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TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2013
Volume 12 Issue 56

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

COMING CLEAN ON OBESITY
SEE PAGE 3

THE BRRR ISSUE

School district saves taxpayers $2.8M

Well-timed refinance of $40M in Measure BB bonds cashes in on historically low interest rates

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS A well-timed refinance on Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District bonds will save taxpayers $2.8 million, district officials announced last week.

The district took advantage of historically low interest rates and refinanced roughly $40 million worth of Measure BB bonds, a $268 million measure originally approved by voters in 2006.

The refinance targeted the first series of the bonds which were issued in 2007 and used for design, planning and architecture for early BB projects, said Jan Maez, chief financial officer for the district.

"We are excited to provide our taxpayers with over $2.8 million in property tax bill savings," Maez said. "We believe it is our responsibility as stewards of public dollars to take advantage of this bond refunding

SEE BONDS PAGE 8

Ocean Park Boulevard goes green

New bike lane now open

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN PARK BLVD A project to revolutionize the design and functionality of Ocean Park Boulevard is nearing completion, much to the delight of residents of the nearby neighborhood.

It only took 20 years.

City Hall invested $4 million into Ocean Park Boulevard to make it a friendlier space for bicycles and pedestrians as well as cars while also helping to treat water flowing off the street.

According to a fact sheet for the project, that will bring over 100 new trees, landscaping, three marked crosswalks with overhead flashing lights for increased visibility and 75 light poles.

The project also includes street furniture, trash and recycling cans and a storm drain in Los Amigos Park.

The most striking improvement, however, is a bright green bike lane meant to bring increased visibility for bicyclists along the stretch of Ocean Park Boulevard between Neilson Way and Lincoln Boulevard.

"Once we get the lane markings in there, it's going to be a pearl in the city," said Cynthia Rose, of bicycle group Santa Monica Spoke.

The green paint is an experimental street

SEE GREEN PAGE 9



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

ROLLING: **A cyclist rides along the new green bike lane on Ocean Park Boulevard on Monday.**

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ROUNDUP

No. 2 St. Monica girls host Mary Star

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

ST. MONICA The girls from St. Monica are looking to bounce back from a Camino Real League loss last week as they prepare for Mary Star by the Sea.

St. Monica, ranked No. 2 in the latest CIF-Southern Section Division 4A girls' basketball poll, hosts Mary Star by the Sea on Tuesday.

Mary Star is still looking for its first league win.

The game begins at 7 p.m. at St. Monica.

SAMOHI RETAINS TOP SPOT

Wins over Inglewood and Culver City last week helped Santa Monica boys' basketball retain its No. 1 ranking in the CIF-SS Division 1A poll.

This week's schedule features Beverly Hills and Morningside for Samohi. The Vikings take on Beverly Hills on Wednesday at home and travel to Morningside on Friday. Both games begin at 7:30 p.m.

Beverly Hills enters the game 9-8 overall and 2-0 in Ocean League play. Samohi is 13-4 overall and is also 2-0 in league.

CROSSROADS BOYS BASKETBALL RANKED NO. 14

Crossroads enters the CIF-SS Division 4A boys' basketball poll at No. 14, it was announced on Monday.

The Roadrunners are 8-6 overall and 2-0 in the Delphic League.

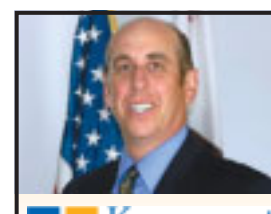
Next for Crossroads is a league game at home against Milken on Tuesday.

Milken is 11-3 overall and 3-0 in league. The game begins at 7 p.m.

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2013

Learning Windows
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
6 p.m. — 7 p.m.
Introduction to the Windows 7 operating system, including hands-on practice with basic navigation and customization. Beginner level. Seating is first come, first serve. For more information, visit the reference desk or call (310) 434-2608.

Free flick
Montana Library
1704 Montana Ave.,
6:30 p.m. — 8:15 p.m.
When two people decide to have a child without becoming a couple, their close-knit friends begin to question their own lifestyles in "Friends with Kids." For more information, visit smpl.org.

Freud and C.S. Lewis have a talk
The Broad Stage
1310 11th St., visit website for times
Winner of the 2011 Off Broadway Alliance Award for Best Play, Mark St. Germain's "Freud's Last Session" depicts a meeting between the atheist Freud and the Christian author C.S. Lewis. Love, sex, death and the existence of God are among the topics they entertain throughout the play. Starring Judd Hirsch and Tom Cavanagh. Directed by Tyler Marchant. Tickets are $42 — $175. For more information, visit the Broad Stage website at thebroadstage.com/Freud.

Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013

Tape as art
Montana Library
1704 Montana Ave., 4 p.m.
Decorate a jar with patterned duct tape to hold pencils, brushes or anything else. Ages 10-13. For more information, visit smpl.org.

We have a dream
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
3:45 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.
In the Children's Activity Room, Creative Playground presents an interactive performance featuring the words and ideas of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Appropriate for grades K-5. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Job hunting
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Finding the right job can seem like finding a needle in a haystack. Executive recruiter Mitch Rufca will share job search tips and strategies. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Learn to paint
Paint Lab
2912 Main St., 6 p.m. — 9 p.m.
Paint Lab is hosting a Paint, Wine and Cheese Workshop, which includes instruction, paints, brushes and complimentary refreshments. Admission is $67. For more information or to make a reservation, call (310) 450-9200.

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2013

That's a great photo
Santa Monica Civic Auditorium
1855 Main St.,
visit website for times
photo l.a. is celebrating its 22nd anniversary as the longest running art fair in Los Angeles history. It brings together over 70 galleries and private photography dealers from around the world, displaying their finest works. Admission is $15 and up. For more information, visit photola.com.

Money for school
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
An overview and discussion of different types of financial aid available to college students. Appropriate for teens in Grades 9 — 12. For more information, visit smpl.org.

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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



Coca-Cola to address obesity for first time in ads

CANDICE CHOI
AP Food Industry Writer

NEW YORK Coca-Cola became one of the world's most powerful brands by equating its soft drinks with happiness. Now it's taking to the airwaves for the first time to address a growing cloud over the industry: obesity.

The Atlanta-based company on Monday began airing a two-minute spot during the highest-rated shows on CNN, Fox News and MSNBC in hopes of flexing its marketing muscle in the debate over sodas and their impact on public health. The ad lays out Coca-Cola's record of providing drinks with fewer calories and notes that weight gain is the result of consuming too many calories of any kind — not just soda.

For Coca-Cola, the world's No. 1 beverage company, the ads reflect the mounting pressures on the broader industry. Later this year, New York City is set to enact a first-in-the-nation cap on the size of soft drinks sold at restaurants, movie theaters and sports arenas. The mayor of Cambridge, Mass., has already introduced a similar measure, saying she was inspired by New York's move.

Even when PepsiCo Inc., the No. 2 soda maker, recently signed a wide-ranging endorsement deal with pop singer Beyonce, critics called for her to drop the contract or donate the funds to health initiatives.

New research in the past year also suggests that sugary drinks cause people to pack on the pounds independent of other behavior. A decades-long study involving more than 33,000 Americans, for example, suggested that drinking sugary beverages interacts with genes that affect weight and enhances a person's risk of obesity beyond what it would be from heredity alone.

Michael Jacobson, executive director for the Center for Science in the Public Interest, was skeptical about Coca-Cola's ads and said the company would stop fighting soda taxes if it was serious about helping reduce obesity.

"It looks like a page out of damage control 101," he said. "They're trying to disarm the public."

The group has been critical of the soft drink industry and last year released a video parodying Coke's famous polar bears becoming plagued with diabetes and other health problems.

SEE **SODA** PAGE 10



Photo courtesy Santa Monica College

THEATER: **'Heart Mountain' has been selected to take part in the 2013 Regional Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival.**

'Heart Mountain' gets festival nod

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

SMC The Santa Monica College production of "Heart Mountain" — a world premiere drama about the struggles of a family in a World War II Japanese internment camp — has been selected for the prestigious 2013 Regional Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival, the school announced on Monday.

"Heart Mountain," which was mounted at SMC in November, combines a traditional narrative with dance, martial arts and powerful imagery.

"Heart Mountain" is one of seven plays selected from 179 productions at 55 colleges and universities judged throughout the western region: Southern California, Southern Nevada, Arizona, Utah and Hawaii. The plays will be performed at the regional festival, which will be held Feb. 13-15 at the Los Angeles Theatre Center in downtown Los Angeles.

"I am pleased 'Heart Mountain' will be performed at the festival because this story needs to be told," said Theatre Arts Department chair Perviz Sawoski, who directed and choreographed "Heart Mountain." "I am still shocked that over 100,000 persons of Japanese ancestry were incarcerated in the United States during World War II for no reason other than their ethnicity and the anti-Japanese paranoia that existed at the time."

Fundraising performances of the play will be held at the college prior to the festival Friday-Sunday, Feb. 1-3. Performances will be at 8 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday in the SMC Theatre Arts Studio Stage on the main campus, 1900 Pico Blvd. Tickets are $20 in advance or $25 at the door (including a service charge). Call (310) 434-4319 Monday through Friday or go to www.smc.edu.

The play was written by G. Bruce Smith, SMC's recently retired public information officer and an award-winning playwright with production credits in Los Angeles, Sacramento and Minnesota. Most recently, his play "After Us the Savage God" won 2011 playwriting awards in New York and Ohio and was selected for opening night for The Road Theatre's Festival of New Plays in August 2012 in North Hollywood.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

No value

Editor:

Your story about the suit brought by the owners of Village Trailer Park against City Hall ("Trailer park owner sues city for $50M," Jan. 11) left out some crucial background that casts this whole matter in a quite different light.

The four council members voting to rescind the development agreement with the owners that had been hurriedly passed in November had a serious worry that the agreement violated city policy and may well have violated city law on affordable housing.

To get the figure of 16 rather than 49 "affordable" units, plus the 10 homes in the "residual parcel" that would not be destroyed, the city staff had to treat the mobile home zoning designation as commercial rather than multi-family residential, even though there is at least one place in the city code where it is clearly included among the multi-family residential zones!

Even if it is true that the city legally can, in the context of a development agreement, do what would ordinarily violate city law, it seems clear that council expected that this agreement met the conditions of the affordable housing policy and it is no wonder councilors had reservations when they discovered it did not!

VTP LLC and its supporters were clearly trying to rush this matter through before the new council took office and in the course of that due diligence seems to have taken a back seat!

Councilors are also worried about the relocation package being offered the homeowners of Village Trailer Park – a package described in the article as "rich." To put it in perspective, consider that some friends of mine, now negotiating to buy a home in Santa Monica that is currently rented out, have been told that to move in they will have to pay the current tenants some $60,000 in relocation benefits. Contrast that with what is being offered at Village Trailer Park. Most of the residents of the park own their homes and some have put tens of thousands of dollars and hundreds of hours of work into them assuming, on the basis of city zoning, that they would stay in place.

Unless residents get subsidized housing at taxpayer expense at Mountain View Park or are willing to rent the developer's new units (estimated by the developer himself to rent well above current rates in the area per square foot) they will get at most $20,000 for abandoning their homes and moving to rental housing. If the relocation packages reflected the in-place value of their homes, they at least would not see what they legitimately thought of as investments for their future go down the drain. But VTP LLC has refused to consider that despite standing to make $17 million just on appreciation of the land alone!

The bottom line still is that this is land speculation at its rawest with very little thought for the affect on people, many of whom bought for their retirement with confidence that this was a mobile home park specifically zoned as one. Please don't forget the underlying realities here!

Calvin Normore
Santa Monica





After the Bell

Merv Hecht — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Happy new year, I hope

YES IT'S A NEW YEAR, BUT MOST OF THE experts are still talking about the same thing, Apple stock. Everyone is waiting for the earning announcement that is expected about Jan. 22. Roughly 80 percent of the experts are predicting a 5 percent to 10 percent increase after the announcement. The rest are predicting bad news that will keep the stock in the low $500s.

A lot of experts keep talking about what a great buy the stock is at around $525. After all, it was over $700 not long ago. But I keep asking myself, if this is such a great price, why are so many people selling it and so few buying it, so the price is not going up?

Even when the stock was $700 a share a few months ago many experts were saying the same thing: it's cheap, it's a good buy, it might go to $1,000 a share. So I too was sucked in and sold five of the $580 puts, taking in a premium of $12,000 figuring that a $700 stock was not likely to go down more than 120 points in two months. But it did — it went down about 200 points, and at that time I had an unrealized loss of $28,000.

But I took some action at that point, and sold what we call an "in-the-money call spread." I bought the $500 calls as protection against a further decline, and sold the $525 calls, paying out about $12,000. But the stock was at $510 at that point, so the position was worth $10,000 if the stock didn't decline further, so my real investment was only $2,000 and the rest was risk — but the same risk as if I owned the stock.

Since then the stock has rallied and is hovering around $525, and at that price my old put position was only down about $14,000 and my new position was up about $12,000, so things have been looking up. And if the stock moves up to $550 or more after the earning announcement I will come out with a profit overall. Whew!

In hindsight, Apple was not a very good stock to write options on because it's too volatile. It's better to write options on stocks that are moderately stable, with a position in the market likely to move up slowly. But even if one viewed Apple stock that way, who can afford to buy stock at $700 a share?

Walgreens remains that kind of stock. I still have some that I paid $47 a share for many years ago. I've been collecting a dividend plus premiums from option writing (covered calls) on the stock for all those years. But the company made some bad decisions and the stock dropped into the low $30s. Now management seems to be cleaning up their act, and the stock is slowly climbing back, now around $38 a share. At that price it pays a dividend of almost 3 percent. And if you write a covered call at $40 or $42.50, you can garner at least another 6 percent a year and end up with 9 percent annualized return on investment.

Enough about the past. What's in store for the new year? Well, most of the experts I follow think there will be slow growth. Those industries affiliated with housing should do well, as the housing market continues to come back. But many of those stocks are already very high because of market anticipation. Whirlpool, for example, has gone up from $55 to over $100, I suppose because they make household appliances. I originally bought it because I thought their access to the Chinese market would bring in profits. But then many experts said that sales to China were slowing down. In the long run I don't think so.

And, thinking about housing, while traditionally it has been cheaper to rent than to buy and own, this year that cost, as a percentage of household income, evened out. So that might put some pressure on real estate rentals, as potential renters leave the rental market and elect to buy a home.

The housing exchange-traded fund (ETF) has also done well, but not as spectacularly as Whirlpool, so it might still be a good buy. But for myself, I'm putting what little money I have into copper, for example Freeport McMoran—FCX. That's a company that profits from increases in the price of copper, and perhaps to a lesser extent in gold. I'm not a big fan of gold, but I've read that it takes a lot of copper to build a new house or apartment building. And gold can act as a good hedge in the market. So that seems like a good way to get a bit of both.

Some experts recommend emerging markets, except for Brazil and Japan. They seem to be on everyone's bad list. By coincidence those happen to be the two that I own. I bought the Brazil ETF because I thought that they would start to pump oil from the oil fields they found offshore. Still, I feel that eventually the government will get rid of corruption and the country will prosper.

I bought the Japanese ETF partly because my son lives there (not a good reason) and mostly because some economist told me that there was going to be high inflation in the Japanese currency and that would drive the prices of Japanese stocks higher. Time will tell. I never try to understand economists. For myself, I generally stay away from foreign stocks and markets, and prefer to search for companies inside the U.S. that benefit from sales to emerging markets.

So in addition to copper, what do we take away from all this economic speculation? For myself I am looking for stocks with good dividends from companies that are not in financial trouble and will be able to continue to pay the dividends. I prefer those that have options available, so I can increase my yields by writing covered calls on the stocks. But the main reason to seek good paying dividend stocks is that the dividend is a good hedge against a significant decline in the stock price. The only caveat is that the company has to be making the same profit level as when the dividend was set.

A good example might be Altria. It pays a dividend over 5 percent, and seems to be doing well, but one should check that out carefully from time to time. For a more speculative position, for the long term one could consider France Telecom, paying a dividend over 9 percent as the French economy goes into the tank.

All-in-all it looks like this will be a good year to invest in equities, stay away from bonds, and keep some cash in reserve to buy in case of a big dip in the market.

For information about **MERV HECHT** and more details on the strategies and stocks he writes about in this column, visit his website at DoubleYourYield.com.

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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Shooting from the lip

FRIENDS ARE A REFLECTION OF WHO WE are. It is said that if you tell me who your five best friends are, I can tell who you are. If that is true, then I'm a very eclectic individual with contradictory philosophical positions on a great many topics. I am a man who enjoys fine food yet craves a cheeseburger from Big Dean's on a hot summer day. I hold a nuanced position on subjects as hot as abortion, and a black-and-white position on gay marriage. So, that five-person parlor trick may be correct.

We love complex characters because we are complex. I was reminded of this after viewing "Django Unchained" this past weekend. An exceptionally engaging movie that I thoroughly enjoyed, even as I squirmed during parts of it. It was a painful reminder of a dark and ugly past. The movie uses violence brilliantly to demonstrate the incredible inhumanity that existed, and to some extent still exists, and meet out justice to those who are deserving of it.

I say this against the backdrop of the tragedy in Sandy Hook, the other school shootings and with a full recognition of the loss of human life that occurs on a daily basis across our country, and our planet. As a society when we try to create one-size-fits-all solutions to complex problems it doesn't work well.

Gun ownership is a complex, hot-button topic in America and for good reason. Those of us who have been touched by it have strong beliefs about whether it is a good or a bad idea. I was discussing gun control over the holidays with another "lefty liberal Santa Monican" and they took a very hard line position that we should outlaw all guns.

On the other side of the coin, I was chatting with a different type of Santa Monica friend at dinner this week who is in the Libertarian camp on everything. He takes the position that the government should get out of the way in all manner of ventures and they should stop taxing us and regulating us in everything we do.

I enjoy having friends who are diverse and as divergent on topics as possible. It broadens me and it makes those after-dinner conversations over coffee just that much more interesting. As my anti-gun friend was making their point I remarked that gun ownership seems to be more valued as a constitutional right than voting.

The first reaction is always that I am being absurd, but when I point out that women and blacks were not allowed to vote under the U.S. Constitution but they were allowed to own guns it struck a chord since gun ownership was the Second Amendment and a woman's right to vote was the 19th Amendment and took approximately 140 years to be enacted. The right to gun ownership arguably could be seen as a greater right than voting to the drafters of the Constitution.

Libertarian man on the other hand sees no reason to limit the ownership of guns as he relies on a market analysis that no one would own something they didn't need or use. In his fight to limit governmental interference with living he would have as little regulation as possible. So when I bring out the "big gun" argument and say well then what would prevent me from owning a nuclear warhead, which is technically an "arm" under the Second Amendment and therefore I should have a constitutionally-protected right to as big a gun or armament as I can afford to protect myself.

He didn't like that argument because he thought I was being absurd in my assumption since who would really want to own a nuclear warhead? But I can believe that there is someone who is unstable enough to want one, and so I believe there should be some limits on what we can own.

I don't have answers on where to draw the line yet on gun control, although I'm certain that the extremes of nothing, and nuclear, are both unacceptable to me. I'm not sure that ownership is the issue so much as a society that sees violence as a solution, not a problem.

DAVID PISARRA is a Los Angeles divorce and child custody lawyer specializing in father's and men's rights with the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or (310) 664-9969. You can follow him on Twitter @davidpisarra.

The Q Line

Future of the youth center

The City Council agreed to fund the embattled Pico Youth & Family Center for another six months while center leadership work to improve its internal management.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think the council got it right or should the city should reconsider its funding for the center?

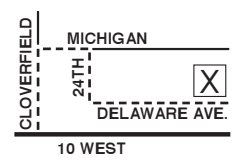
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Bitter cold grips West; citrus and lettuce crops damaged

ASSOCIATED PRESS

FRESNO, Calif. As an unusual cold spell gripped parts of the West for a fifth day, some California citrus growers reported damage to crops and an agriculture official said national prices on lettuce have started to rise because of lost produce in Arizona.

The extreme chill in the West comes as the Eastern U.S., from Atlanta to New York City, is seeing spring-like weather.

In California's San Joaquin Valley, where farmers are fighting to protect about $1.5 billion worth of citrus fruit on their trees, Sunday temperatures dropped to 25 degrees in some areas and stayed low longer than previous nights.

Prolonged temperatures in the mid-20's or below cause damage to citrus crops.

"It was our coldest night to date," said Paul Story of Exeter-based California Citrus Mutual, an association of the state's 3,900 citrus growers. "I think mandarin growers are going to see a range of significant damage, enough that they will have to separate their crops."

Mandarins are more susceptible to cold than other citrus and start to freeze at about 32 degrees, Story said. Because many mandarin trees were planted in recent years as the fruit's popularity soared, they are grown in colder areas outside the traditional citrus belt.

Other citrus crops saw little or minimal damage, Story said. This year's high sugar content in oranges helped protect them, he said, because sugar inhibits freezing.

Growers deployed wind machines to keep the warm air closer to the ground and irrigation to raise the temperature in the groves. Rows farthest away from the protection could be damaged, Story said. And farmers who do not have wind machines could lose crops.

Lindsey-based Robert LoBue — who grows 1,000 acres of citrus, including mandarins — said wind machines were critical in his groves, but saving the crop doesn't come cheap. LoBue runs one wind machine for every 10 acres and has to employ a crew to man them.

"We're very diligent, we run the wind and water all night," LoBue said, "but we're spending thousands of dollars to protect these crops."

In Southern California, strong winds helped to keep crops out of danger by keeping the cold from settling.

Temperatures in downtown Los Angeles fell to 34 degrees, breaking the previous record of 36 degrees set on Jan. 14, 2007.

In Angeles National Forest, where overnight temperatures have been dropping into the 20s, Arcadia hiker Danny Kim, 28, was found Sunday night after surviving 26 hours in the frigid West Fork wilderness. Kim was airlifted to a hospital for treatment of hypothermia.

In Beverly Hills, fans brought heavy coats and scarves as they waited along the red carpet hoping to catch glimpses of stars arriving for the Golden Globes ceremony Sunday evening. Some of the actors shivered but weren't complaining.

"I'd rather be nippy than boiling hot," said actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus, who arrived in a strapless dress. "No, I'm not wearing any leggings or long underwear."

In San Diego, zookeepers offered extra heat and shelter for some animals.

To the east, the freezing temperatures have already done enough damage to southwestern Arizona lettuce crops that prices were increasing, said Kurt Nolte, a Yuma, Ariz.-based agricultural agent for the University of Arizona.

The area provides much of the nation's leafy greens during the winter, and farmers are reporting damage to many romaine and iceberg lettuce crops. The cold is freezing the heads of the lettuce and affecting the quality and yield, Nolte said.

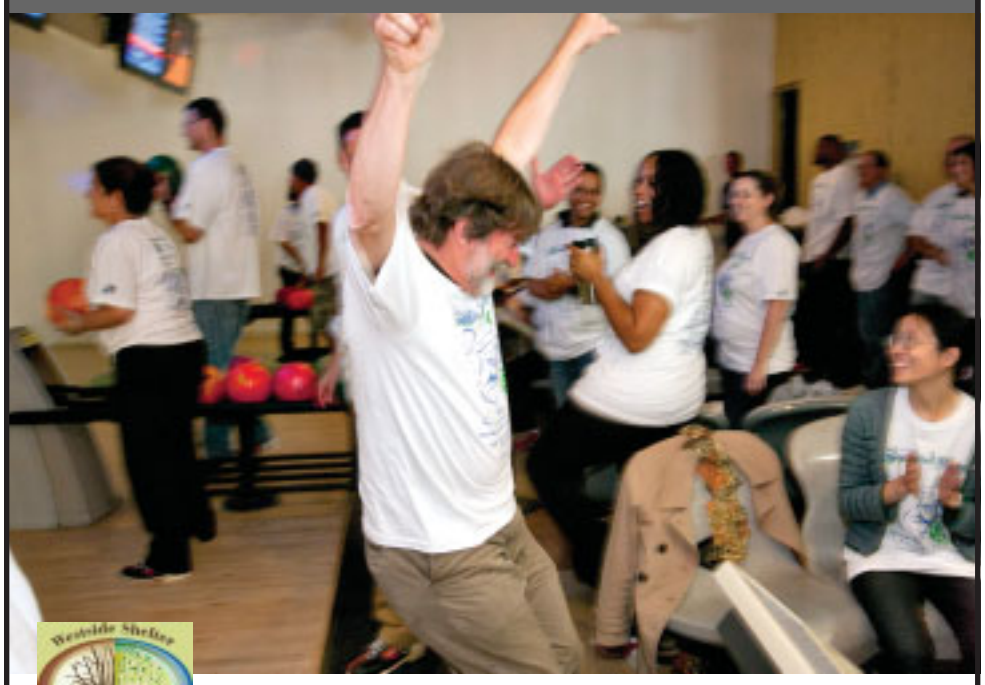
The price for a carton of lettuce in Yuma two weeks ago was $7 to $8. As of Monday, it costs around $20 per carton, he said.

Metropolitan Phoenix marked one of its coolest stretches since 1988 and Sunday morning's low of 7 degrees in Douglas, Ariz., broke a record for January in the Mexican border town.

In Nevada, the temperature in Ely plummeted to 24 below zero early Monday and wind chills were expected to drop to near 40 below into Tuesday.

And In northern New Mexico, parts of Interstate 25 and some other highways were snow packed and icy Monday, and officials warned travelers that additional light snow could lead to hazardous driving conditions when coupled with the freezing temperatures.

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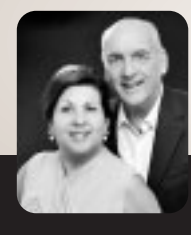
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Analyst agrees Gov. Brown's state budget in balance

JUDY LIN
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. After years of cutting education and social services to close deficits, California's budget is finally in balance as long as state lawmakers follow Gov. Jerry Brown's guidance to hold the line on spending, the Legislature's nonpartisan budget analyst said Monday.

Analyst Mac Taylor commended the Democratic governor for emphasizing fiscal restraint in the proposed spending plan for the 2013-14 fiscal year that he released last week. He urged lawmakers to consider Brown's education reforms, which include transferring more money to poorer districts, and the governor's proposal to expand health care for the poor under the federal Affordable Care Act.

Last week, Brown released a $97.6 billion state spending plan for the new fiscal year and projected a $1 billion reserve. Two months ago, the Legislative Analyst's Office had projected a more cautious outlook that forecast a $1.9 billion deficit.

Taylor said Monday that higher tax revenue, increased savings and repayment of loans account for the slight differences.

"Over the past several years, each January governor's budget has included billions of dollars in proposed solutions ... in order to close budget shortfalls," Taylor wrote in his report. "Now, however, the state has reached a point where its underlying expenditures and revenues are roughly in balance."

He said that while California is on a much better financial footing, uncertainty remains about the federal deficit debate, the state's heavy reliance on wealthy earners, and huge unfunded pension and retiree health care liabilities.

The analyst said lawmakers will get a better picture of the state's finances in the coming months. Lawmakers have until June 15 to send their own budget plan to the governor.

"It's sweet music," said Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento. "Every year for the past four years the story has been very different."

The Democratic leader said the majority party is committed to keeping the budget in balance. But if the economy continues to improve this year, he said there may be opportunities to restore recent cuts.

Under Brown's spending plan, California's budget will increase by nearly $5 billion, largely due to voter approval of his sales and income tax initiative, Proposition 30. By comparison, the state's shortfall stood at $25 billion when Brown took office two years ago.

Despite the fresh tax revenue, Brown wants his Democratic colleagues who control both houses of the Legislature to refrain from overspending. He wants to build a reserve to cushion against future downturns and make strides toward paying down the state's bond obligations.

Brown's finance spokesman H.D. Palmer said the governor will do everything he can to keeping spending in check.

"Living within our means, paying down debt, and strengthening education are the right policy choices for California," Palmer said in a statement. "Given the potential risks to our forecast — both from Washington and overseas — fiscal restraint is a prudent insurance policy."

The governor's plan for the fiscal year that begins July 1 includes $2.7 billion more for K-12 education and community colleges, bringing state and local spending to $56.2 billion.

The University of California and California State University systems each would receive an additional $250 million, which includes $125 million promised for not raising tuition this academic year. California Community Colleges, which has 112 campuses, would receive a $197 million boost.

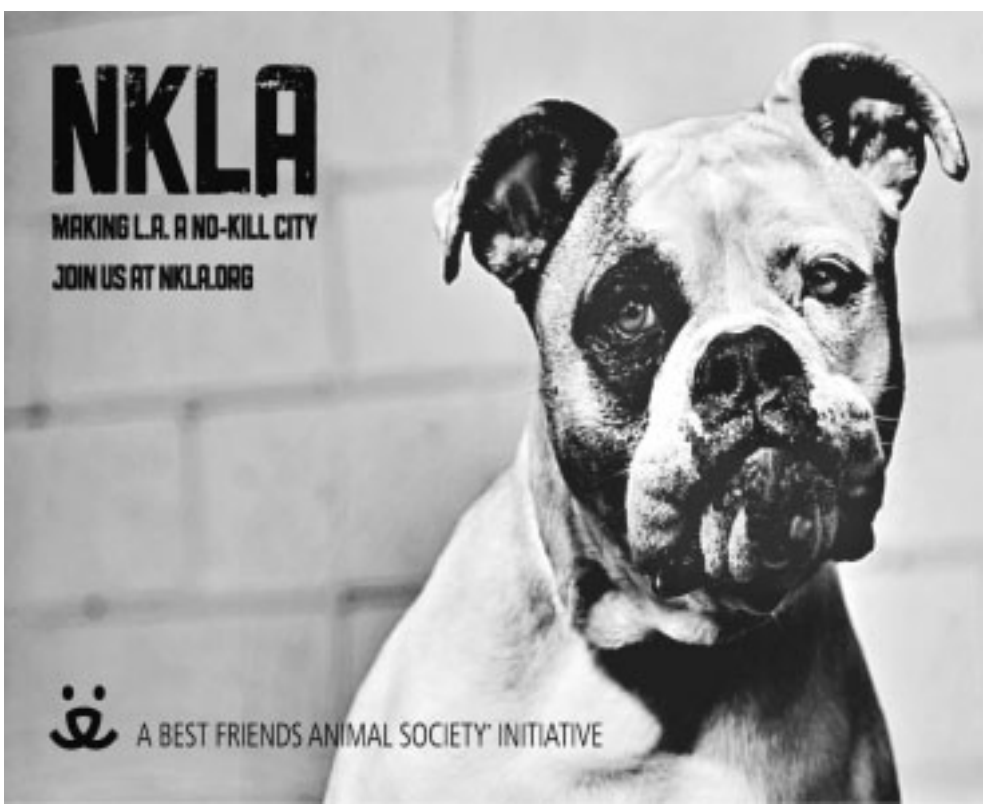
Brown also projected modest increases in health care and social service programs.

The governor committed to making national health care reform work in California by expanding Medicaid coverage for low-income Californians. He set aside $350 million for the expansion.

His budget also uses $200 million from judicial branch reserves to postpone additional court cuts. Judges say the funding must be restored to maintain services.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Presiding Judge David Wesley warned in a statement that he will have to close 10 county courthouses and consolidate other facilities by June 30 because the court will run out of reserves.

"We have run out of options," Wesley said.







BONDS
FROM PAGE 1

opportunity."

The process is similar to the one property owners go through when refinancing a home mortgage. Homeowners ultimately save money by reducing their monthly mortgage payments or shortening the years of the mortgage debt.

The refinance secures lower interest rates without extending the terms of the original bonds, according to a press release.

If you're going to refinance, now is the time to do it, said Daniel Berger, senior strategist of municipal market data for Thompson Reuters.

"It's a very advantageous time because rates are so low," Berger said. "The bias is that rates generally could increase in the foreseeable future. For now, they've locked in those savings."

The Federal Reserve committed to keeping interest rates low until the national unemployment rate reaches 6.5 percent — it's currently at 7.8 percent, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

At the same time, California state policy sweetened the municipal bond market, Berger said.

The passage of Proposition 30, a statewide measure that raises sales tax and some income taxes to benefit education, and Gov. Jerry Brown's projection of an $800 million surplus have led markets to improve their outlook on the state's credit, Berger said.

It takes seasoned professionals to recognize and take advantage of those kinds of market conditions, said Laurie Lieberman, the newly re-elected president of the Board of Education.

"We are fortunate to have such a capable and hard-working (chief financial officer) as well as a strong financial advisor, who constantly monitor the district's finances while watching for opportunities like this," Lieberman said.

The district's own double-A credit rating is very strong as well and local property values have been on the rise.

"The Santa Monica-Malibu name recognition is important," Maez said. "It's a very recognizable sale offering and strong community with strong assessed value, which helps."

That credit rating is the second highest that a school district can have, and puts it well above many of the other districts in the state that are strapped for cash.

The district has done three series of bond issues through Measure BB funds. Officials will likely go out for their fourth next week, assuming market conditions hold, Maez said.

Although residents will see a break on their property taxes as a result of the refinance, it's unknown how long that will last.

The new series will add additional debt to the tax rolls, and the district already has authorization to put out another $385 million in bonds as a result of Measure ES, a new bond approved by voters on Nov. 6.

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**



GREEN
FROM PAGE 1

treatment in California. Santa Monica is one of a limited number of cities including Los Angeles to test it out.

"It absolutely improves visibility," said Francie Stefan, the community and strategic planning manager with City Hall. "It improves clarity for cyclists on the road of where they should be and an awareness of road users."

Los Angeles got its green bicycle lanes several years ago, and it's had a huge impact on bicycle ridership, said Eric Bruins, planning and policy director with the Los Angeles Bicycle Coalition.

"It's wide and visible, and the bike counts that we did showed that between 2009 and 2011 ridership more than doubled and within that doubling, female ridership quadrupled," Bruins said. "It shows that it just works."

The green paint in L.A. is looking a little ragged these days, something that Santa Monica officials believe they have solved with the six coats of paint applied to the stretch of Ocean Park Boulevard.

"We're pretty confident that it will be a low maintenance, long-lasting treatment," said Peter James, a senior strategic planner at City Hall.

The project was first conceived nearly 20 years ago, but fell by the wayside until the Ocean Park Association revived it under the auspices of former City Manager Lamont Ewell and former Planning Director Eileen Fogarty.

Bob Taylor, of the Ocean Park Association, has been with it from the beginning.

The street had been widened in the 1960s as a result of the general plan that anticipated high rise development all along the beach, Taylor said.

"What they didn't do was any form of landscaping or any aesthetic or environmental amenities," he said.

Taylor and others in the neighborhood submitted plans for the street to the Planning Department in the 1990s, but didn't see much action until roughly six years ago. Officials broke ground on the project at the end of 2011.

"It was the right time," James said. "It reemerged at a point in the city dialogue where we were beginning to recognize that the streets were places for gathering and to unify the neighborhood rather than divide it."

Now that the Ocean Park Boulevard project is nearly complete, Rose hopes that City Hall will take the momentum and push forward with a series of other projects, including additional green streets.

Planners are working now to identify new streets for extra treatments.

"Streets as public spaces are things that we need to focus on," Rose said. "There's a huge amount of land allocated to roadways, and it's something that really belongs to everyone."

She just hopes that the green bike lane can be extended an additional block to connect with Barnard Way near the new Santa Monica beach bicycle training campus.

Still, Rose is happy to see the changes, calling the bike path Santa Monica's "yellow brick road."

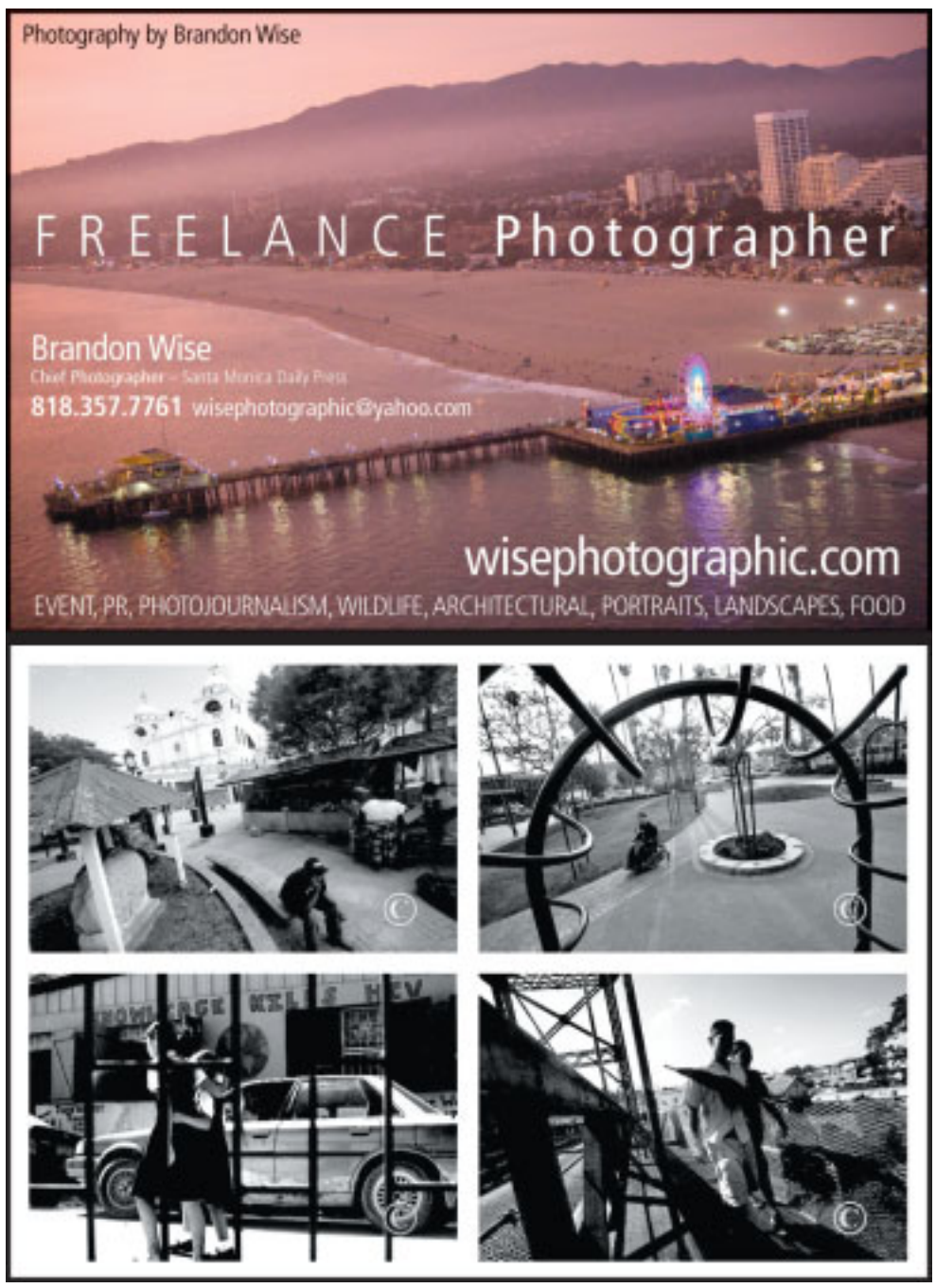
That's the kind of reaction planners are hoping for.

"I think that the true measure comes from the response coming from the community and the pride they've taken in seeing their project completed," James said. "It's really quite rewarding and it's been a really positive experience through that partnership for both sides as an example of how we can do things together."

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NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit sealed bids for the:

Santa Monica Airport Taxiway A & B Pavement Rehabilitation and Runway Rubber Removal - SP2271

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, 90401, not later than 2:30 p.m. on **January 24th** to be publicly opened and read aloud after 3:00 p.m. on said date in City Hall Council Chambers. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Bids.

The mandatory pre-bid meeting has been postponed. The date of the meeting will be sent out via Addendum on PlanetBids.

PROJECT ESTIMATE: $360,000
CONTRACT CALENDAR DAYS: 45
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: Varies (See Project Technical Specification)
COMPENSABLE DELAY: $500 per Day

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's Finance website at: http://www01.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/. The Contractor is required to have a **Class A** license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

SODA
FROM PAGE 3

Coca-Cola said its ads aren't a reaction to negative public sentiment. Instead, the idea is to raise awareness about its lower-calorie drinks and plans for the coming months, said Stuart Kronauge, general manager of sparkling beverages for Coca-Cola North America.

"There's an important conversation going on about obesity out there, and we want to be a part of the conversation," she said.

In the ad, a narrator notes that obesity "concerns all of us" but that people can make a difference when they "come together." The spot was produced by the ad agencies Brighthouse and Citizen2 and is intended to tout Coca-Cola's corporate responsibility to cable news viewers.

Another ad, which will run later this week during "American Idol" and before the Super Bowl, is much more reminiscent of the catchy, upbeat advertising people have come to expect from Coca-Cola. It features a montage of activities that add up to burning off the "140 happy calories" in a can of Coke: walking a dog, dancing, sharing a laugh with friends and doing a victory dance after bowling a strike.

The 30-second ad, a version of which ran in Brazil last month, is intended to address confusion about the number of calories in soda, said Diana Garza Ciarlante, a spokeswoman for Coca-Cola Co. She said the company's consumer research showed people mistakenly thought there were as many as 900 calories in a can of soda.

The company declined to say how much it was spending on the commercials, which it started putting together last summer. It also declined to give details on its plans for the year ahead. But among the options under consideration is putting the amount of activity needed to burn off the calories in a drink on cans and bottles.

The company noted that it already puts calorie counts on the front of its cans and bottles. Last year, it also started posting calorie information on its vending machines ahead of a regulation that will require soda companies to do so by 2014.

Coca-Cola's changing business reflects the public concern over the calories in soda. In North America, all the growth in its soda unit over the past 15 years has come from low- and no-calorie drinks, such as Coke Zero. Diet sodas now account for nearly a third of its sales in the U.S. and Canada. Other beverages such as sports drinks and bottled water are also fueling growth.

Even with the growing popularity of diet sodas, however, overall soda consumption in the U.S. has declined steadily since 1998, according to the industry tracker Beverage Digest.

John Sicher, the publisher of Beverage Digest, noted that the industry "put its head in the sand" when obesity and soft drinks first started becoming an issue more than a decade ago. Now, he said Coca-Cola is looking to position itself in the public debate rather than being defined by adversaries.



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Severe Beijing air pollution prompts unusual transparency

CHRISTOPHER BODEEN
GILLIAN WONG
Associated Press

BEIJING One of Beijing's worst rounds of air pollution kept schoolchildren indoors and sent coughing residents to hospitals Monday, but this time something was different about the murky haze: the government's transparency in talking about it.

While welcomed by residents and environmentalists, Beijing's new openness about smog also put more pressure on the government to address underlying causes, including a lag in efforts to expand Western-style emissions limits to all of the vehicles in Beijing's notoriously thick traffic.

"Really awful. Extremely awful," Beijing office worker Cindy Lu said of the haze as she walked along a downtown sidewalk. But she added: "Now that we have better information, we know how bad things really are and can protect ourselves and decide whether we want to go out."

"Before, you just saw the air was bad but didn't know how bad it really was," she said.

Even state-run media gave the smog remarkably critical and prominent play. "More suffocating than the haze is the weakness in response," read the headline of a front-page commentary by the Communist Party-run China Youth Daily.

Government officials — who have played down past periods of heavy smog — held news conferences and posted messages on microblogs discussing the pollution.

The wave of pollution peaked Saturday with off-the-charts levels that shrouded Beijing's skyscrapers in thick gray haze. Expected to last through Tuesday, it was the severest smog since the government began releasing figures on PM2.5 particles — among the worst pollutants — early last year in response to a public outcry.

A growing Chinese middle class has become increasingly vocal about the quality of the environment, and the public demands for more air quality information were prompted in part by a Twitter feed from the U.S. Embassy that gave hourly PM2.5 readings from the building's roof.

The Chinese government now issues hourly air quality updates online for more than 70 cities.

"I think there's been a very big change," prominent Beijing environmental campaigner Ma Jun said, adding that the government knows it no longer has a monopoly on information about the environment. "Given the public's ability to spread this information, especially on social media, the government itself has to make adjustments."

Air pollution is a major problem in China due to the country's rapid pace of industrialization, reliance on coal power, explosive growth in vehicle ownership and disregard for environmental laws, with development often taking priority over health. The pollution typically gets worse in the winter because of an increase in coal burning.

"The pollution has affected large areas, lasted for a long time and is of great density. This is rare for Beijing in recent years," Zhang Dawei, director of Beijing's environment monitoring center, told a news conference Monday.

According to the government monitoring, levels of PM2.5 particles were above 700 micrograms per cubic meter on Saturday, and declined by Monday to levels around 350 micrograms — but still way above the World Health Organization's safety levels of 25.

In separate monitoring by the U.S. Embassy, levels peaked Saturday at 886 micrograms — and the air quality was labeled as "beyond index."

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said the Chinese government's decision since December to monitor and publicize smog levels in 74 cities was a positive development. She told a news briefing it was "a significant start in terms of taking care of the health and welfare of their own people on this issue."

Nuland added that the U.S. was open to sharing information about how it arrives at its own data on pollution levels.

City authorities ordered many factories to scale back emissions and were spraying water at building sites to try to tamp down dust and dirt that worsen the noxious haze.

Schools in several districts were ordered to cancel outdoor flag-raisings and sports classes, and in an unusual public announcement, Beijing authorities advised all residents to "take measures to protect their health."

The Beijing Shijitan Hospital received 20 percent more patients than usual at its respiratory health department, most of them coughing and seeking treatment for bronchitis, asthma and other respiratory ailments, Dr. Huang Aiben said.

PM2.5 are tiny particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers in size, or about 1/30th the average width of a human hair. They can penetrate deep into the lungs, and measuring them is considered a more accurate reflection of air quality than other methods.

"Because these dust particles are relatively fine, they can be directly absorbed by the lung's tiny air sacs," Huang said. "The airway's ability to block the fine dust is relatively weak, and so bacteria and viruses carried by the dust can directly enter the airway."

Prolonged exposure could result in tumors, he added.

Demand spiked for face masks, with a half dozen drugstores in Beijing reached by phone reporting they had sold out. A woman surnamed Pang working at a Golden Elephant pharmacy said buyers were mainly the elderly and students, and that the store had sold 60 masks daily over the past few days.

The bulk of the smog choking Chinese cities is belched out by commercial trucks, but authorities have put off enforcing tougher emissions standards to spare small businesses the burden of paying for cleaner engines.

"It is not a problem of technology. It's more about consumer affordability. Increasing the emissions standard greatly increases the cost," said John Zeng, Asia-Pacific director for LMC Automotive Ltd., a research firm. "Most buyers are small business owners, and they are very price-sensitive."

Upgrading to cleaner engines would cost about 20,000 yuan ($3,200), adding about 8 percent to a typical sticker price of a vehicle, according to Zeng.

The haze even inspired a song parody, widely circulated online. "Thick haze permeates every street in Beijing, the pollutant index is worse than the charts can read. I'm surrounded by buildings in a fairyland and I see people wearing masks all over the city," go the lyrics. "Who is traveling in fog and who is crying in fog? Who is struggling in fog and who is suffocating in fog?"

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NOTICE OF PREPARATION FOR A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE PROPOSED 1802 SANTA MONICA BLVD. MIXED USE PROJECT

DATE: January 14, 2013

TO: State Clearinghouse, Responsible Agencies, Trustee Agencies, Organizations and Interested Parties

LEAD AGENCY: City of Santa Monica
1685 Main Street
Santa Monica, CA 90407
Contact: Steve Mizokami
Phone: 310 458 8341

The City of Santa Monica intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Report for the development of a mixed-use, infill building that would include an auto dealership; a restaurant, 26 residential units, and a four-level subterranean parking garage.

In accordance with Section 15082 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the City of Santa Monica has prepared this Notice of Preparation to provide Responsible Agencies and other interested parties with information describing the proposal and its potential environmental effects. Environmental factors that would be potentially affected by the proposed project are:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Construction Effects
- Cultural Resources
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Geology/Soils
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Land Use/Planning
- Neighborhood Effects
- Noise
- Shadows
- Traffic and Circulation
- Mandatory Findings of Significance

PROJECT APPLICANT: 1802 Santa Monica Boulevard, LLC

PROJECT LOCATION: 1802 Santa Monica Boulevard, Santa Monica, California.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project consists of the development of a 33,710-square-foot three-story mixed-use building that would include an auto dealership; a restaurant, 26 residential units, and a four-level subterranean parking garage. The proposed auto dealership would be located on the ground floor and consist of a retail showroom and auto service department. The service department would consist of 8 fully enclosed service bays located toward the rear of the building. Dealership vehicles would be stored within the subterranean garage. The 1,390-square-foot restaurant would also be on the ground level. This portion of the building would be set back from the street corner to accommodate a 240-square-foot outdoor seating area. The project's residential units would be located on the 2nd and 3rd levels above the ground floor commercial uses. Residential units would consist of 24 studio units and two 1-bedroom units, consisting of 18,610 square feet. The building would be 35 feet in height (top of parapet would be approximately 39 feet high).

All parking would be contained on-site and underground within a four-level subterranean parking garage. The subterranean garage would provide a total of 130 parking spaces. The project would provide two separate access driveways along 18th Street and the 18th Court Alley.

REVIEW PERIOD: As specified by the State CEQA Guidelines, the Notice of Preparation will be circulated for a 30-day review period. The City of Santa Monica welcomes agency and public input during this period regarding the scope and content of environmental information related to your agency's responsibility that must be included in the Draft EIR. **Comments may be submitted, in writing, by 5:30 p.m. on February 14, 2013** and addressed to:

Steve Mizokami
City Planning Division
1685 Main Street, Room 212
Santa Monica, CA 90401
E-mail: steve.mizokami@smgov.net

ESPAÑOL: Esto es una noticia de la preparación de un reporte sobre el desarollo propuesto de un edificio de uso mixto, lo cual puede ser de interes a usted. Para más información, llame a Carmen Gutierrez, al numero (310) 458-8341.

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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **53.1°**

TUESDAY – **FLAT**
Minimal swell

WEDNESDAY – **FLAT**
Minimal NW swell

THURSDAY – **VERY POOR**
Small new NW swell shows

FRIDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high
WNW and SSW swells fade; plus sets at top combo spots

Tides

Mid morning 5'+ high tides will drain out to slightly negative lows in the afternoons through the week. There wont be much in the way of waves so if your going to try to squeeze out a session be mindful of the tidal swings.

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 9, 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 -- 17
- 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+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	F
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A	A+
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	A
Lodge Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A
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 24672 Malibu Rd..	B	C
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (broach location)- daily.	F	D
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	B	A
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	B	B
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	A+
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	ns	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	B	A
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+	A
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A	C
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	B
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	B
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A	A
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A	B
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	F	D
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	B
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	D	C
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.	F	F
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 CSAW jetty).	A+	B
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+	B

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

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

Heal the Bay'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 towels 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.

NCAA BASKETBALL

USC fires basketball coach O'Neill

BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES Kevin O'Neill took over a troubled Southern California basketball team, getting the Trojans back to the NCAA tournament after NCAA issues kept them out in his first season while producing winning records twice in 3 ? years. It wasn't enough.

He was fired on Monday, with the Trojans 7-10 overall and 2-2 in the Pac-12 after splitting their road trip last weekend.

"We just didn't win enough last year and this year. That's what this business is," O'Neill told The Associated Press by phone. "We tried to do as well as we could, tried to get the program to the highest level. My goal every day going in there was to try to win a national title."

He had a 48-65 record at the school known primarily for its powerful football program after going 6-26 last year while setting a USC record for losses.

Athletic director Pat Haden said the program needed new leadership.

"Despite a nice road win in our last game, I felt it was best to make a change now, with most of the Pac-12 season still ahead of us, in order to re-energize our team," he said.

O'Neill was hired by Haden's predecessor, Mike Garrett, who said at the time, "Hopefully he's here forever." O'Neill took the USC job after spending a season as an assistant with the Memphis Grizzlies.

"Nothing in this business surprises me," O'Neill said, adding that he and Haden "really didn't have any discussions other than how the team is doing."



MOVIE TIMES

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

High Noon (PG) 1hr 25min
Airplane! (PG) 1hr 28min
7:30 p.m.

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

Les Miserables (PG-13) 2hrs 37min
1:00pm, 4:45pm, 8:30pm

Parental Guidance (PG) 1hr 44min
1:30pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

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

Promised Land (R) 1hr 46min
1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

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

Life of Pi 3D (PG) 2hrs 06min
11:15am, 2:05pm, 4:55pm, 7:45pm, 10:35pm

Django Unchained (R) 2hrs 45min
11:20am, 2:55pm, 6:40pm, 10:20pm

Zero Dark Thirty (R) 2hrs 37min
11:50am, 2:35pm, 3:35pm, 6:20pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

Gangster Squad (R) 1hr 53min
11:35am, 1:30pm, 2:30pm, 4:30pm, 5:30pm, 7:30pm, 8:30pm, 10:30pm

This Is 40 (R) 2hrs 13min
12:15pm, 3:40pm, 7:00pm, 10:15pm

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

Argo (R) 2hrs 00min
1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:55pm

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

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

Rust & Bone (De rouille et d'os) (R) 1hr 55min
1:10pm, 4:00pm

Dark Truth (R) 1hr 46min
1:50pm, 7:00pm

Hitchcock (PG-13) 1hr 38min
9:40pm

Ballet in Cinema: Royal Ballet's "The Sleeping Beauty" (NR) 2hrs 50min
7:30pm

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

Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey in 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 46min
3:10pm, 10:30pm

Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13) 2hrs 46min
11:20am, 7:00pm

Texas Chainsaw 3D (R) 1hr 32min
11:55am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:25pm

Jack Reacher (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
12:30pm, 3:45pm, 7:00pm, 10:15pm

Les Miserables (PG-13) 2hrs 37min
11:30am, 3:00pm, 6:30pm, 10:00pm

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

Haunted House (R) 1hr 20min
1:45am, 2:15pm, 4:40pm, 7:15pm, 9:45pm

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

Hang with a friend tonight, Cappy

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Your responses could be instinctual. Embrace them, and they will guide you through a sticky situation. You might not be as confident as usual. Do not undermine the process you are going through, even if you are uncomfortable. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Zero in on the possibilities that surround a friendship. Though you could be distracted, do not miss a scheduled meeting. It is important for you to focus right now. Detachment will help you see the bigger picture. Tonight: Not alone.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Deal with people directly. As uncomfortable as you might be, you'll be able to visualize a new situation that could be better for you. Make it OK to experience some risk-taking. Tonight: A chat with a trusted friend.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Your ability to see past the obvious usually kicks in when that skill is needed. Though others still might act dominant, you'll feel as if their suggestions or plans are on target. Detach, and you'll better understand your resistance. Tonight: Try something different.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You will be in sync with a key person in your life. You might have been wondering which way to go in a very intense matter. After a discussion, your questions will dissolve, revealing what is possible. Tonight: Be with a special person.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Listen to news more openly. You might have mixed feelings about a situation. Others think they are open, too. Challenging them will not help; instead, try opening them up through conversations. Do nothing halfway. Listen to your instincts. Tonight: Let the fun begin.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Pace yourself, as you have a lot of ground to cover. On some level, the thoughts running through your mind might distract you from the here and now. You could be a little off-kilter and give an odd response. Tonight: To the wee hours.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You might want to handle a situation in a more creative way. You still need to keep those involved in the loop. The importance of communication cannot be underestimated. Tonight: Time for some healthy play or exercise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ An investment opportunity comes forward, and you might feel as if you have no choice but to take a risk. The issue revolves around a personal and/or a real-estate matter. Others might want to discuss the situation, but you could be unusually closed off. Tonight: Head home.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ You might want to think through an offer that easily could be too good to be true. Share your thoughts with a trusted adviser and friend. By the time you finish talking, you will know which way to go. Tonight: Hang with a friend.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You could be overtired and withdrawn. Your mind has been working overtime regarding a financial matter. Sort through the risks, if there are any, and make a choice accordingly. Tonight: Take a hard look at your budget.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ A friend or loved one whispers information in your ear. This person feels that these facts are important for you to know. Even if you do not agree, express your appreciation. A meeting could be more important to your life direction than you realize. Tonight: Make yourself happy.

Happy birthday

This year you develop a new hobby or interest. Though you might have flirted with the idea of trying this pastime before, it wasn't until recently that you decided to become informed on the subject. With this mental expansion come new friends of a different mindset. Their energy invigorates your life. If you are single, you have a unique opportunity to enrich your inner circle and meet someone very different. You actually might decide to change "types." If you are attached, as a couple, you will socialize more and share more with each other. PISCES knows how to draw you out, even if you are reluctant.

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



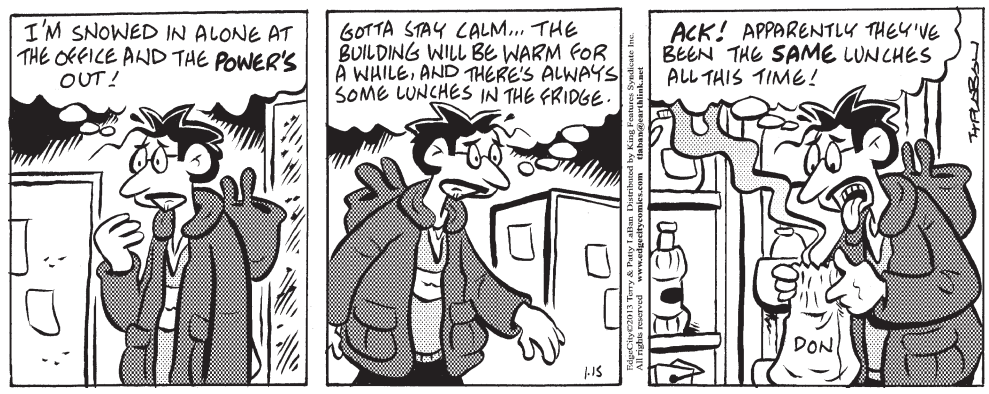
Strange Brew
By John Deering



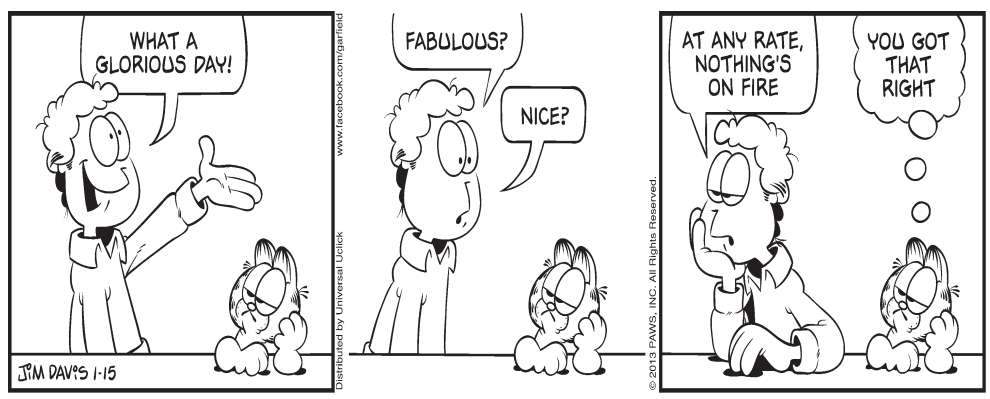
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



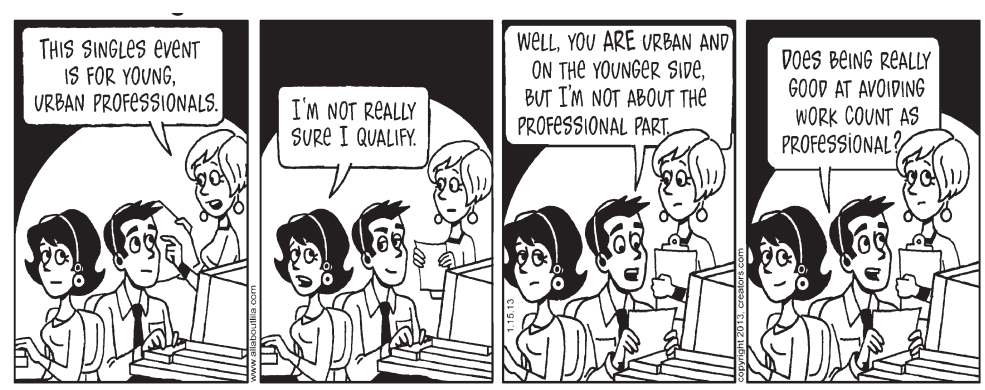
Edge City
By Terry & Patty LaBan



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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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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.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Corrosive stuff
5 Black-and-white creature
10 Muscularly firm
12 Saucer flier
13 Camcorder power source
15 Hatchet's cousin
16 Guitarist Paul
17 Baseball's Ripken
18 Past, present and future
20 Ocean motion
21 Declare
22 Folding money
23 Physicist Enrico
25 Partner
28 Electrical units
31 Nights before
32 Beginnings
34 Hr. part
35 Diner dessert
36 Crested bird
37 Manhattan's southernmost point
40 Old anesthetic
41 "À votre —"
42 Bowling-alley button
43 Defeat

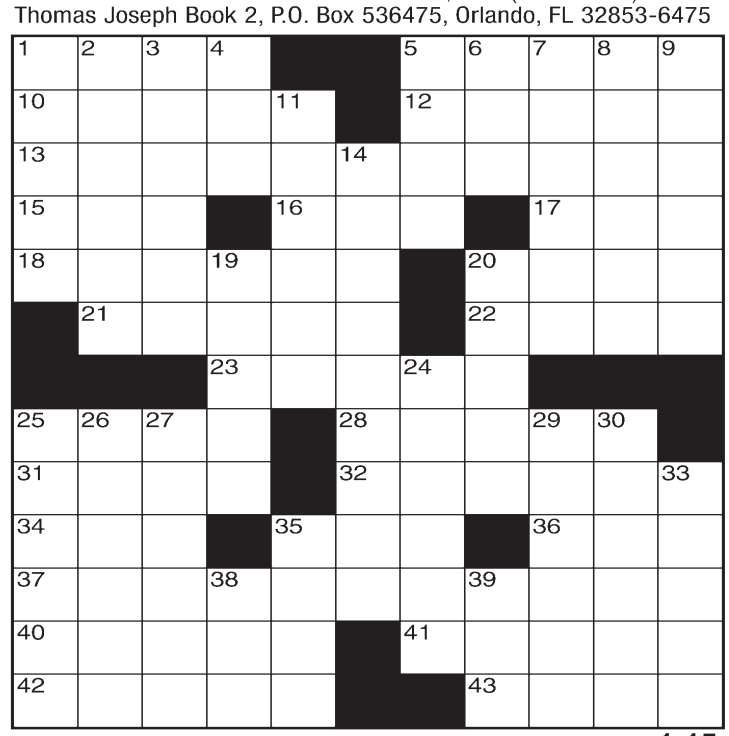
DOWN

1 Chance to swing
2 Cajoles
3 Purpose
4 Police investigator: Abbr.
5 Forks over
6 Swiss peak
7 B vitamin
8 Century fraction
9 Low joints
11 Computer key
14 Artificial lake
19 Bank fixtures
20 Works hard
24 Financial sums
25 Individual in a club
26 Fly
27 Decimal fractions
29 Selena's music style
30 Sets off
33 Comic Wanda
35 Saucy
38 Golf need
39 Chum

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

Yesterday's answer

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



1-15

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/11
24 29 30 34 56
Meganumber: 1
Jackpot: $62M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 1/12
10 11 27 34 39
Meganumber: 27
Jackpot: $13M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/14
16 17 18 19 20

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 1/14
MIDDAY: 0 2 7
EVENING: 4 2 2

SANTA ANITA PARK
Draw Date: 1/14
1st: 05 California Classic
2nd: 12 Lucky Charms
3rd: 10 Solid Gold
RACE TIME: 1:42.59

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Mauricio Fierro gained instant fame in December in Sao Paulo, Brazil, as the reported victim of a car theft (captured on surveillance video) when he dashed into a pharmacy. He went to a police station to file a report, but encountered the pharmacy owner making his own report -- that Fierro was actually robbing him at the moment the car was taken. More surveillance video revealed that while Fierro was standing outside the pharmacy, wondering where his car was, a man ran by and stole the stolen cash. Fierro then immoderately complained to the police even more about Sao Paulo's crime rate and lack of security. Afterward, Fierro admitted to a local news website that in fact he had stolen the very car that he was reporting stolen.

■ Former undercover cop Mark Kennedy filed for damages in October against the London Metropolitan police, claiming post-traumatic stress syndrome based on the department's "negligence" in allowing him to have such a robust sex life on the job that he fell in love with a woman whose organization he had infiltrated. Kennedy's wife has filed for divorce and is also suing the department, and 10 other women (including three of Kennedy's former lovers) have also filed claims.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1992 - The international community recognizes the independence of Slovenia and Croatia from the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

1993 - Salvatore Riina, the Mafia boss known as "The Beast", is arrested in Sicily, Italy after three decades as a fugitive.

2005 - ESA's SMART-1 lunar orbiter discovers elements such as calcium, aluminum, silicon, iron, and other surface elements on the moon.

WORD UP!

also-ran
\ AWL-soh-ran \ , noun;
1. Informal . A person who loses a contest, election, or other competition.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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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.

Services

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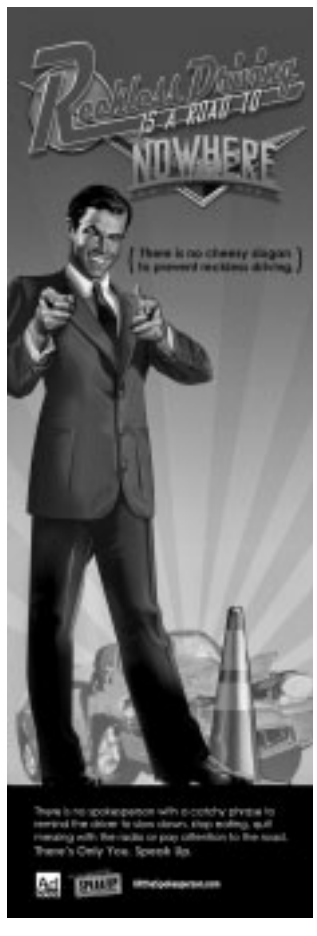
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* Great Location
* 2 Bedroom
* 2.5 Baths
* Private Sun Deck
* Huge Loft



Just Reduced

603 16th Street
For Lease
$5,750 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 mid January 2013		
Santa Monica Canyon	=	$1,650,000
North of Montana	=	$5,285,700
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$2,425,800
South of Wilshire	=	$1,375,000
Sunset Park	=	$1,368,380
Ocean Park	=	$1,916,000
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.