles City Council, developers and community stakeholders to create projects that included community benefits agreements.

She hopes that she would be able to make sure that development continues responsibly in Santa Monica, and is an advocate of affordable and workforce housing.

"(Santa Monica) is a really livable city, and I think it should stay as such," Lambert said.

Smith is no stranger to planning himself.

Now the executive director of the Los Angeles Fashion District, Smith worked as a senior planner in Vancouver, Canada focused on land use plans for neighborhoods surrounding its Skytrain transit stops.

That puts him in a good position to offer up information about the incoming light rail line, he said.

"I think all of us have been looking forward to the arrival of light rail to the city," Smith said. "The challenge is how to make use of that light rail facility to increase the quality of life in the city."

Weitzer is also involved in Los Angeles planning as a land use deputy with the city. Her family has also owned a business in Santa Monica, the Woodley Tire Co., for three decades.

She's worked on large projects in Los Angeles, including The Grove shopping center near Third Street and Fairfax Avenue. As a commissioner, Weitzer says she would pay attention to the neighborhoods and work with people there to extract community benefits from developers.

"They should benefit the people that live there," Weitzer said.

Like Lambert, Gruber will also be seeking a second term on the Planning Commission. He first served between 1995 and 1999, and is interested in bringing the Land Use and Circulation Element to life.

He's also taken part in the Design Working Group for Downtown and his local neighborhood group, the Ocean Park Association.

"Above all, my goals would be to use the tools and authority the Planning Commission has to maintain Santa Monica as a city that is a good and healthful, safe, inclusive and vibrant place to live and work …," Gruber wrote in his application.

Eubank now calls himself a writer, but he spent 35 years self-employed in residential and commercial construction.

His goals include the "intelligent development of a splendid city using my decades of planning, zoning, construction, financial and real estate experience," he wrote in his application.

Finally, Summers, a realtor for Sotheby's International Realty has also thrown her hat in the ring.

As a real estate professional, Summers focuses on the look and feel of buildings and ensuring they reach their "highest and best use."

Her goal is for "Santa Monica to be a well-organized, aesthetically-pleasing, easy-to-navigate, dynamic and fun community for residents, business people and visitors to enjoy and appreciate," according to her application.

Gould doesn't envy the City Council their task on Jan. 22 in choosing amongst these and whatever other applicants may enter the fray before the Jan. 15 deadline.

"I don't know them all, but it's a strong group of folks ready to step up and take the vacant seat," Gould said.

Planning commissioners are paid $25 for each of their meetings with a cap of $100 per month, according to the Planning Commission website. That amount can increase based on inflation.

ashley@smdp.com

YOUR OPINION MATTERS! SEND YOUR LETTERS TO • Santa Monica Daily Press • Attn. Editor: • 1640 5th Street, Suite 218 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • **editor@smdp.com**

Report: Top parks officials kept $20M hidden

BY JUDY LIN & JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. Officials at the highest levels of the California Department of Parks and Recreation helped keep millions of dollars in money intended for state parks secret for more than a decade, the California attorney general's office said in a report released Friday.

The report said the "intentional non-disclosure" continued because employees feared the department's budget would be cut if lawmakers found out, and that they would be embarrassed about the years of covering it up.

"Throughout this period of intentional non-disclosure, some parks employees consistently requested, without success, that their superiors address the issue," Deputy Attorney General Thomas M. Patton wrote in the report.

Parks Director Ruth Coleman, who had been director since 2002, resigned and a senior parks official was fired last summer after $54 million was found hidden in two special funds as up to 70 parks faced closure.

The report said the actual amount intentionally hidden was $20 million, and the remainder of the discrepancy was due to differences in accounting between government departments. The amount of money kept hidden had grown as high as $29 million in 2003, the report said.

No employees were found to have stolen or wrongly spent any of the money, the report said, but senior officials made deliberate decisions not to report the additional funds to the state Department of Finance, which helps the governor establish the state's annual spending plan.

Coleman has denied knowing about the hidden money. She was the only current or former employee who would not agree to be interviewed by the attorney general's office, the report said. The report is based upon interviews with 40 former and current employees.

The report said several senior officials "were all well aware of the discrepancy."

The report said all indications were that Tom Domich, the department's assistant deputy director of administrative services from 1987 to 2004, likely made the initial decision to keep the money secret, but several successive staffers continued the effort.

"The facts show that former budget officer Becky Brown noticed the growing disparity as early as 1998," the report said. By late 2002, "the budget and accounting officers and their supervisor ... were all aware of the discrepancy. Thereafter, from 2002 to 2012, numerous individuals failed to take appropriate action to ensure the monies were revealed to the DOF."

At least two budget officials told investigators they reported the hidden money to Domich, but he "refuses to acknowledge these facts and unpersuasively denies all knowledge of the disparity and his role in the deception," the report said.

"Consequently, it also cannot be determined with certainty whether the matter was reported to Ruth Coleman, who became acting director in January 2002 and went on to serve as director until July 2012," the report said.

Half Dome cables will remain, hikers still limited

BY TRACIE CONE
Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. The hike up the granite monolith Half Dome in Yosemite National Park is one of the most iconic in the nationwide system, but on Friday officials announced approval of a plan that permanently limits how many can do it.

National Park Service authorities will issue permits to limit the number of hikers to 400 a day, the target number since an interim plan was approved in 2010 to reduce congestion in a wilderness area and make the hike safer.

In a blow to environmental groups, the park also decided to keep in place the heavy metal cables drilled into the monolith that hikers use to steady themselves on the 45-degree final climb up slick granite. Some groups had argued that handrails do not belong in a federally designated wilderness area.

"With a place like Yosemite that is so dear and important to millions of people, everyone has ideas about what wilderness protection is. We tried to find a balance that allows people to still experience Yosemite while protecting Yosemite," said spokeswoman Kari Cobb.

Over the past decade the route had been inundated with up to 1,200 nature lovers a day seeking to experience the iconic mountain that is stamped on the California quarter, stitched on a line of outdoor clothing and painted on the side of the park's vehicles.

Congestion on the dome made it difficult for hikers to descend when inclement weather struck, as it often does on summer afternoons.

At least five people have died on the cables since 2006, nearly all with rain as a factor. Park officials want visitors to be able to descend the slick granite in 45 minutes if they have to escape the fast-forming storms, and limiting numbers is the only way to do that, they say.

As calls for rescues increased, park officials began looking for solutions in 2008.

Two years later an interim plan was introduced to allow 400 hikers a day to get permits through a lottery system that takes place in March. Authorities have tweaked the system since then to account for no-shows and to allow a secondary lottery two days in advance for those who travel more spontaneously.

"It was a really good tool that we used to provide no-show and cancellation permits to people who made last-minute plans," Cobb said.

In 1874 the slick dome that rises 5,000 feet above the valley floor was described as "perfectly inaccessible." But in 1919 the Sierra Club installed the first cables along the 400-foot final ascent so that visitors without rock climbing experience could hoist themselves to the summit — the size of 17 football fields — to drink views of Little Yosemite Valley, El Capitan, endless Sierra and the Valley floor.

There is no doubt that if the decision were made today, there would be no braided steel cables and stanchions drilled into Half Dome. Congress passed the Wilderness Act in 1964, and 20 years later designated 95 percent of Yosemite, including Half Dome, as land that should not be altered by man.

The eight-mile round trip hike is the busiest by far of any in the National Park's designated wilderness areas. Over the decades the number of visitors to the park has steadily climbed, topping 4 million — in part because the park is an easy drive from Los Angeles and the Bay Area.

Now scaling Half Dome is a measure of personal fortitude for some who had worried that without cables access would be lost.

"At this point I'm happy that the plan was selected to keep the cables up," said Rick Deutsch, a Bay Area hiker who has written a book about the trek. "I'd say that based on the situation that exists with overcrowding, they have come up with a plan that looks like it should work."







PUB
FROM PAGE 1

The Commons sits where the Broadway Ale House once stood. That short-lived establishment fell on hard times after the owner was investigated for selling drugs from the bar, arrested for drug possession, and later, sale of liquor to a minor. The owner needed to sell, having lost her liquor license.

Rich swooped in after her son became friends with an employee at the ale house, Ken Grinde, who is now The Commons' general manager responsible for selecting the best craft beers in the region and beyond.

"It was a great location and it's a cozy space, and after a few beers you find yourself saying, 'I could do this,'" Rich said. "We heard [the previous owner] was interested in getting out, and the rest is history."

Rich closed the deal in late October and was open within a few weeks. During that time she had to completely clean the bar, redecorate and make other small changes that wouldn't require a permit from City Hall, which could drag on and put her and her partners in a financial bind.

It was a significant risk as Rich quit her job helping students with financial aid at a college and moved out west. It helped that her son was living in Santa Monica to attend college and could provide some help in between his studies. For Rich the bar has become her life as she is responsible for just about everything that goes on there, from the finances to cleaning the bathrooms.

The hard work has paid dividends. The space is brighter, roomier and more inviting than before. She brought in homemade snacks (including her Uncle Joe's cereal mix), fresh coffee and her old-school turntable and records to help make The Commons, named after a bar the Michigan-native used to hang out at in college, a true neighborhood bar.

"We are really trying to focus on the locals," Rich said. "We obviously get a lot of tourists who walk in, but we are really focused on getting the locals, people who work in the area. We want to be a destination spot in Santa Monica."

One way of doing that is the Beer Bank. People can purchase a beer for a friend or family member so whenever they show up their first round is covered. A chalkboard wall allows people to write a note as well.

Rich also encourages people to bring in their own records to play. There's still karaoke on Saturdays and Rich is hoping to have beer education classes soon as well as a kitchen to serve up pub grub. In the meantime, patrons can bring in their own food from restaurants around the corner.

"There's still a lot we would like to do here," Rich said. "And we're working on it."

That includes a new sign out front. Right now it says "Ale House," a hold over from the previous establishment. Just another way of not having to deal with City Hall's permit process. It makes sense. Why spend time in line at City Hall when you can be in a pub with a cold pint in your hands?

kevinh@smdp.com

If you go

The Commons
129 Broadway
Santa Monica, Calif.
90401
(310) 451-6700





The Re-View

Merv Hecht

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Pasta, not wine, is best at Bestia

AS I'VE SAID MANY TIMES, WITH SO many good restaurants on the Westside, who would want to drive to Downtown L.A. for dinner? But what if you are already Downtown at the opera or the symphony? That's how we got to Bestia, which we would never have found but for the fact that a friend's son is now working there. And we were glad we went there.

Everything was a surprise.

We expected the chef to be Italian, but he's Israeli-American. He might as well be Italian because from his resume it looks like he has worked in almost every major Italian restaurant in town (except Valentino and Vincente, which are a bit more high end).

We expected a cozy place for the Downtown loft crowd, but it is high-ceiling, hard surfaces, industrial-tech. But yes, the Downtown young loft crowd was there in droves.

We expected to be amazed by the meat dishes, but that's not what most people were eating. The most popular dish seemed to be the Neapolitan style pizza, which happens to not be my favorite. So I skipped it. And I skipped the beef heart tartare, although it did sound interesting. I wanted the veal ribs in broth but didn't get to it. And I tasted a friend's lobster crudo, but I didn't think it had much flavor.

Perhaps my expectations for the sausage plate were too high. The sausages were excellent, particularly a rich boar sausage. The rustic bread with it was as good as it gets, and well matched. But how good can a sausage be? These were as good as anywhere else in town, including that French guy who used to be in Culver City until last year.

But then I had the grilled octopus over lentils, which was excellent and is a dish hard to find. My preference is the charred Greek version just with lemon, but this was perfectly cooked, very flavorful, and with the lentils underneath it was like two courses, so it worked well to share it around.

And then we all ordered pasta and suddenly I was in heaven. In all I tasted three pastas, and I wanted all of them for myself. (Mother used to say my eyes were bigger than my stomach, but now I think it's the other way around).

The bucatini was the first. This is the traditional "amatriciana" preparation from Umbria; firm noodles with a sauce made from "guanciale," smoked pork cheeks — something like bacon but better. The melding of slightly acidic tomato sauce, salty guanciale and rich pecorino cheese makes for a delicious combination.

Next was the pappardelle di castagne. Pappardelle are wide noodles, and these were flavored with chestnuts, egg yolk and mushrooms. This was the first time I've found this dish in the United States, and I would go back for more.

Finally was the cavatelli alla norcina; ricotta cheese dumplings with pork sausage, black truffles, and grated cheese, which they say was grana but tasted a bit less salty. I never find black truffles to add much to pasta (contrary to white truffles) but the very flavorful pork sausage made this a winner.

I wanted to try the pasta with sea urchin and squid ink but saved it for another time. I love pasta made, as they do in Venice, with black squid ink. What I saw here was not like that, and did not look as richly flavored with the squid ink as I like, but I'll keep an open mind on that.

There are a lot of good restaurants in Santa Monica for pasta. Valentino's of course is hard to beat. But that's a different kind of restaurant for a different occasion. This is a high-tech, casual, medium priced place serving a predominantly young crowd, and serving a lot of pizza. To find such great pasta here was quite a surprise. And the prices are a bit better than in the high-end expensive Italian restaurants. I spent $180 for four people when last there, without wine. The salami appetizer was the most expensive dish, at $30, but it was enough for all four of us. The pasta dishes were in the low $20 range.

But then there's the wine list! I know the restaurant just opened and they haven't focused on the list yet, but this is the worst list in an Italian-meat specialty restaurant I've ever seen. The only explanation I have is that the chef must not drink. Nor the manager.

With a good pasta dish I like a nice Tuscan wine from the Sangiovese grape. Or maybe a Tuscan Cabernet blend. Or perhaps a good Nero D'Avola, the black grapes from Sicily. Better yet, if I have time to decant it (maybe for the second bottle) a Barolo or Barbaresco from the Piedmont region, where the Nebbiolo grapes grow so well.

But not here. Here you are offered a "Pittnauer sweigelt blaufrankish st.laurent Burgenland" which my beginning German seems to translate into "two dollar French Burgundy-style wine" or something like that. Whatever the translation, it was terrible. Or you could try the Casalegrande barbera/bonarda blend, which had a slightly bitter taste and no fruit. Or, as a last chance, I was offered the Verduno pellaverga. How did that get on the list? This is a wine made by my friends Franco and Gabriella Burlotto in their beautiful castle at the top of the village of Verduno. This is the site of some of the earliest Barolo wines in the Piedmont district, and they still make some of the best Barbaresco and Barolo anywhere. The Pelaverga grape is a novelty that only grows in that small region, and is sort of like Beaujolais nouveau — a light spring wine, almost like a rosé, that attracts multitudes of German tourists speeding down the autostrasse to quaff the new vintage before dinner.

Surprisingly, I plan to go back for more pasta, and maybe that veal dish. And there are a few other authentic Italian dishes to try. There's an exit off Interstate 10 close to the restaurant, so on a weekend day when there's not much traffic on the freeway it's only 30 minutes away. But I'm bringing my own wine!



Photo courtesy www.Bestiala.com

DIG RIGHT IN: **The pasta at Bestia in Downtown Los Angeles is some of the best around. Just don't ask to see the wine list.**

If you go

Bestia
2121 E. Seventh Place
Los Angeles, 90021
(213) 514-5724 • www.bestiala.com

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



Congress approves $9.7B in Sandy flood aid

BY ANDREW MIGA
Associated Press

WASHINGTON The new Congress has passed a $9.7 billion bill to help pay flood insurance claims to homeowners, renters and businesses damaged by Superstorm Sandy.

The bill cleared the Senate following passage earlier Friday by the House. It replenishes the National Flood Insurance Program that was due to run out of money next week with some 115,000 Sandy-related claims as well as 5,000 from other floods unresolved.

The late October storm ravaged the coast from North Carolina to Maine, with the worst flooding occurring in New York City and its suburbs, Atlantic City, N.J., along the Connecticut coastline. Votes are planned later this month on another $51 billion aid package. The government already has spent more than $2 billion as part of the emergency response to the storm.



FDA proposes sweeping new food safety rules

BY MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON The Food and Drug Administration on Friday proposed the most sweeping food safety rules in decades, requiring farmers and food companies to be more vigilant in the wake of deadly outbreaks in peanuts, cantaloupe and leafy greens.

The long-overdue regulations are aimed at reducing the estimated 3,000 deaths a year from foodborne illness. Just since last summer, outbreaks of listeria in cheese and salmonella in peanut butter, mangoes and cantaloupe have been linked to more than 400 illnesses and as many as seven deaths, according to the Centers for Disease Control. The actual number of those sickened is likely much higher.

The FDA's proposed rules would require farmers to take new precautions against contamination, to include making sure workers' hands are washed, irrigation water is clean, and that animals stay out of fields. Food manufacturers will have to submit food safety plans to the government to show they are keeping their operations clean.

Many responsible food companies and farmers are already following the steps that the FDA would now require them to take. But officials say the requirements could have saved lives and prevented illnesses in several of the large-scale outbreaks that have hit the country in recent years.

In a 2011 outbreak of listeria in cantaloupe that claimed 33 lives, for example, FDA inspectors found pools of dirty water on the floor and old, dirty processing equipment at Jensen Farms in Colorado where the cantaloupes were grown. In a peanut butter outbreak this year linked to 42 salmonella illnesses, inspectors found samples of salmonella throughout Sunland Inc.'s peanut processing plant in New Mexico and multiple obvious safety problems, such as birds flying over uncovered trailers of peanuts and employees not washing their hands.

Under the new rules, companies would have to lay out plans for preventing those sorts of problems, monitor their own progress on those safety efforts and explain to the FDA how they would correct them.

"The rules go very directly to preventing the types of outbreaks we have seen," said Michael Taylor, FDA's deputy commissioner for foods.

The FDA estimates the new rules could prevent almost 2 million illnesses annually, but it could be several years before the rules are actually preventing outbreaks. Taylor said it could take the agency another year to craft the rules after a four-month comment period, and farms would have at least two years to comply — meaning the farm rules are at least three years away from taking effect. Smaller farms would have even longer to comply.

The new rules, which come exactly two years to the day President Barack Obama's signed food safety legislation passed by Congress, were already delayed. The 2011 law required the agency to propose a first installment of the rules a year ago, but the Obama administration held them until after the election. Food safety advocates sued the administration to win their release.

The produce rule would mark the first time the FDA has had real authority to regulate food on farms. In an effort to stave off protests from farmers, the farm rules are tailored to apply only to certain fruits and vegetables that pose the greatest risk, like berries, melons, leafy greens and other foods that are usually eaten raw. A farm that produces green beans that will be canned and cooked, for example, would not be regulated.

Such flexibility, along with the growing realization that outbreaks are bad for business, has brought the produce industry and much of the rest of the food industry on board as Congress and FDA has worked to make food safer.

In a statement Friday, Pamela Bailey, president of the Grocery Manufacturers Association, which represents the country's biggest food companies, said the food safety law "can serve as a role model for what can be achieved when the private and public sectors work together to achieve a common goal."

The farm and manufacturing rules are only one part of the food safety law. The bill also authorized more surprise inspections by the FDA and gave the agency additional powers to shut down food facilities. In addition, the law required stricter standards on imported foods. The agency said it will soon propose other overdue rules to ensure that importers verify overseas food is safe and to improve food safety audits overseas.



U.S. economy adds 155K jobs; rate remains 7.8 pct.

BY CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON U.S. employers added 155,000 jobs in December, a steady gain that shows hiring held up during the tense negotiations to resolve the fiscal cliff.

The solid job growth wasn't enough to reduce the unemployment rate, which remained 7.8 percent last month, the Labor Department said Friday. The rate for November was revised up from an initially reported 7.7 percent.

Each January, the government updates the monthly unemployment rates for the previous five years. The rates for most months don't change.

The government said hiring was stronger in November than it first estimated. November's job increases were revised up 15,000 to 161,000. October's increase was nearly unchanged at 137,000.

The "gain is perhaps better than it looks given that firms were probably nervous about adding workers with the fiscal cliff looming," said Paul Ashworth, an economist at Capital Economics.

Even so, hiring hasn't been strong enough to quickly reduce still-high unemployment. The job gains for December almost exactly matched the average monthly pace for the past two years. Hiring has been steady but modest as the economy has grown slowly since the recession ended more than three years ago.

For 2012, employers added 1.84 million jobs, an average of 153,000 jobs a month, roughly matching the job totals for 2011.

Robust hiring in manufacturing and construction fueled the December job growth. Construction firms added 30,000, the most in 15 months. That increase likely reflected hiring needed to rebuild after Superstorm Sandy and also gains in home building that have contributed to a housing recovery.

Manufacturers added 25,000 jobs, the most in nine months.

Other higher-paying industries also added jobs. Professional and business services, which include positions in information technology, management and architecture, gained 19,000. Financial services added 9,000 and health care 55,000.

Lower-paying industry sectors were mixed. Restaurants and bars added 38,000 jobs. Retailers cut 11,300, a sign that the holiday shopping season might have been sluggish. But those cuts followed three months of strong gains.

All the job gains last month came from private employers. Governments shed 13,000 jobs, mostly in local school systems.

The stable hiring pace shows that employers didn't panic during the high-stakes talks between Congress and the White House over tax increases and spending cuts that weren't resolved until New Year's.

That's an encouraging sign for the coming months, because an even bigger federal budget showdown is looming. The government must increase its $16.4 trillion borrowing limit by around late February or risk defaulting on its debt. Republicans will likely demand deep spending cuts as the price of raising the debt limit.

Friday's report did point to some weakness in the job market. For example, the number of unemployed actually rose 164,000 to 12.2 million. Approximately 192,000 people entered the work force last month, but most of them didn't find jobs.

The unemployment numbers come from a government survey of households; the number of jobs added each month comes from a separate survey of businesses.

A broader category that includes not only the unemployed but also part-time workers who want full-time jobs and people who have given up looking for work was unchanged in December at 22.7 million.

Despite the still-modest job growth, the economy is showing signs of improvement. Layoffs are declining. And the number of people who sought unemployment aid in the past month is near a four-year low. Banks are lending a bit more freely.

The jobs report showed that hourly pay is staying slightly ahead of inflation. Hourly wages rose 7 cents to $23.73 last month, a 2.1 percent increase compared with a year earlier. Inflation rose 1.8 percent over the same period.

The once-depressed housing market is recovering. A measure of U.S. service firms' business activity expanded in December by the most in nearly a year. And Americans spent more in November. Consumer spending drives nearly 70 percent of economic growth.

Manufacturing is getting a boost from the best auto sales in five years. Car sales jumped 13 percent in 2012 to 14.5 million. And Americans spent more at the tail end of the holiday shopping season, boosting overall sales that had slumped earlier in the crucial two-month period.

"There is little doubt that the seeds of faster growth are being planted," James Marple, an economist at TD Bank, said in a note to clients.

But most economists expect little improvement in hiring this year. A 2 percentage point cut in the Social Security tax expired Jan. 1. That means a household with income of about $50,000 will have about $1,000 less to spend. And the government may impose spending cuts this year.

Both the higher taxes and spending cuts, along with uncertainty about future budget fights, could restrain growth and hiring.

That "likely means acceleration in the labor market will remain elusive for the time being," said Ellen Zentner, an economist at Nomura Securities.

Don Brown, chief executive of Arteriocyte, a medical device maker, plans to hire more people this year. But he is worried about potential cuts in government spending that could cut into his Cleveland-based company's revenue.

One such cut is a 2 percent reduction to the reimbursements Medicare provides to doctors and hospitals. It was delayed temporarily as part of the agreement this week. If that cut is implemented later this year, it would lower revenue for the hospitals and surgeons that buy his company's advanced products.

"Our entire customer base is unsure about what their reimbursement landscape is going to be," Brown said.

The Obama administration's healthcare reform also imposed a 2.2 percent sales tax on medical devices. Brown estimates that will cost the company $400,000. He had hoped that tax would be eliminated as part of the fiscal cliff talks.

Arteriocyte hired 10 new workers last year and now employs 76 people. The new hires included research scientists, two marketing specialists, and a sales representative. The company hopes to make five to 10 additional hires this year, but may not be able to do so if the Medicare cut occurs.

WE BUY GOLD
BEST CA$H PRICES IN THE CITY
BRING YOUR SCRAP GOLD AND JEWELRY
3 Generations of Experience – 17 Years in S.M. Provides HONESTY - RELIABILITY - DISCRETION
CRYSTAL KINGDOM – 1418 Wilshire Blvd.
310-393-9911 | M-F 10-5, Sat 10-1

Simply Roasted Whole Foods
Family dinner tonight – We've got you covered!
Beef 4 – 8 people
Turkey or Chicken 4 – 8 people
Includes 6oz carved meat & choice of 2 sides, 2 sauces, bread
"Simply Roasted Whole Foods"
147 South Barrington Ave, LA, CA 90049
Located near Sunset in the Brentwood Village
Phone (310) 476-1100 | Fax (310) 476-9400
ROAST DELI & MARKET

A New Year, A New Start
Don't carry your old baggage into the New Year
JoAnne Barge, Ph.D.
A Licensed Psychologist & MFT
310.472.2329
www.drbarge.com
PSY 14116 | MT 18182

"Supporting Santa Monica, Support your community."
SkyCar LIMO
Towncars and Vans
• Beautiful Towncars and Vans
• Reservations required
• Charter/Party service
• Call for value pricing
$35
LOCAL TOWNCAR SERVICE
Santa Monica to LAX
(add $10 for pickup from LAX)
(310) 828-3333
www.passengerswanted.net



Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **55.6°**

SATURDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high occ. 3 ft
Fading WNW swell; small new South swell; favorable winds/weather

SUNDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high
Small blend of WNW and South swell; winds/weather looking suspect

MONDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high occ. 3 ft
Small blend of South swell and minor new WNW-NW swell; winds/weather looking better

TUESDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high
WNW-NW swell eases, S swell fades

Tides

Limited tide swings through the next few days. Heading into next week the return of deep morning high tide will be problematic for many areas. Keep it in mind when/where planning your session as size/consistency of the surf can be affected by the tide.

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 2, 2013**

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 -- 2
Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
Number of wet days -- 18
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 22 / 17
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: simplehuman, LAcarGUY, SIMA and Grousbeck Family Foundation

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisos creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A	A
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Winter Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	C
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A	A+
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	A
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	B
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	F	B
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	B	D
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (broach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	D	D
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	B	B
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19548 PCH stairs.	A+	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	ns	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	D	B
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	C	A
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	F	A
Will Rogers State Beach at 17208 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+	D
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A	C
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A	D
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A	F
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	F
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	D	D
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	F	C
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	C	B
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A	A+
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A	A+
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	C	D
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	F	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	B
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	A
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of CBAW jetty).	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	B
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	F

LEGEND
DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone.
WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days
ns -- no sample taken

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

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

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

Heal the Bay

© 2013 Copyright Heal the Bay. All rights reserved. Protected under federal copyright laws.

NHL

Sides in NHL labor fight meet with mediator

BY IRA PODELL
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK The NHL and the players' association met separately with a federal mediator throughout Friday morning and well into the afternoon with no sign that they would return to the bargaining table anytime soon.

Federal mediator Scot Beckenbaugh has been shuttling back and forth between the hotel in which the union is working, and the league office. As of late afternoon, the sides had made no plans to get together.

After marathon talks that lasted deep into Wednesday night, the sides have remained apart with the exception of two smaller meetings on Thursday.

The lockout reached its 111th day Friday, and the sides have only one week to reach a deal on a collective bargaining agreement that would allow for a 48-game hockey season — the minimum the NHL has said it will play.

Commissioner Gary Bettman set a Jan. 11 deadline so the season can begin eight days later.

The players could be looking to wait until Saturday night to return to the bargaining table when it is expected that the executive board will again have the authority to exercise a disclaimer of interest that would allow the union to dissolve and become a trade association.

A vote among union members was initiated on Thursday, and players have until 6 p.m. Saturday to cast their ballots that would allow the board to take the action of the disclaimer. An earlier vote passed overwhelmingly last month, but the union let its self-imposed deadline to go by on Wednesday night without acting on it.

A restoration of authority to go the route of the disclaimer might be the leverage the union wants before it starts negotiating again.

Representatives from the league and the union met twice Thursday for small meetings, one dealing with the pension plan, but never got together for a full bargaining session. A long night of discussions Wednesday that stretched into the early morning hours didn't end well and created Thursday's lack of activity.

The sides can't afford many more days like that.

All games through Jan. 14, along with the All-Star game, have been canceled, claiming more than 50 percent of the original schedule.

The talks appeared to take a downward turn late Wednesday after the players' association passed on declaring a disclaimer of interest.

The discord carried over to Thursday when Bettman had said he expected to resume negotiations at 10 a.m. at the request of the mediator. But the union was holding internal meetings then and didn't arrive at the league office until a few hours later.

When players and staff did get there, they did so without executive director Donald Fehr. The group discussed a problem that arose regarding the reporting by clubs of hockey-related revenue, and how both sides sign off on the figures at the end of the fiscal year. The union felt the language had been changed without proper notification, but the dispute was solved and the meeting ended in about an hour.

The wait for more elaborate talks went on, and didn't end until the players returned — again without Fehr — for a meeting about the pension plan. That one lasted just under two hours, and again the waiting game ensued.

But this time there wouldn't be any more talks, big or little. Neither side issued a statement, and Bettman was seen leaving league headquarters shortly after 9 p.m.

The players' association held a late Thursday afternoon conference call to initiate its second vote regarding the disclaimer of interest. It wasn't immediately known when a new authorization would expire if the vote passes again.

A sense of progress might be why the union didn't declare the disclaimer on Wednesday, but any optimism created after the deadline passed took several hits Thursday.

The NHLPA filed a motion in federal court in New York seeking to dismiss the league's suit to have the lockout declared legal. The NHL sued the union in mid-December, figuring the players were about to submit their own complaint against the league and possibly break up their union to gain an upper hand.

But the union argued that the NHL is using this suit "to force the players to remain in a union. Not only is it virtually unheard of for an employer to insist on the unionization of its employees, it is also directly contradicted by the rights guaranteed to employees under ... the National Labor Relations Act."

The court scheduled a status conference for the sides on Monday.

The sides have traded four proposals in the past week — two by each side — but none has gained enough traction. Getting an agreement on a pension plan would likely go a long way toward an agreement that would put hockey back on the ice.

Fehr believed a plan for players-funded pension was established before talks blew up in early December. That apparently wasn't the case, or the NHL has changed its offer regarding the pension in exchange for agreeing to other things the union wanted.

The salary-cap number for the second year of the deal — the 2013-14 season — hasn't been agreed to, and it is another major point of contention. The league is pushing for a $60 million cap, while the union wants it to be $65 million with a floor of $44 million.

In return for the higher cap number players would be willing to forgo a cap on escrow.

Both sides seem content on the deal lasting for 10 years, but they have different opinions on whether an opt-out should be allowed to be exercised after seven years or eight.

The NHL proposed last Thursday that pension contributions come out of the players' share of revenues, and $50 million of the league's make-whole payment of $300 million will be allocated and set aside to fund potential underfunded liabilities of the plan at the end of the collective bargaining agreement.

Last month, the NHL agreed to raise its make-whole offer of deferred payments from $211 million to $300 million as part of a proposed package that required the union to agree on three nonnegotiable points. Instead, the union accepted the raise in funds, but then made counterproposals on the issues the league stated had no wiggle room.

"As you might expect, the differences between us relate to the core economic issues which don't involve the share," Fehr said of hockey-related revenue, which likely will be split 50-50.

The NHL is the only North American professional sports league to cancel a season because of a labor dispute, losing the 2004-05 campaign to a lockout. A 48-game season was played in 1995 after a lockout stretched into January.

MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave.
(310) 260-1528

Saturday, Jan. 5
Our Hospitality (NR) 1hr 13min
Three Ages (NR) 1hr 3min
7:30pm
Live piano accompaniment by Cliff Retallick.

Sunday, Jan. 6
Paper Moon (PG) 1hr 42min
The Sterile Cuckoo (PG) 1hr 47min
7:30pm
Introduction by screenwriter Alvin Sargent.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade
(888) 262-4386

Not Fade Away (R) 1hr 52min
11:30am, 2:20pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:55pm

Les Miserables (PG-13) 2hrs 37min
11:45am, 3:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:45pm

Lincoln (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
11:30am, 2:45pm, 6:15pm, 9:45pm

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

Life of Pi 3D (PG) 2hrs 06min
11:15am, 2:05pm, 5:00pm, 7:50pm, 10:40pm

Skyfall (PG-13) 2hrs 23min
2:45pm, 10:00pm

Django Unchained (R) 2hrs 45min
10:45am, 2:50pm, 6:50pm, 10:45pm

Zero Dark Thirty (R) 2hrs 37min
11:00am, 11:50am, 3:35pm, 6:20pm, 7:15pm, 11:00pm

Jack Reacher (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
10:30am, 1:40pm, 4:45pm, 8:00pm, 11:15pm

Parental Guidance (PG) 1hr 44min
11:55am, 2:45pm, 5:30pm, 8:15pm, 10:55pm

This Is 40 (R) 2hrs 13min
10:35am, 1:55pm, 5:05pm, 8:20pm, 11:15pm

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

On the Road (R) 2hrs 20min
1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

Argo (R) 2hrs 00min
1:30pm, 7:10pm, 9:55pm

Sessions (R) 1hr 38min
4:30pm, 10:10pm

West of Memphis (R) 2hrs 30min
1:10pm, 7:00pm

Impossible (PG-13) 1hr 47min
1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:20pm, 10:10pm

Just 45 Minutes from Broadway (R) 1hr 48min
11:00am

Hitchcock (PG-13) 1hr 38min
4:20pm

AMC Criterion 6
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

Guilt Trip (PG-13) 1hr 35min
11:30am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:20pm

Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13) 2hrs 46min
11:30am, 3:15pm, 7:15pm, 11:00pm

Texas Chainsaw 3D (R) 1hr 32min
11:55am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:40pm

Les Miserables (PG-13) 2hrs 37min
11:00am, 2:40pm, 6:15pm, 10:00pm

Silver Linings Playbook (R) 2hrs 00min
11:00am, 2:00pm, 4:50pm, 7:40pm, 10:30pm

Promised Land (R) 1hr 46min
11:05am, 1:50pm, 4:40pm, 7:25pm, 10:10pm

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

Just say 'yes,' Gem

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Others insist on having their way. You could prevent that from happening, or you could decide to go with the flow. Know that others are coming from a good place. Decide what you want before you head in a certain direction. Tonight: Togetherness works.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You finally feel as if you have done enough in the afternoon. Do not insist on inviting others over. It might be nice if they would take over the party and get-together hosting for a while. Tonight: The later it gets, the better it gets.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You have a style that attracts many people. Though you might be in demand right now, you also have to make sure that you're happy. If a situation is out of sync for you, let others know or just walk away. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Get some extra R and R. Go to a movie or veg at home, if you so choose. You might need to be a little more assertive and a lot less "at others' service." You will be much happier and get more of what you need as a result. Tonight: Enjoy this newfound freedom.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Take care of last-minute errands, finish sending out thank-you notes and stay on top of what you need to do. Someone wants to demonstrate his or her caring in a meaningful way. Tonight: Order in.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Spend some time by yourself. You might need to get some personal errands done. Others are delighted to find you close to home. They just want some easy, relaxed time with you. A child or loved one shares his or her feelings. Tonight: Allow yourself to be indulged.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Your spontaneity puts you in the right place at the right time. Someone you run into frequently might be an admirer. Check out what is happening. You do not want to hurt this person's feelings if the feelings are not reciprocal. Tonight: Nap, then decide.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ The less available you are, the better it is for you and also for others. Make yourself unable to be found while you go off and do what you want. When you finally decide to resurface later on, you will be most appreciated. Tonight: You perk up late in the night.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You could be into doing something different. You seem secretive or withdrawn to many people. Let your instincts guide you in a situation involving an important loved one. Tonight: Still unavailable.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Even if you have not yet made plans to join your friends, you will. Others enjoy the restoration of the tried and true patterns that all of you have fallen into. Happily get into the moment. A special friend will be delighted to have you around. Tonight: To the wee hours.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Others admire you, as long as you make yourself vulnerable enough to listen to their feedback. Responsibilities still demand your attention. You'll get a lot done quickly and efficiently. Call and check in with an older family member. Tonight: Invite key friends over.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might want to understand a friend's true message. If you detach from all of the interpersonal interactions and distance yourself, you will be a lot clearer as to where this person is coming from. Go within yourself before responding. Tonight: In the moment.

Happy birthday

This year you focus on your goals. Update them as you do your friendships. Be aware that they might be changing as a result of your recent transformation. You might have to endure some harsh conditions in order to achieve a certain goal, but you will. Your well-known determination emerges. If you are single, a friendship could become even more. If you are attached, make sure to tend to the friendship that exists under the romance. When your bond encounters a hardship, which it will at times, your friendship will make all the difference in the outcome. SCORPIO is rigid but loyal.

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

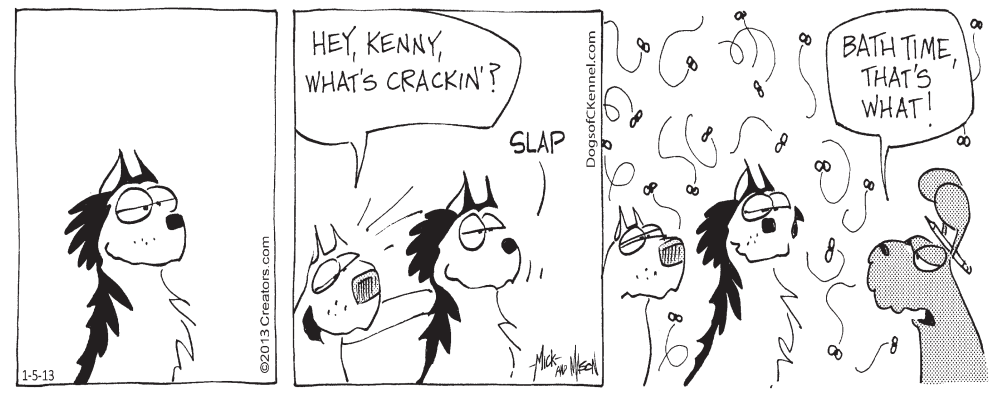
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



Strange Brew
By John Deering



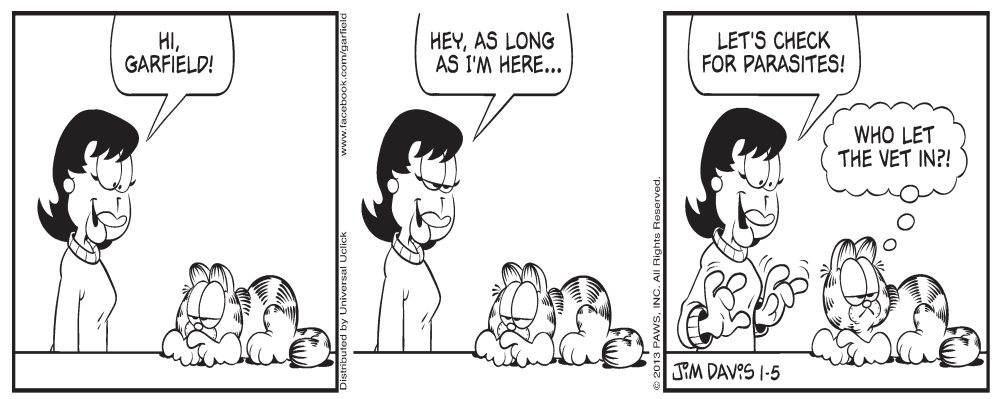
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



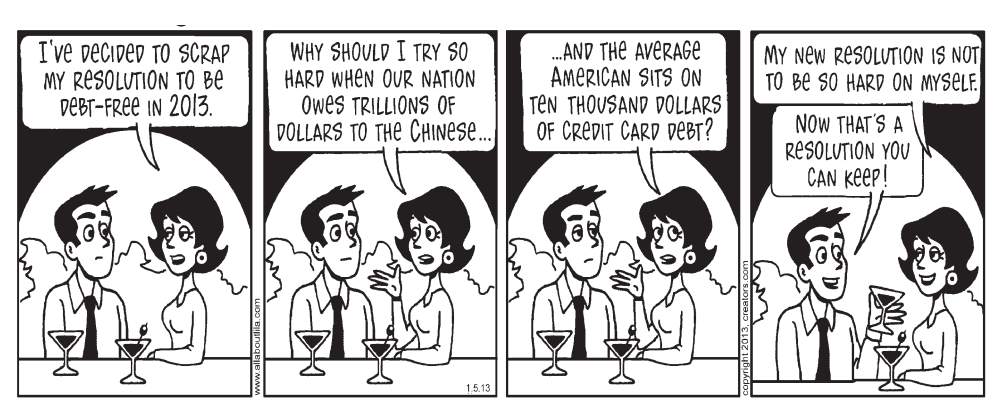
Edge City
By Terry & Patty LaBan



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

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

For every dollar you spend with a **local business**, as much as
70 cents
stays right here - supporting our schools, services and the community.

buylocalsantamonica.com™
Buy Local
SANTA MONICA

It makes a difference!



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. Hint: You can park your car there.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Slant
5 Workout target
9 Cuban dance
10 Romantic sort
12 Wrench type
13 In reserve
14 Hockey practice
16 Alias letters
17 Place
18 Inge play
20 Made like a geyser
22 Chick tenders
23 Wonderland visitor
25 Reach across
28 Was generous
32 Chewy
34 Memorable time
35 Pot brew
36 Lot choice
38 Raring to go
40 Make sport of
41 Mixes up
42 Really stoked
43 Ticked off
44 "Bonanza" son

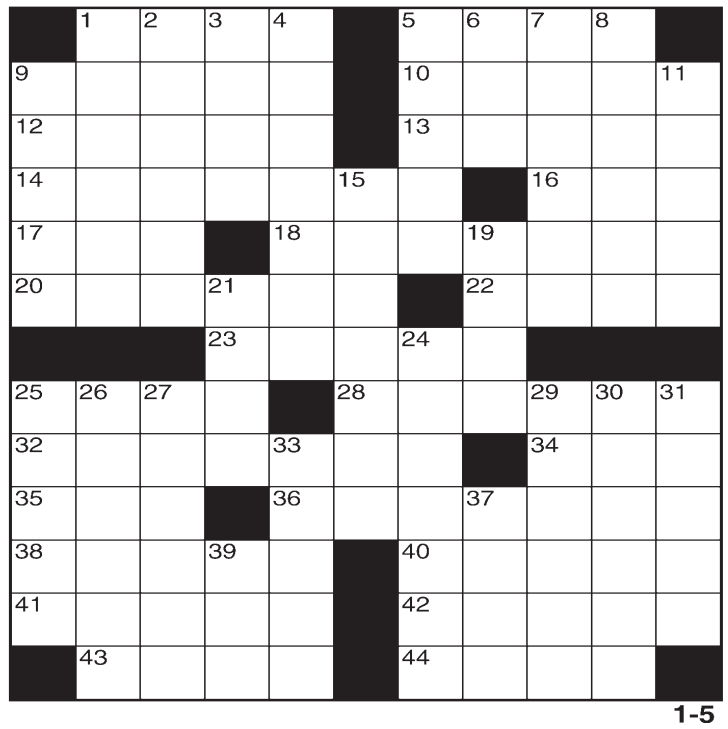
DOWN

1 Build body mass
2 White Rabbit cry
3 Aid illegally
4 Florida's — Island
5 Promotes aggressively
6 Horror star Chaney
7 Fly high
8 Call over
9 Coarse files
11 Gathers
15 Nature lovers
19 Citi Field's forerunner
21 Dwindle
24 Fastest mammal
25 Fills up
26 Skirt features
27 Slow passage
29 Summaries
30 Clears
31 Was bold
33 Clinic worker
37 Band sample
39 Miscalculate

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

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



1-5

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Orly Taitz, an Orange County, Calif., dentist and lawyer, is America's most prominent "birther," having filed dozens of lawsuits, appeals and other legal petitions expressing her certainty that President Obama was not born in America. In her latest legal foray, a California judge tossed her lawsuit against Occidental College (to require it to disregard privacy rights and release Obama's college transcripts and other papers). The loss brings birthers' record (Taitz's plus a few comrades') to 0-for-258, according to the websites WhatsYourEvidence.com and LoweringTheBar.net. And of course, when Taitz's lawsuit was dismissed in November, she merely appealed again. Taitz was described by one critic as "almost charmingly insane."

■ Daniel Greer, 24, told the New York Daily News that on Sept. 7 in Brooklyn, N.Y., a police officer who had been trailing the bicyclist stopped him and issued separate traffic tickets for riding through three red lights while listening to music through earphones. The three offenses, plus a related ticket, forced Greer to court, where he clumsily pleaded guilty, not aware of the amount of the fine. His multiple offenses made him a repeat offender, and he was fined $1,550.



Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

$7.50 per day. Up to 15 words, 30 cents each additional word.

Call us today start and promoting your business opportunities to our daily readership of over 40,000.

YOUR AD COULD RUN TOMORROW!*

Some restrictions may apply.

Prepay your ad today!

VISA MasterCard American Express Card

(310) 458-7737

*Please call our Classified Sales Manager to reserve your ad space. Specific ad placement not gauranteed on classified ads. Ad must meet deadline requirements. See complete conditions below.

CLASSIFICATIONS:
Announcements, Creative, Employment, For Sale, Furniture, Pets, Boats, Jewelry, Wanted, Travel, Vacation Rentals, Apartments/Condos, Rent, Houses for Rent, Roomates, Commerical Lease, Real Estate, Real Estate Loans, Storage Space, Vehicles for Sale, Massage, Services, Computer Services, Attorney Services, Business Opportunities, Yard Sales, Health and Beauty, Fitness, Wealth and Success, Lost and Found, Personals, Psychic, Obituaries, Tutoring

All classified liner ads are placed on our website for **FREE!** Check out ***www.smdp.com*** for more info.

Miscellaneous

AT&T U-Verse for just $29/mo! BUNDLE & SAVE with AT&T Internet+Phone+TV and get a FREE pre-paid
Visa Card! (select plans). HURRY, CALL NOW! 800-319-3280. (Cal-SCAN)

Announcements

DID YOU KNOW that Ten Million adults tweeted in the past month, while 164 million read a newspaper in
print or online in the past week? ADVERTISE in 240 California newspapers for one low cost. Your 25 word
classified ad will reach over 6 million+ Californians. For brochure call Elizabeth (916)288-6019. (Cal-SCAN)

Employment

ATTENTION LEGAL SECRETARIES, LEGAL AIDES, PARALEGALS, LAW OFFICE MANAGERS AND STAFF
Great opportunity for extra income through referrals. We are a legal document courier service looking to expand our business and pay top referral fees for new accounts set up at area law offices, to inquire further, please email bsberkowitz@aol.com or call 310-748-8019

COMMISSION SALES Position selling our messenger services. Generous on-going commission. Work from home. To inquire further please email
bsberkowitz@aol.com or call 310-748-8019. Ask for Barry.

Taxi drivers needed. Age 23 or older, H-6 DMV report required. Independent Contractor Call 310-566-3300

Help Wanted

Driver - $0.01 increase per mile after 6 months and 12 months. Choose your hometime. $0.03 Quarterly
Bonus. Requires 3 months recent experience. 800-414-9569 www.drivek-night.com (Cal-SCAN)

DRIVER - $1000 Bonus (1st 30 Hired) Up to 47 cpm New Equipment. Need CDL Class A Driving Exp. 877
-258-8782 www.ad-drivers.com (Cal-SCAN)

Foremost Transport $2000 Bonus Program for 3/4-ton and larger pickup owner operators. Great rates,
flexible schedule, variety of runs. Check it out today! ForemostTransport.blogspot.com 1-866-764-1601.
(Cal-SCAN)

Internet

Highspeed Internet EVERYWHERE By Satellite! Speeds up to 12mbps! (200x faster than dial-up.) Starting
at $49.95/mo. CALL NOW & GO FAST! 1-888-718-6268. (Cal-SCAN)

SAVE on Cable TV-Internet-Digital Phone. Packages start at $89.99/mo (for 12 months.) Options from ALL
major service providers. Call Acceller today to learn more! CALL 1-888-897-7650. (Cal-SCAN)

ADVERTISE!
CALL US **(310) 458-7737**

Education

AIRLINES ARE HIRING - Train for hands on Aviation Maintenance Career. FAA approved program.
Financial aid if qualified - Housing available CALL Aviation Institute of Maintenance 877-804-5293 (Cal-SCAN)

ATTEND COLLEGE ONLINE 100%. *Medical, *Business, *Criminal Justice, *Hospitality, *Web. Job
placement assistance. Computer available. Financial Aid if qualified. SCHEV authorized. Call 888-210-5162 www.CenturaOnline.com (Cal-SCAN)

ATTEND COLLEGE ONLINE 100%. *Medical, *Business, *Criminal Justice, *Hospitality, *Web. Job
placement assistance. Computer available. Financial Aid if qualified. SCHEV authorized. Call 888-210-5162 www.CenturaOnline.com (Cal-SCAN)

Wanted

WANTED DIABETIC TEST STRIPS. Cash Paid. Unopened, Unexpired Boxes Only. All Brands Considered.
Help others – don't throw boxes away. For more information, CALL (888) 491-1168. (Cal-SCAN)

Instruction

Music Lessons for All Ages! Find a music teacher! TakeLessons offers affordable, safe, guaranteed music
lessons with teachers in your area. Our prescreened teachers specialize in singing, guitar, piano, drums,
violin and more. Call 1-866-974-5910! (Cal-SCAN)

$7.50 A DAY LINER ADS!
For the first 15 words.
CALL TODAY **(310) 458-7737**

For Rent

HOWARD MANAGEMENT GROUP
(310)869-7901

225 Montana Ave. #202. $1795 per month. Walk to the beach! 1Bd + 1.5 Bth upper unit. Intercom entry, lobby, subterranean parking, laundry facilities, elevator, one parking space, no pets.

821 Pacific St, #5. Studio/Single with full kitchen and full bathroom. $1295 per month. High ceilings, hardwood floors, pet friendly, one parking space, laundry facilities.

11937 Foxboro Dr. 3Bd + 3Bth house in Brentwood. $4590 per month. No pets. Double garage. Hdwd floors. 2 fireplaces.

WE HAVE MORE VACANCIES ON THE WESTSIDE. MOST BUILDINGS PET FRIENDLY.

www.howardmanagement.com
rentals@howardmanagement.com

WLA,2+1 UPPER. Ocean View,Top of Hill. Private Driveway & Large Patio. Rent $1895. Centinela Ave. 310 390 4610.

Autos Wanted

DONATE YOUR CAR, truck or boat to Heritage for the Blind. Free 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free
Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care Of. 888-902-6851. (Cal-SCAN)

Bookkeeping Services

Accounting & Bookkeeping Service
Call (310)977-7935

Services

MEALS ON WHEELS WEST(Santa Monica, Pac.Pal, Malibu, Marina del Rey, Topanga)Urgently needed volunteers/drivers/assistants to deliver meals to the homebound in our community M-F from 10:30am to 1pm. Please help us feed the hungry.

Business Services

Many a small thing has been made large by the right kind of advertising – Mark Twain. ADVERTISE your
BUSINESS CARD sized ad in 140 California newspapers for one low cost. Reach over 3 million+
Californians. Free brochure elizabeth@cnpa.com (916)288-6019. (Cal-SCAN)

The business that considers itself immune to advertising, finds itself immune to business. REACH
CALIFORNIANS WITH A CLASSIFIED IN ALMOST EVERY COUNTY! Over 270 newspapers!
Combo~California Daily and Weekly Networks. Free Brochures. elizabeth@cnpa.com or (916)288-6019.
(Cal-SCAN)

Credit Services

GET FREE OF CREDIT CARD DEBT NOW! Cut payments by up to half. Stop creditors from calling. 888
-416-2691. (Cal-SCAN)

Computer Services

MY COMPUTER WORKS. Computer problems? Viruses, spyware, email, printer issues, bad internet
connections - FIX IT NOW! Professional, U.S.-based technicians. $25 off service. Call for immediate help. 1
-888-865-0271 (Cal-SCAN)

Financial

Ever Consider a Reverse Mortgage? At least 62 years old? Stay in your home & increase cash flow! Safe &
Effective! Call Now for your FREE DVD! Call Now 888-698-3165. (Cal-SCAN)

Health/Beauty

Do you know your Testosterone Levels? Call 888-904-2372 and ask about our test kits and get a FREE
Trial of Progene All-Natural Testosterone Supplement. (Cal-SCAN)

CANADA DRUG Center is your choice for safe and affordable medications. Our licensed Canadian mail order
pharmacy will provide you with savings of up to 90 percent on all your medication needs. Call Today 866
-723-7089 for $10.00 off your first prescription and free shipping. (Cal-SCAN)

Health/Beauty

nadian mail order
pharmacy will provide you with savings of up to 90 percent on all your medication needs. Call Today 866
-723-7089 for $10.00 off your first prescription and free shipping. (Cal-SCAN)

Medical

Attention SLEEP APNEA SUFFERERS with Medicare. Get FREE CPAP Replacement Supplies at No Cost,
plus FREE home delivery! Best of all, prevent red skin sores and bacterial infection! Call 888-699-7660.
(Cal-SCAN)

Medical Alert for Seniors - 24/7 monitoring. FREE Equipment. FREE Shipping. Nationwide Service.
$29.95/Month CALL Medical Guardian Today 866-944-5935. (Cal-SCAN)

Fitness

T'AI CHI CLASSES
in Brentwood
Mondays, 6:00 p.m.
starting Jan. 7
Call Pat Akers
310-339-7463

Personals

MEET SINGLES RIGHT NOW! No paid operators, just real people like you. Browse greetings, exchange
messages and connect live. Try it free. Call now 1-800-945-3392. (Cal-SCAN)

Notices

SUMMONS FOR DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE AND TEMPORARY INJUNCTION
Case# 12DR996
Division: 7
District Court, Douglas, Colorado, 4000 Justice Way #2009, Castle Rock, CO 80104
In Re: the Marriage of:
Petitioner: MARIA ESTHER FERGUSON
Respondent: ALLAN NOLAN FERGUSON
Attorney for Petitioner: SARAH ELIZABETH BANDY, Atty. Reg. No. 41711
Address: Flinders, Bandy Attorney's at Law, 6595 S. Dayton St. Suite 1000, Greenwood Village, CO 80111

To the Respondent named above, this Summons serves as a notice to aapear in this case.
If you were served in the State of Colorado, you must file your Response with the clerk of this Court within 21 days after this Summons is served on you to participate in this action.
If you were served outstid the State of Colorado or you were served by publication, you must file your Response with the clerk of this Court within 35 days after this Summons is served on you to participate in this action.
Your response must be accompanied with the $95 filing fee.
After 90 days from the date of service or publication, the Court may enter a Decree affecting your marital status, distribution of property and debts, issues involving children such a child support, allocation of parental responsibilities (decision-making and parenting time), maintenance, attorney fees, and costs to the extent the Court has jurisdiction.
If you fail to file a Response in this case, any or all of the matters above, or any related matters which come before this Court, may be decided without further notice to you.
This is an action to obtain a Decree of: Dissolution of Marriage or Legal Separation as more fully described in the attached Petition, and if you have children, for orders regarding the children of the marriage.Notice: §14-10-107, C.R.S. provides that upon the filing of a Petition for Dissolution of Marriage or Legal Separation by the Petitioner and Co-Petitioner, or upon personal service of the Petition and Summons on the Respondent, or upon waiver and acceptance of service by the Respondent, an automatic temporary injunction shall be in effect against both parties until the Final Decree is entered, or the Petition is dismissed, or until further Order of the Court. Either party may apply to the Court for

Notices

further temporary orders, an expanded temporary

injunction, or modification or revocation under §14-10-108, C.R.S.

A request for genetic tests shall not prejudice the requesting party in matters concerning allocation of parental

responsibilities pursuant to §14-10-124(1.5), C.R.S. If genetic tests are not obtained prior to a legal establishment

of paternity and submitted into evidence prior to the entry of the final decree of dissolution or legal separation, the

genetic tests may not be allowed into evidence at a later date. Automatic Temporary Injunction - By Order of Colorado Law, You and Your Spouse are:
1. Restrained from transferring, encumbering, concealing or in any way disposing of, without the consent of the other party or an Order of the Court, any marital property, except in the usual course of business or for the necessities of life. Each party is required to notify the other party of any proposed extraordinary expenditures and to account to the Court for all extraordinary expenditures made after the injunction is in effect;2. Enjoined from molesting or disturbing the peace of the other party;3. Restrained from removing the minor children of the parties, if any, from the State without the consent of the other party or an Order of the Court; and4. Restrained without at least 14 days advance notification and the written consent of the other party or an Order of the Court, from canceling, modifying, terminating, or allowing to lapse for nonpayment of premiums, any policy of health insurance, homeowner's or renter's insurance, or automobile insurance that provides coverage to either of the parties or the minor children or any policy of life insurance that names either of the parties or the minor children as a beneficiary.
SIGNED: FRANK MOSCHETTI, DISTRICT COURT MAGISTRATE

RUN YOUR DBAs IN THE DAILY PRESS FOR ONLY
$45 *Call us today!*
PUBLISH YOUR ALREADY FILED DBA AND FILE A PROOF OF PUBLICATION
(310) 458-7737
www.smdp.com/dba
Santa Monica Daily Press

YOUR AD
COULD RUN HERE!
CALL US TODAY AT
(310) 458-7737

$7.50 A DAY LINER ADS!
For the first 15 words.
CALL TODAY **(310) 458-7737**





COLDWELL BANKER PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL

Estates Director
Society of Excellence
Previews Properties Specialist
Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Montana Avenue
310.395.1133
Kate@SantaMonicaListings.com

Kate Bransfield

DRE # 01218699

www.SantaMonicaListings.com



1211 Pearl Street
$1,285,000

- 3 Bedrooms
- 2 Baths
- Living Rm w/ Fireplace
- Outdoor Entertaining w/ Koi Pond



954 14th Street #5
$1,249,000

- Wonderful Townhome
- Great Location
- 2 Bedroom
- 2.5 Baths
- Private Sun Deck
- Huge Loft



603 16th Street
For Lease
$6,250 per month

- 3 Bedrooms
- 1 Bath w Vintage Tiles
- Hardwood Floors
- Freshly Painted
- Kitchen Appliances Incld
- Great Neighborhood



Average Price of **ALL** Santa Monica Single Family Homes From **ALL** agents in **ALL** companies Listed for Sale As of early January 2013		
Santa Monica Canyon	=	$1,650,000
North of Montana	=	$4,869,286
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$2,425,800
South of Wilshire	=	$ 0
Sunset Park	=	$1,472,986
Ocean Park	=	$1,964,333
Statistics updated every Friday		

Proud Sponsor of:

FRANKLIN Elementary School

Santa Monica LITTLE LEAGUE established 1950

Roosevelt Elementary School

Santa Monica GIRLS FASTPITCH

LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL SANTA MONICA, CA

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.
BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SANTA MONICA

What is Your Home Worth? Contact Me to Find Out!

This is not intended as a solicitation if you currently have a broker. The information has been retrieved from the Multiple Listing Service. Some of these properties have been sold or listed with other Real Estate Agents.