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Volume 13 Issue 61



Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

MAKE PLANS FOR THE WEEKEND
SEE PAGE 2

THE EVERYONE'S A CRITIC ISSUE



Photo courtesy SMPD

SEEN IT? **Police say a 2010 or 2012 gray Toyota Corolla hit a jogger on San Vicente Boulevard.**

Police hunt for driver in hit-and-run

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor-in-Chief

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY Santa Monica Police officers were on the hunt Friday for a driver who hit a teenage jogger and then fled the scene.

The hit-and-run took place on Tuesday around 10:50 p.m. along the 2300 block of San Vicente Boulevard.

Police said the 17-year-old girl was jogging near the curb when the driver of a 2010 or 2012 Toyota Corolla, metallic gray in color, struck her and then continued driving east. A passing motorist saw the collision and called police.

The jogger was transported to a local hospital where the Santa Monica resident was listed in critical condition. Police did not provide an update on her health.

The suspect's vehicle is believed to have noticeable collision damage to the front end, police said.

Anyone with information is urged to contact investigator Jason Olson at (310) 458-8954 or the watch commander at (310) 458-8495.

Those who wish to remain anonymous can contact Crime Stoppers by either calling (800) 222-TIPS (8477) or by visiting their website at www.lacrimestoppers.org. To text an anonymous tip, view the website for details. If information leads to an arrest, the tipster is eligible to receive a reward up to $1,000, police said.

kevinh@smdp.com

Pedicabs are heating up

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN City Hall underestimated how popular the pedicabs would be.

Revenues from permits and business licenses are nearly five times what city officials projected before the pedicab ordinance was passed last April. The city by the sea is now home to seven pedicab companies, 40 registered vehicles, and 56 drivers, according to a recent report from City Hall.

The ordinance passed by City Council required all pedicab companies to register with City Hall and prohibited them from riding on densely traveled areas like the Third Street Promenade and the beach bike path.

On a cloudy Friday afternoon Jason Arbogast and Ray Martinez, owners of Pedicab-It, are out on the corner of Ocean and Colorado avenues with their blinking

SEE BIZ PAGE 10



SURF'S UP!

Photo courtesy Steve Christensen

Santa Monican Mike Vaughan, Jr. catches a tube near Venice Beach Friday morning. A high surf advisory remains in effect until Sunday morning thanks to a strong storm system over the central Pacific Ocean. Expect waves as tall as 7 to 12 feet across west-facing shores.

Council getting hip to what the kids are up to

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The youth these days just don't seem to care about conditional use permits or zoning ordinance updates.

City Council wants to change that.

Council voted unanimously (at a meeting that coincidentally featured a rare group of young people; they were protesting changes to the Santa Monica Pier summer concerts) to try to engage the younger generation on civic issues.

A quarter of all Santa Monicans are between the ages of 20 and 35, city officials said, but they generally don't visibly partic-

SEE ENGAGE PAGE 10


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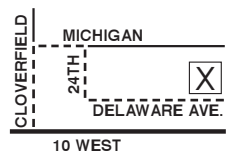
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, Jan. 25, 2014

Seeing stars
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 PCH, 11 a.m.
An exhibition located within a 16-foot truck by artist Corrie Siegel, Star Tours is a nomadic initiative which draws connections between local communities, Los Angeles history, and cross-cultural narratives of diaspora. For more information, call (310) 458-4904.

Staying healthy
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 12 p.m.
Popular local personal trainer Shawn Phillips shares tips for losing body fat and feeling younger using an innovative holistic approach. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Powerful patient
Ocean Park Branch Library
2601 Main St., 2 p.m.
Dr. Joseph Pinzone, a practitioner from AMAI's new innovative medical and wellness practice in Santa Monica, will discuss how to take control of your health and health care needs. This lecture will address universal medical principles that are highly relevant with the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. For more information call (310) 458-8683 or go to www.smpl.org.

Tight knit
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 3:30 p.m.
Knitting, conversation, and tea at the library. Everyone welcome. For more information, call (310) 458-8681.

Samohi's finest
Humanities Center Theater
601 Pico Blvd., 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
Music lovers: don't miss Santa Monica High School Choir's contemporary cabaret-style performance series Cafe Samo. Tickets are only $10 at the door. Nearly 60 performers will sing, play and entertain; you will be amazed at the talent. This show is student run and cast; some of the arrangements are done by the students as well, and all have learned from Samohi Choir's remarkable director Jeffe Huls. Seating is limited so arrive early, Some street parking available on Seventh Street. Ample parking at the Civic Center lot. For a map of Samohi visit www.smmarts.info/VAPAmaps.html

Go nuclear
SGI-USA Culture of Peace Resource Center
606 Wilshire Blvd., 4 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.
Dr. Tad Daley, an expert on nuclear abolition, will speak. The topic, "Can abolishing nuclear weapons lead to abolishing war?" For more information call (310) 309-3209.

Sunday, Jan. 26, 2014

Elected leaders speak
Pacific Palisades Woman's Club
901 Haverford Ave., Pacific Palisades, 2 p.m. — 4 p.m.
The Pacific Palisades Democratic Club will hold its Annual Meeting, open to the public, featuring addresses by Congressman Henry Waxman, Assemblymember Richard Bloom, and L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti. Refreshments will be served and parking will be available. Admission free (optional $10 suggested donation to help defray costs). For more information visit www.palisadesdemclub.org or call (310) 230-2084.

Monday, Jan. 27, 2013

State of things
Santa Monica Pier 1550 Lot, 7 a.m.
The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce is hosting the annual State of the City event under the Cirque du Soleil's Grand Chapiteau. This year's theme is "Global Visionaries and Local Leaders Building 21st Century Cities." State of the City attendees will have an opportunity to engage with the city departments and partners on their premiere developments including the Expo Line and Colorado Esplanade and network among members of the business community, city leaders, and residents. Tickets and more information can be found at www.smchamber.com/SOTC or by calling (310) 393-9825.

Living in the city
Main Library, MLK Auditorium
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m.
Santa Monica Public Library presents a screening and discussion of the thought-provoking documentary "Urbanized," which looks at the design of cities. The screening will be followed by a discussion with local urban design experts Scott Schonfeld and Julie Eizenberg. A pre-screening, meet and greet reception begins at 6 p.m. This screening is free and open to all ages. For more information on Santa Monica Public Library programs, visit smpl.org or contact the library at (310) 458-8600.

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**

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Kenyans among top L.A. Marathon entrants

Defending champion Erick Mose of Kenya and runner-up Julius Keter of Kenya have committed to the Los Angeles Marathon.

The race to be run March 9 will follow the same course that begins at Dodger Stadium and finishes near the Santa Monica Pier.

Last year, Mose rallied in the final two miles to overtake countryman Keter, the grandson of Olympian Kip Keino, and win. Also committing to the race are Ethiopians Gezahegn Alemayehu, Raji Assefa and Fikre Assefa, along with rising Americans Aaron Braun, Adam Roach and Stephan Shay.

The women's field includes five top Ethiopian runners: Gulume Chala, Degefa Bruktayit Eshetu and Genet Getaneh, along with Olena Burkovska of Ukraine.

– ASSOCIATED PRESS

SMMUSD HDQTRS

Ed Foundation nearly $1M short

The Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation is roughly $1 million short of its fundraising goal heading into the last week of its campaign to get $4 million to reduce class sizes, hire more teachers' aides and provide arts instruction for every elementary grade.

Officials with the Ed Foundation are encouraging families, community members and business leaders to donate to the Vision for Student Success before the Jan. 31 deadline.

In November 2011 the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education designated the Ed Foundation as the sole organization to raise money for personnel and professional development at all schools. The foundation is charged with raising $4 million annually.

The Vision for Student Success was borne out of that policy and will be enacted in 2014-15. The program focuses on reduced class sizes in second and third grade, training for aides, literacy coaches, art instruction for every elementary grade and teacher professional development.

The switch to centralized fundraising was very controversial, with some parents upset that money donated would not necessarily go directly to their child's school. Some said they would stop donating altogether and instead provide supplies or other materials not subject to the new policy.

Supporters said centralized fundraising will even the playing field across the district by pooling resources.

To learn more about the fundraising campaign, visit www.smmef.org.

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MEETING A NEED

Photo courtesy Martha Hertzberg

Franklin Elementary School student Anna Kroskrity (center with clipboard) makes note of the number of diapers fellow students and their families donated Friday during the third annual Diaper Drive for parents in need. This year the students collected around 12,000 diapers. Diapers are not covered by food stamps. And, they're expensive. Research shows parents are forced to compromise and end up reusing diapers and leaving babies in dirty diapers far too long. Kroskrity spearheaded the collection effort.

New Civic Center parks praised for design

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

CIVIC CENTER Santa Monica's Tongva Park and Ken Genser Square, which opened to the public late last year, have been named "Frontline Parks" by the national urban park advocacy organization City Parks Alliance.

Each month, City Parks Alliance recognizes a "Frontline Park" to promote and highlight inspiring examples of urban park excellence, innovation, and stewardship across the country. The program also seeks to highlight examples of the challenges facing our cities' parks as a result of shrinking municipal budgets, land use pressures, and urban neighborhood decay.

"We selected Santa Monica's Tongva Park and Ken Genser Square for recognition because they exemplify the power of urban parks to build community and make our cities sustainable and vibrant," said Catherine Nagel, executive director, City Parks Alliance. "We hope that, by shining the spotlight on these parks, we can raise awareness about both the necessity and the promise of public open space to spur investment in our nation's urban parks."

Built on a site previously occupied by the RAND Corporation's headquarters and more recently a surface parking lot, Tongva Park and Ken Genser Square encompass 7 acres in Santa Monica's Civic Center. The completion of these parks, which cost taxpayers roughly $43 million, represents a key step toward completing a plan that re-envisions the 67-acre Civic Center area as a vibrant new neighborhood, city officials said.

The parks provide links between the area and the iconic Santa Monica Pier, Palisades Park, Downtown, and Santa Monica State Beach.

Tongva Park, named for the indigenous people who have lived in the Los Angeles area for thousands of years, boasts hundreds of trees, a playground, public art, water features, and observation decks that offer views of the Pacific Ocean.

Designed by James Corner's Field Operations landscape architecture firm, known for their work on the elevated High Line in New York City, the design is meant to recall the Southern California arroyo landscape of washes and ravines. With dramatic rising and falling topography, the park is organized into four thematic hills, providing different experiences for visitors.

The arroyo theme continues through the 1-acre Ken Genser Square, located in front of the landmarked City

SEE **PARKS** PAGE 11

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Ruined it

Editor:

In 1979 I moved to the then lovely seaside community of Santa Monica, away from the canyons and crowding of Manhattan. I was able to find a nice rent-controlled apartment, which allowed me to save and put aside enough money to comfortably retire on.

Yet, while I loved Santa Monica for its people, beauty, charm and quiet, it changed for the worse over the next several decades, becoming comparable to all that's bad about New York. The same people who protected my rent-controlled apartment and low rent were also the ones who refused to protect me, my friends and neighbors from all the mammoth new buildings and problem traffic that has slowly choked the life out of my adopted home.

What a shame. But I retired recently to a beautiful part of Florida, away from the crowding and congestion of Santa Monica, the place I used to love calling home. Hopefully, the local politicians won't retire to Florida where I now live and ruin it like they did to Santa Monica.

Marty Steinberg
Spring Hill, Fla.

P.S. I can still enjoy reading your paper on the Internet, although the news is not always good.

Hypocritical

Editor:

Once again the leadership of Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights (SMRR) is talking out of both sides of their mouths, trying to convince us Santa Monicans that the group is actually anti-development ("SMRR board says can the Hines project," Jan. 22).

For those who don't know, SMRR is the single political party in Santa Monica that has controlled all aspects of city politics, government, planning and development for the past 35 years. You can see and experience all the dreadful changes that have occurred over that time period on SMRR's watch.

SMRR, through its hand-picked political operatives, including the City Council, Planning Commission and other boards, is completely responsible for all the devastation caused by over-development and traffic congestion in the city.

Allow me to say it again. SMRR has supported and approved all the massive commercial and residential development that has increased density and caused traffic congestion throughout Santa Monica. Traffic congestion has been further exacerbated by its support of the citywide elimination of traffic lanes. And don't forget about the group's support of and investment in a train it claims will reduce traffic, but in fact will only increase traffic congestion when intersections will regularly and repeatedly be blocked to allow the train to pass.

So it is disingenuous when SMRR now voices opposition to a development at the Hines property by now denouncing past over-development that came before this project and condemning snarled traffic patterns while trying to convince us to ignore the group's support of the over-development that led to these conditions and has put us in the rotten predicament we now are in. And the group, which has been touting the train as the salvation to our traffic woes, now wants to dismiss its relevance and effectiveness, at least for the time being in order to oppose the Hines project.

SMRR has supported and approved all this over-development and the resulting traffic congestion with the same gusto and jubilation that a drunken sailor throws away money while on shore leave. Perhaps SMRR only opposes the Hines development because it does not contain enough apartments occupied by renters the group hopes to convert into the ill-informed voting disciples who will fall for the group's duplicitous rhetoric that SMRR actually cares about renters and opposes over-development.

Of course, and in all fairness, it's also the brainless voters who continue to buy into SMRR's double-talk and blather and keep electing the pro-development politicians supported by the group

Conor McCaulley
Santa Monica



Your column here

Denny Zane — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Don't let one mistake lead to another

AS A FORMER CITY COUNCIL MEMBER and mayor, and a community activist in Santa Monica for more than 30 years, I have seen my share of local development controversies. There have been some projects I have actively supported and some projects I have actively opposed, believing that good development can benefit our community while objectionable development can truly harm.

The City Council of today should learn from both the successes and mistakes of its predecessors, especially the big mistakes, because they will be with us for decades.

In the late 1970s and the mid-1980s, pro-development council majorities made several zinger mistakes. At the urging of a pro-development community group of business leaders and residents, they approved over 4 million square feet of commercial office parks, most of it in the Olympic Boulevard corridor. Many community members, including Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights (SMRR) and two SMRR-supported City Council members, myself and David Finkel, objected to these projects, particularly the Water Garden and the project now called The Arboretum.

We argued then that these large, self-contained commercial office parks would generate intense local traffic and would not generate significant community benefits. As revenue generators they would be modest; as traffic generators they would be prolific.

Nor was there reason to think those projects were likely to generate jobs for residents. Instead, they would be stand-alone commercial campuses that would bring in thousands of employees and their cars each day during the morning rush hour and the same thousands would leave the city in the evening. There would be little spin-off economic-development-value from these self-contained projects.

Nevertheless, the pro-development council majority ignored objections and approved those projects. The lessons we have learned since have clearly validated the objections expressed then by the larger community. Overwhelming traffic in the morning has become legendary traffic in the evening — legendary not only locally, but throughout the region. Trying to leave Santa Monica in the evening along Olympic or any other east-west arterial has become preposterous: it regularly takes an hour to make it a couple miles to the 405.

Yes, worsening traffic on the 405 and other parts of the Westside contribute to this malaise. But there is no denying that the council members who voted "Yes" on millions of square feet of office parks have burdened this community in an avoidable and unnecessary way, to little positive local benefit.

Perhaps the council members of that time could claim innocence: "We didn't really know," Olympic and other arterials had unused capacity. Maybe then, but not so today.

This coming Tuesday the council will deliberate on the nearly 800,000 square foot Hines project at the site of the old Paper Mate plant at Olympic and 26th Street. About half of the proposed Hines development will also be commercial office space — among the most traffic intensive uses. The project will be across the street from a future Exposition Light Rail station. It is also across another street from the 1.2 million square foot Water Garden. There is over 3 million square feet of office park in the immediate area.

The likely burdens of this project are clearly evident. The council knows full well that the traffic generated by commercial office space in the proposed Hines development will come in the morning and leave in the evening, layered on top of the dreadful traffic already generated by the Water Garden, The Arboretum, Colorado Center and the Viacom building.

I believe that approval of this project would clearly be piling on, adding excessive traffic into the teeth of arguably the worst traffic gridlock in L.A. County. This fact is inescapable.

It is true that almost half of the Hines project is residential. In my view, the residential portion of the project should be welcome. A residential project similarly scaled with only ground floor commercial services should be welcome. Traffic generated by such a residential project would be much less and would not follow the same pattern and not create the same burden as commercial office space.

In addition, a smart development agreement could require those residential units to be actively marketed to employees at nearby office projects, helping to reduce traffic from those developments.

What might justify the council ignoring existing traffic conditions in this corridor and adding significant new traffic to an already exceptionally bad situation? New revenue to a cash-strapped community? The $2 million per year in estimated new revenue from this project is quite modest and certainly does not justify adding to the mounting traffic burden of this corridor of the city, especially as the city is experiencing a rebound in its economy and local revenue.

The proximity to the much anticipated Exposition light rail station? As a transit advocate, I object to the expanding transit system being employed to justify otherwise unwise development. I believe in enhanced densities around transit, but that does not mean all existing conditions or likely local burdens should be ignored, obviously. Santa Monica is already one of the highest density communities in the entire region. It is an important reason why Expo ridership projections are quite high.

Residents of Santa Monica who voted overwhelmingly for Measure R in 2008 expected that the Exposition line would help bring relief to peak hour traffic in this corridor and not simply serve as a political pretext to worsen it with unwise development.

Some say that this project is an opportunity for Santa Monica to anchor its position as the "capital of Silicon Beach." Frankly, that status is already well and sufficiently anchored. I do not think we as a community gain much when the creative talents of the digital workforce simply drive in in the morning and leave at night. Rather, we should create opportunities for this workforce already here to actually live amongst us and truly become part of our community. That is what a mixed-use, primarily residential Hines project could provide.

Unfortunately, a residential project is not what is before the city. Unfortunately, the environmental review for this project did not evaluate a truly residential alternative. Thus, it is unclear that the council could approve a project with all residential above the first floor and neighborhood commercial on the ground floor without beginning deliberations anew. If necessary, that is exactly what they should do.

If that is not possible, then the council should just say no. Save everyone the hassle and the expense of fighting it out at the ballot box.

DENNY ZANE is the former mayor of Santa Monica and Co-founder and former Co-chair of Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights (SMRR). Currently he serves as the executive director of Move LA, an advocacy group for public transit.

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The Q Line

Looking back

The 20th anniversary of the Northridge earthquake brought back vivid memories for Santa Monicans who experienced it.

This past week, Q-line asked:
What do you remember most about the quake and why?

Here are your responses:

"THE MOST IMPORTANT THING THAT affected Santa Monica after the quake was a hearing in Sacramento. The State Senate was inquiring about the difficulties landlords, whose rental buildings were red or yellow tagged, were having getting FEMA loans. The Rent Control Board had been denying landlords rent increases to repair damaged units. FEMA then denied the loans as there would not be money to pay the loans back after the repairs. The RCB administrator stated to the senators, that was fair. It was amazing to see even the democratic senators from the Bay Area shake their heads in disbelief over this. It was the beginning of how the Costa Hawkins bill started that now allows vacancy decontrol. I often wonder if the Rent Control Board had been more flexible if some renters who had to leave their damaged units would still be here now."

"BAD ENOUGH THERE WAS AN earthquake. They could at least have had it at a decent hour. The house was fine, though no power for a few days. I went to work, a sandwich place in Westwood Village. No damages there, just a couple of broken bottles. There was power there. We were so busy we ended up closing early because we pretty much ran out of everything. When you are in one of the few areas up and running, people come. It was the busiest we ever were."

"WHAT I REMEMBER MOST ABOUT THE earthquake, besides being woke up and losing two TVs, one from falling down, one from the power surge, is some knuckleheads coming by and shutting the gas off to our apartment building, even though there was no gas leak. Couldn't cook or anything like that until Friday. Luckily our apartment manager came by Wednesday and was able to turn the gas on so we could take a bath. The worst thing was after I got my TV, watching the TV and then watching the aftershock going through Burbank and then later through Santa Monica, and seeing the terrible damage on Euclid and on 17th Street and Santa Monica Boulevard. That was just so frightening. Strangest thing, my dad and his girlfriend were going on a cruise that day and were in Hollywood and didn't feel anything. ... He couldn't believe I was complaining about a really bad earthquake."

"WHAT WE REMEMBER MOST ABOUT the earthquake was how badly rigged and corrupt the public process was regarding the landlords' requests for earthquake increases. We found out long after the fact that increases were based on landlord estimates of the cost of damages without any proof of payment to contractors required. ... All of these items were approved by the Rent Control Board. When tenants went looking for building records at building and safety, the history of their buildings, including blueprints, were often strangely missing. As a result, tenants' claims against the increases were dismissed as hearsay by Rent Control Board members. Even worse, assorted flagrant city conflicts of interest with contractors and lawyers working with landlords were suppressed. Does it sound like the way the city operates today? Well this happened from 1995 to 1997. Nothing really changes here in Santa Monica."

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"I WAS IN IZZY'S DELI AT 4:30 IN THE morning when the earthquake hit. All the windows blew in. I ran underneath the table. Little did I know there was a huge chandelier hanging over my head. It didn't fall down. All the windows shattered and I ran out, got into my car and went home. When I came back about three or four hours later all the windows were boarded up and there were people in there eating breakfast like nothing happened."

"I REMEMBER IT VIVIDLY. MY SON WAS a little toddler and we had this adorable duplex on 20th Street. I spent the majority of the day cleaning the shards of glass and all the stuff that fell down in my adorable place. My son was absolutely adorable. I wore this black caftan and spent the majority of the day cleaning up."

"MY NORTHRIDGE EARTHQUAKE remembrance is this: While it was a truly scary event, one sort of magical thing happened. I was living with my grown daughter, who at the time was dating my now son-in-law. She was at his place the night of the earthquake. I was alone. I woke up uneasy just before the earthquake hit, apparently from a bad dream. I turned on the television to ease my mind. A few minutes later the television came hurtling across the room as the earthquake hit. When we were allowed back in the building later that morning I was greeted with an unexpected sight. The apartment, of course, was a complete mess, with broken glass and debris all over the floor. On one side of the wall there had been a desk that the computer and printer sat on. Earlier that evening, my daughter had placed a rose in a vase on the desk between the computer and the printer, both of which were across the room smashed on the floor. Sitting grandly atop the desk was the brave little rose in that slim vase and not one drop of water was spilled. I told my daughter she should marry that man – he had magical powers!"

SEE QUAKE PAGE 10



City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Ordinance Numbers 2450-2451 (CCS)
(City Council Series)

The following are summaries of Ordinances No. 2452 and 2453, which were adopted by the Santa Monica City Council at its meeting of January 14, 2014.

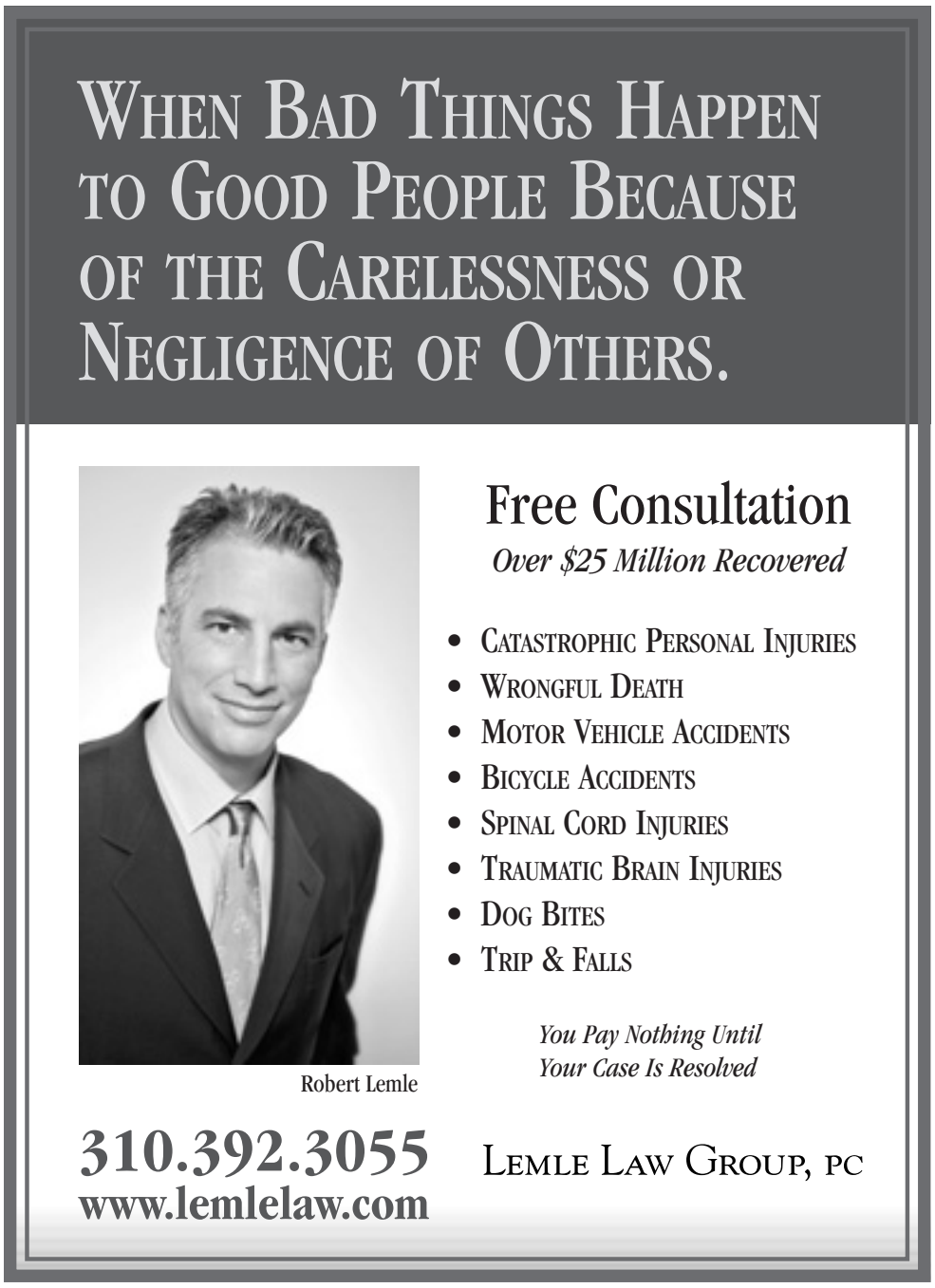
Ordinance Number 2452 extends until May 31, 2014 the current Interim Zoning Ordinance, which establishes interim development procedures pending implementation of the Land Use and Circulation Element through adoption of a new zoning ordinance.

Ordinance Number 2453 expands the protections afforded by the Municipal Code provisions governing relocation benefits by prohibiting a landlord from conditioning the payment of such benefits on a tenant's agreement not to participate in the public process. The new law also voids any such agreement.

Ordinances No. 2452 and 2453 will become effective 30 days after their adoption. The full text of the ordinances is available from the Office of the City Clerk at 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California 90401; phone (310) 458-8211.







California high-speed rail, Amtrak in joint train bid

BY JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. California's High-Speed Rail Authority and Amtrak on Friday released a joint request for proposals to build trains for California's planned bullet train and Amtrak's Northeast Corridor.

The California agency is seeking an initial order of 15 so-called "trainsets," which can travel at minimum speeds of 200 mph. Each will have a minimum of 450 seats distributed throughout several cars, determined by the bidders.

The trains must be able to meet the bullet train's planned trip time of 2 hours and 40 minutes between Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area. Opponents claim that modifications made to address funding problems and appease urban residents mean the system will not be able to meet that time.

Amtrak is seeking up to 28 trainsets for its Acela line, which runs between Boston and Washington, D.C. Those trains must be able to travel at least 160 mph on the existing infrastructure.

Unlike on a conventional train, the engines will be distributed throughout the cars.

The two agencies previously announced a partnership to bid for about 60 trains over the next decade. The aim is for manufacturers to design trains that will work for both systems and allow their combined buying power to generate better pricing from manufacturers.

Officials also hope it will promote manufacturing within the U.S.

"Combining California's and Amtrak's orders will help make it worthwhile for manufacturers to locate in the United States, create jobs and deliver 21st century, state-of-the art trainsets," High-Speed Rail Authority chief executive Jeff Morales said in a statement.

California's high-speed rail project has been dogged by legal setbacks in recent months.

In November, a Sacramento County Superior Court judge rescinded the rail authority's funding plan, ordering it to get more environmental clearances and show how it will pay for the first 300 miles of work. The judge agreed with opponents that those details were required in the voter initiative that authorized funding.

That 300-mile segment alone is projected to cost $31 billion. The entire system is estimated at 520 miles.

The judge also blocked the further sale of roughly $9 billion in bonds that were approved as part of the 2008 initiative, money the state had planned to use to start work in the Central Valley.

But Gov. Jerry Brown still backs the project and is proposing to spend $250 million in state environmental money to keep it going.

Bay Bridge blunders highlighted

BY JASON DEAREN
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO After numerous delays and cost overruns, pressure to complete the new $6.4 billion eastern span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge led to pieces being created with cracked welds and other subpar work, government and private engineers told a state Senate commission on Friday.

The engineers did not conclude the new span is unsafe, but they told the state Senate's Transportation and Housing Committee that myriad construction mistakes could have been prevented. They said the mistakes could lead to costly future repairs.

"There was extreme pressure to not stop during the procedure because of a race for time," former California Department of Transportation bridge engineer Douglas Coe, a 25-year department veteran, told the committee.

Coe said he was moved to another department after raising concerns about cracks in welds to upper management.

The hearing followed a report released earlier in the week by the committee. The Associated Press covered the hearing from a live webcast.

Malcolm Dougherty, Caltrans' director, admitted mistakes were made during the long bridge project, but that the agency went above and beyond in quality control on welds and other areas of concern.

He said the opinions of Coe and others on the panel did not reflect the consensus of the hundreds of people, including many engineers, who worked on the bridge.

"The quality assurance on this project exceeded the norms, not the opposite," Dougherty said. "Any assertion that the bridge is not safe we would absolutely disagree with."

The report detailed accusations that Caltrans managers repeatedly dismissed concerns by quality-assurance experts about the integrity of seismic safety rods — important pieces that hold a shock-absorber-like piece called a "shear key" to the bridge deck.

Dozens of those rods cracked in March after being tightened, a failure that cost $25 million to repair.

Metallurgy experts, including James Merrill, an engineer who was hired by Caltrans to inspect the construction of key bridge pieces, said the defective seismic safety rods were made of a corrosion-prone steel that should never have been used.

Merrill testified that his report urged more testing on the rods, but that Caltrans approved them anyway.

Lisa Thomas, a metallurgist with Berkeley Research Co., said Caltrans chose the wrong steel for the rods, and said the agency had no experts on staff to help guide the decision.

"There was not metallurgical expertise on this project from start to finish," Thomas said.

Dougherty refuted that notion, saying the agency has metallurgists it consults.

The experts also expressed concerns about welds made in China that were disregarded by upper Caltrans management.

Merrill, who works for the contractor, MacTec Engineering, that was hired to oversee welds being done by the Chinese firm Shanghai Zhenhua Heavy Industry Co. Ltd, or ZPMC, said he raised concerns early on about the process.

Steve Heminger, a member of the Toll Bridge Program Oversight Committee, the bridge project's watchdog, said all concerns over the welds were taken seriously and investigated.

Heminger said a team of investigators was sent to China and created a report that led to changes in the way welds were handled.

According to Caltrans, efforts to reduce cracks were increased in 2009 after the concerns were brought forward and pieces were repaired before being installed.

State of Union: A speech its writers love to hate

BY NANCY BENAC
Associated Press

WASHINGTON When President Barack Obama stands before Congress and the nation Tuesday night, there will be little hint of the cram-it-in, squeeze-it-out, please-put-it-back dynamic that went into the making of his State of the Union address.

In the days and weeks before every State of the Union, Cabinet members, policy advocates and others suddenly find reasons to visit the speechwriting team's modest outpost in the White House basement, hoping for that all-important mention in the biggest presidential speech of the year.

"Nobody wants to get left out," said Bruce Reed, a veteran of both the Obama and Clinton White Houses who recently left government.

It's one reason the State of the Union is the address that presidential speechwriters love to hate.

One of George W. Bush's speechwriters once called this final stretch the "seven-day death march."

"It's not a nice, neat process, I can tell you that," said Jon Favreau, who led Obama's speechwriting team for more than four years before leaving government a year ago.

This year, with just days left before the big speech, Obama's chief speechwriter, Cody Keenan, already has gotten plenty of helpful (and not-so-helpful) advice.

He's sat through face-to-face meetings with nearly every Cabinet member and given all of them his e-mail address.

"For that, he is saintly," Favreau said.

Piety's nice. But the ability to say no is essential.

For every sentence that's in the speech, there are a dozen pages that won't make the cut, said Bill McGurn, Bush's chief speechwriter for three years.

"This is the opportunity for every apparatchik in government to have their pet cause or the issue they're working on promoted by the president on national TV," he said. "They get disappointed if they only get a sentence, but it's better than not getting a sentence."

Bush himself was wary of the dreaded "cram-in" — that sentence that just seemed to stick out because someone insisted on wedging in a mention of this or that.

"I used to joke that I was installing a round keyboard in my office so everyone could type at once," said Michael Waldman, President Bill Clinton's chief speechwriter from 1995 to 1999.

For Obama's State of the Union, Favreau had a "pay-as-you-go" policy: For every word someone wanted to add to a draft, they had to find something else to cut.

He said Obama gives the speechwriting team plenty of leeway to push back against clutter by saying, "We're not going to do this just because someone random said that they need to get it in."

But if someone won't back down, the dispute may go up the chain of command to Obama.

With the final 72 hours of back-and-forth before the speech typically the most frantic time, Keenan's White House colleagues are helping him gird for the final stretch.

One made him energy cookies and another gave him an industrial-sized Keurig machine that is said to sound like a jackhammer when coffee's brewing.

Obama, like presidents past, starts each year vowing to keep the speech from turning into a laundry list. He's big on finding an organizing theme, such as "Built to Last" in 2012 or "Winning the Future" in 2011. (Sarah Palin called the latter a "WTF" moment.)

But every president, including Obama, inevitably succumbs to the pressure to cover a multitude of bases, lest he be criticized for slighting something important.

"Usually it begins pretty coherently for the first 10-15 minutes," said Jeff Sheshol, a former Clinton speechwriter. "But then it starts to devolve a little bit into a list of this, that and the other thing that all have to be mentioned."

Work on Obama's State of the Union begins in the fall, long before the speechwriters start filling up blank sheets of paper.

Cabinet members and leading policy people begin pulling together ideas for the coming year. It's not unusual for the White House to solicit fresh ideas from outsiders, including historians and academics. There's an early meeting with Obama, where the president lays out his thoughts on a theme and his main policy preferences.

Most ideas from outside the White House "die on the cutting room floor long before the speechwriter has to translate them into English," Reed said.

Some fail to find a friend within the White House, others are too contentious on Capitol Hill, still more sound great but there's no money to pay for them.

Sometimes the idea is fine; there's just not enough time to talk about it.

This year, coordination of the policy side of the speech has been a group effort involving Natalie Quillian, a senior adviser to chief of staff Denis McDonough who flitted between dozens of meetings right up until ducking out to have a baby earlier this month, as well as Obama aides Dan Pfeiffer and David Simas.

At some point, though, the speechwriters "just stop waiting for every policy decision to be made and start writing, because it can take right up until the end" to settle every policy question, said Favreau.

When Obama gets a first draft, he'll avoid line editing and focus on logic and structure. "It's the lawyer in him," said Favreau. The president also will make sure the speech has a strong theme, and make suggestions on policies to be emphasized more or played down.

Once the president has a draft he likes — "in the ballpark," in Obama's parlance — he'll edit to improve its rhythm, delete the expendable, insert blocks of copy and craft catchy lines.

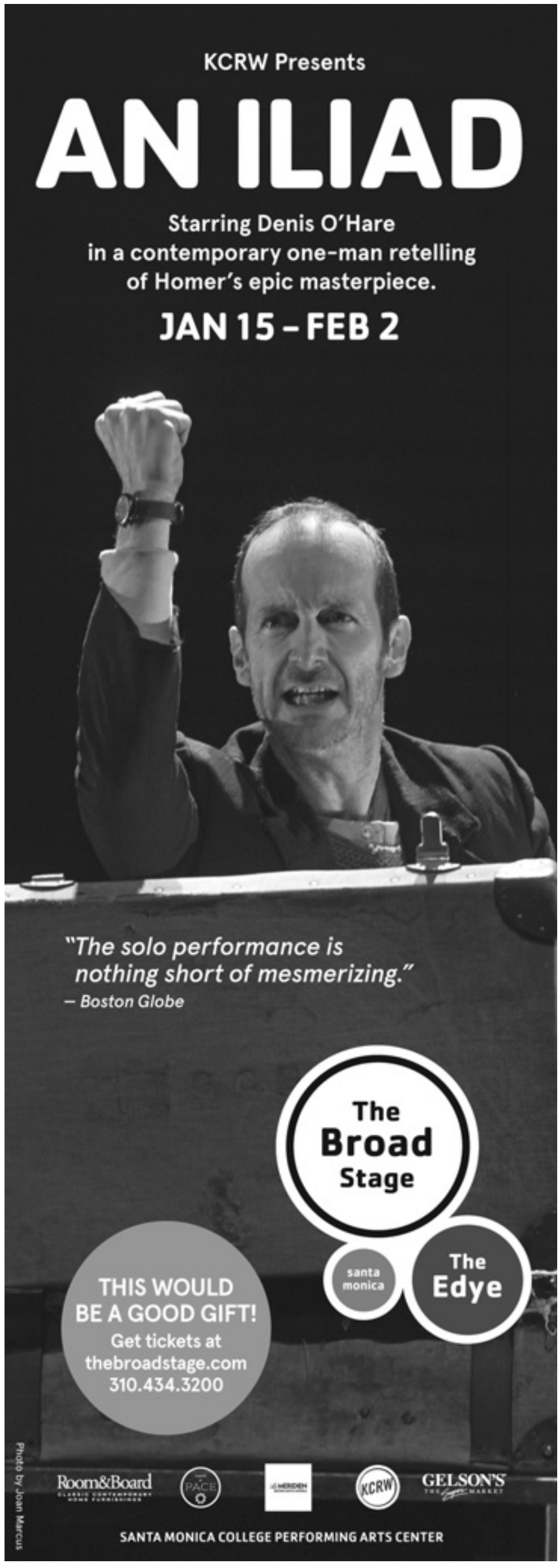
He does it all in longhand, with arrows, inserts and tidy cursive comments in the margins.

"He's obviously a writer himself," said White House spokesman Jay Carney. "And on speeches like this, he really is the chief speechwriter."

For all of the effort that goes into the speech, its writers know these addresses tend to be little remembered and seldom quoted.

"It is, and always has been, at its best an eloquent laundry list," said Waldman. "But even a laundry list can be powerful if a president is bold."

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PepsiCo rebrands 'Natural' products with 'Simply'

BY CANDICE CHOI
AP Food Industry Writer

NEW YORK PepsiCo has quietly gotten rid of the word "Natural" in some of its products and instead is going with "Simply."

The company changed its "Simply Natural" line of Frito-Lay chips to simply be called "Simply," although the ingredients remain the same. Similarly, its "Natural Quaker Granola" got a makeover as "Simply Quaker Granola."

The food and beverage giant says the name changes, which took place last year, are the result of it updating its marketing. But they come at a time when PepsiCo and other companies face legal challenges over their use of the word "natural."

The Food and Drug Administration doesn't have a definition for what constitutes "natural," but says it doesn't object to the word's use as long as the product doesn't contain "added color, artificial flavors or synthetic substances." Still, a number of lawsuits recently have challenged whether the ingredients in products labeled as "natural" fit that billing.

In some cases, companies are realizing the use of "natural" isn't worth the headache, said Steve Gardner, director of litigation for the consumer advocacy group Center for Science in the Public Interest, an advocacy group that has filed lawsuits against companies on the topic.

Last year, PepsiCo agreed to remove the words "all natural" from its Naked juices after a lawsuit noted the drinks contained artificial ingredients, such as a fiber made by Archer Midland Daniels. Another ongoing lawsuit filed in 2012 has challenged its description of some of its chips as "natural." And in November, PepsiCo killed off its Gatorade Natural line, saying the drinks didn't "resonate" with its core consumers.

"We constantly update our marketing and packaging," said Candace Mueller-Medina, a spokeswoman for PepsiCo's Quaker brand.

PepsiCo Inc. isn't alone in retreating from "natural." The owners of Ben & Jerry's and Breyers ice cream agreed to change its packaging in 2012 to settle lawsuits over its use of "all natural." Campbell Soup was sued in 2012 for describing its Pepperidge Farm Goldfish crackers as natural, with the suit noting they contain genetically modified ingredients. The Camden, N.J.-based company removed the word from its revamped packaging, but said it was the result of marketing changes and declined to comment any further on the change.

The word "simply" isn't entirely free of controversy either. Although it didn't file a lawsuit, the Center for Science in the Public Interest met with General Mills in 2010 over labeling on a variety of the company's products. Among those singled out was "Simply Fruit," which the group noted contained canola oil and carrot juice — not just fruit.

When asked if it had a response to the CSPI's complaint that the name was misleading, a General Mills spokesman Mike Siemienas said in an e-mail, "Yes, we do have a response: It isn't."

A look at the nutrition facts label

BY MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON The nutrition facts label has been required on the back of packaged foods for the last 20 years. Now the Food and Drug Administration is planning to update it. Here's what consumers will find today if they turn over their food packages:

— Serving size and servings per container. This is the first thing on the label and is designed to help consumers know how much of the nutrients they are consuming. The FDA hasn't said how they will change the label, but they may list all nutrition information by the serving and by the container and adjust recommended serving sizes for some foods.

— Calories. The label lists total calories per serving and the calories from fat. With nutrition experts now focused more on calories than on fat, the FDA may put the calorie listing in larger font and remove the amount of calories from fat.

— Nutrients that should be limited. They are first on the list and include fat, cholesterol and sodium. The FDA says Americans generally eat these nutrients in adequate amounts, and too much of them can increase the risk of heart disease and other illnesses. Fats are broken down by saturated fats and trans fats, which are the worst for you.

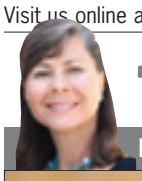
— Nutrients that are encouraged. The label then lists the amount of dietary fiber and the percentage of daily recommended values of vitamin A, vitamin C, calcium and iron. The FDA says most Americans don't get enough of these.

— Sugars. The label lists the amount of sugars in a package but the government has not recommended a daily value. The amount includes naturally occurring sugars and also added sugars; some health advocates have pushed to add a line just for the added sugars.

— Protein. The amount of protein is on the label, but food manufacturers do not have to include the percentage of the daily recommendation unless they claim a food is high in protein. The FDA says that protein intake is not a public health concern for adults and children over the age of four.

8 Great Spiritual Facts of Life
Although it may not look like it, there has been a great "shift in the wind." We are entering a new Age of awareness.
Hear counselor and educator Dick Larson discuss Eight Great Spiritual Facts of Life for this new Age. Our world is on the verge of a new consciousness that will forever change life as we know it.
Guiding us into this new world are great spiritual teachers, led by the World Teacher, who are among us now and are about to reveal themselves openly. Dick contends this is a very special time to be alive!
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Santa Monica Daily Press



The Better Option

Lori Salerno
Send comments to editor@smdp.com



Photo courtesy McDonald's

WHAT, NO BIG MAC? **As people choose to eat out more often because of their busy schedules, fast-food restaurants like McDonald's are adjusting to the demand for healthier options.**

Eating out doesn't have to mean high calorie counts

YOU DESERVE A BREAK TO DAY. SOUND familiar? The 1970s slogan for McDonald's was giving then stay-at-home moms permission for a break from cooking for their family. Originally, eating out at restaurants was reserved for special occasions. Sure there was the café for the occasional breakfast or roadside meal, but most meals were prepared and served mainly at home.

Today, with both parents usually working and busy students or professionals limited with time, eating out is more the norm. Because many people are relying on foods prepared away from home, restaurants are responding to their customers' needs and requests for healthier meals.

Still available are rich, special occasion meals, but many chain restaurants are offering lower-calorie, healthier options other than the "diet plate" of cottage cheese and sliced tomatoes for those diners looking to trim their waistline. With menu boards listing nutritional information, diners can be more discriminate with their choices.

There are three things to think about when trying to make better choices at restaurants:

- How much are you eating?
- What are you ordering?
- How is the meal prepared?

Restaurant meals are one size fits all. They don't offer one version for the 6 foot 2 inch, 180-pound man and one version for the 5 foot 3 inch, 120-pound woman. Even the half salads at most restaurants are more than half the daily calorie needs for a man to maintain a healthy weight. For weight loss, most men only need between 1,500 and 2,000 calories per day and most women between 1,200 and 1,500 calories per day. That translates to only 300 to 500 calories per meal.

Panera Bread has come out with their new Power Menu, ranging between 170 and 360 calories. They've partnered with the favorite weight loss app Lose it!, offering breakfast and lunch "power bowls" filled with lean protein, fresh vegetables and healthier sauces or dips such as cilantro humus. They've even added a six-week weight loss challenge for those interested in attempting to lose 5 pounds, receiving weekly awards.

You may be careful ordering lower calorie, more healthfully prepared meals, but then pair it with a high calorie, sweetened drink or alcohol. One 5-ounce glass of wine or 12-ounce beer is approximately 150 calories, and a specialty coffee can tack on 350 calories. Stick with calorie-free options like iced tea, mineral waters, or regular coffee.

Starbucks offers a few drinks under 75 calories, starting with a café Americano at 10 calories, a nonfat cappuccino at 60 calories, and an iced coffee or iced skinny latte — both under 70 calories.

Most people I work with know to order meals with the wording in the description as grilled, broiled, or steamed, and to steer clear of meals prepared fried, sautéed, breaded or battered. When you aren't preparing your own meals, you have no control over the cooking technique used by the kitchen staff, therefore, you have no idea how much oil they use when sautéing your order.

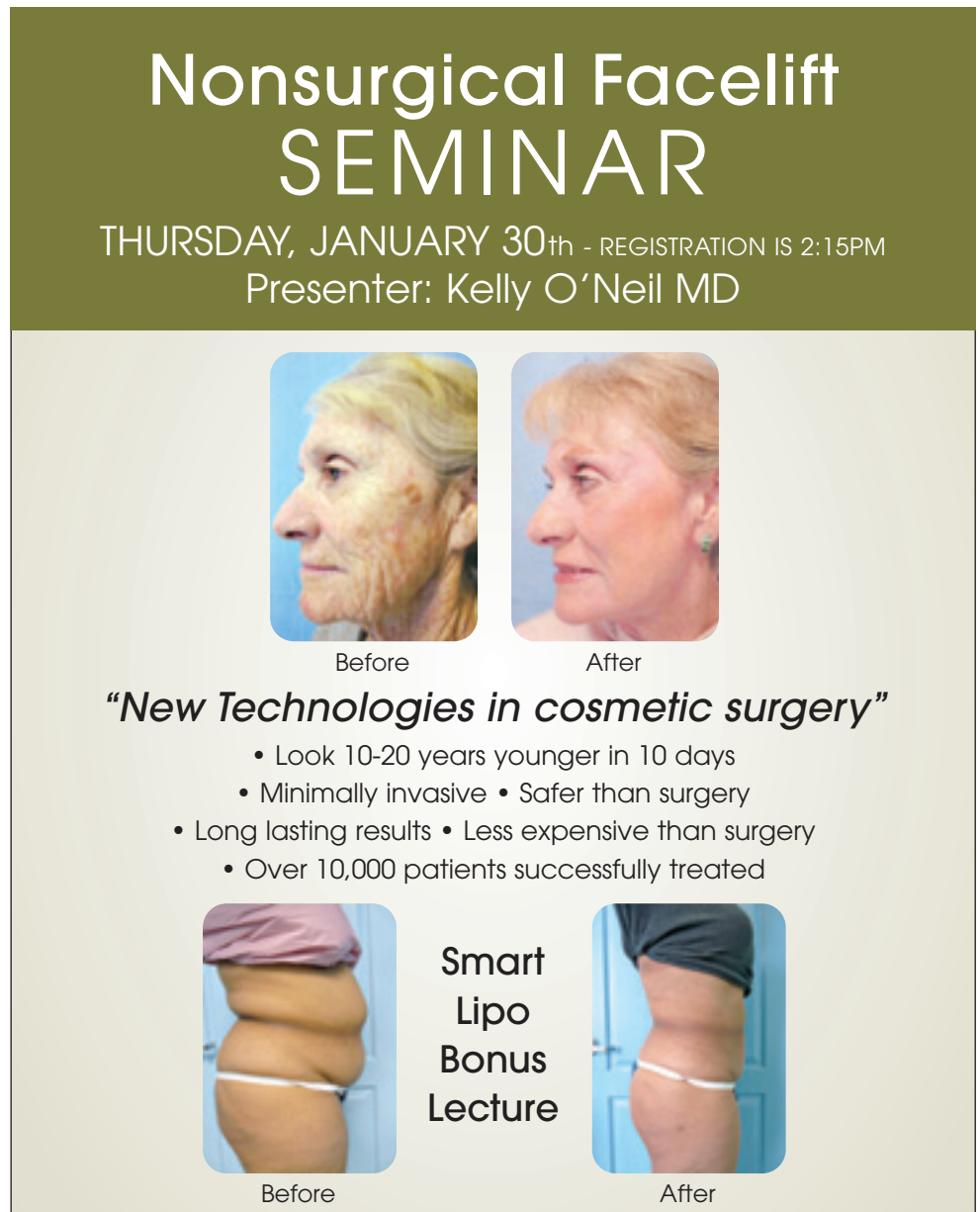
Seasons 52 in Santa Monica claims to use wood-fire grilling, brick-oven cooking and caramelizing of vegetables to let the natural flavors shine through. They season and oil with control and care to ensure just the right amount is used to bring out the great flavor profiles, leading to menu items naturally lower in calories. They also promise that nothing on their menu is over 475 calories. Now that takes a lot of the guess work out of dining out.

LORI SALERNO, M.S., R.D.N, C.P.T. is a registered dietitian nutritionist and certified personal trainer who provides medical nutrition therapy to groups and individuals in Santa Monica and recipe and menu analysis for restaurants nationwide. Learn more by visiting www.eatwelldailynutrition.com.

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The Q Line

QUAKE
FROM PAGE 5

"AS A TRAINED PUBLIC INFORMATION officer for the American Red Cross, I was directed to report to the Northridge apartments that had collapsed. As I drove over Laurel Canyon and into the valley, I noted some fires and several buildings with what appeared to be their sides sheared off. At the apartments, I responded to media inquiries and directed individuals that the American Red Cross was on the scene and would be directing individuals to shelters where those affected by the quake would be provided food and shelter. With several other first responders we opened up the first shelter in the city of San Fernando. A very surreal experience. Can't say enough good things about the American Red Cross and the Disaster Relief Teams."

ENGAGE
FROM PAGE 1

ipate in civic affairs.

In response, city officials recommended happy hours, temporary art installations aimed at fostering civic pride, and push notifications on council agenda items.

Boston created an app that allows residents to adopt a hydrant, which they would be responsible for shoveling out when it snows. In Minnesota, a group hosts a monthly conversation over food and beer called "Policy and a Pint."

Suggestions by city officials of a happy hour drew laughs from the public and the council members.

"There could be Brown Act violations at these happy hours," Councilman Ted Winterer said laughing.

Councilmember Terry O'Day suggested they be held at Pacific Dining Car at 3 a.m.

Jokes aside, all council members favored the proposal and suggested other ways that they could engage a wider population.

Councilmember Gleam Davis proposed a civic hackathon during which residents could brainstorm about the future of the city.

"I think hackathon is a word that young people recognize and we could try to get young people to come," she said. "Offer food, happy hour, however you want to do it."

Davis and a number of other council members expressed a desire to expand the pool of people who participate in public discourse. People are busy, they said, and not everyone has time to wade through pages of staff reports and sit for four hours at a council meeting waiting for their chance to speak.

Notifications could be sent to smart phone users letting them know to tune into a live feed when the Planning Commission or the council finally gets around to the issue the user is concerned with.

Lenore Morrell, who spoke during the public portion of the meeting, was upset that council would "sort of dismiss" the regular meeting attendees simply because they speak so frequently.

"I aspire to be one of the usual suspects because I consider them, at least if you're referring to people who come here often and speak often, as people who are really devoted to this city and spend an enormous amount of time researching, talking to their neighbors and associates, and coming up with proposals," she said.

Other speakers, like Mid-City Neighbors President Andrew Hoyer, were excited about the plans.

City officials included a list of already-formed civic organizations that they plan to reach out to, including Santa Monica Next, The Jaycees, and Santa Monica Spoke.

Councilmember Kevin McKeown supported the idea and asked that the list be expanded to include the Santa Monica College public policy group and other young groups. The neighborhood groups, which he acknowledged tend to be attended by older people, could help engage their younger neighbors.

Young people care about jobs, affordable housing, and having social activities, Davis said. She questioned whether some of the existing older groups are attuned to the needs of Millennials and Gen X-ers.

"Not to insult anybody but when I've spoken to young people they don't feel, sometimes, that some of the groups that are dominated by older people are speaking to them," she said. "They're not talking about the issues they care about."

dave@smdp.com



David Mark Simpson *dave@smdp.com*

NEED A RIDE? Jason Arbogast and Ray Martinez of Pedicab-It, look for fares in Palisades Park Friday.

BIZ
FROM PAGE 1

multi-colored lights and their leather chariots, waiting for fares. They have four registered vehicles and five drivers, including themselves.

Their spot on Friday, a corner by the Santa Monica Pier, is a gray area Arbogast said. Sometimes city officials hassle them for blocking the right-of-way and sometime they don't mind.

"The ordinance passed last summer and then in October the weather got a lot cooler," he said. "As operators, I think we're all still getting our feet on the ground. Everyone is figuring out how it's going to work."

Martinez and Arbogast were working in the hotels before the ordinance passed. Soon after, they decided to get into the pedicab game.

They charge a dollar for every block driven and offer deals for longer rides.

The unseasonably warm weather brought new drivers (and riders) out of the woodwork in the past two weeks, he said. These new drivers don't know all of the rules, he said, and he's seen them looking for fares on the promenade, which is a violation.

Officials from Downtown Santa Monica Inc. reported similar problems to City Hall. Technically, you're allowed to walk a bike on the promenade but soliciting fares is not allowed. Downtown police officers worked with the company that was breaking the rules and the "drivers have generally been cooperative," city officials said.

Pedicabs were seen on the beach bike path by city officials but the police have not reported any issues.

Both Arbogast and Shane De Hope, who owns Santa Monica Pedicab, said they would like to see the bike path regulations relaxed.

"Realistically, during the summer on the weekends we probably wouldn't be able to go on the bike path," De Hope said. "But during the week, or in the off-season, it's pretty much empty."

He plans to circulate a petition asking for some leniency on the bike path. Unlike the Segways and motorized bikes that are allowed on the bike path, he said, pedicabs go slow and therefore to do not present a safety hazard.

Santa Monica Pedicab is one of the largest operators in the city. They have 10 registered vehicles and 24 registered drivers, according to City Hall's report, although, De Hope said, drivers come and go frequently.

"(City Hall) has been pretty fair with us so far," he said. "Compliance officers came out and talked to us about staying out of the public right-of-ways but nobody got a ticket."

Pedicabs were seen parking in taxi stands, red zones, and other prohibited areas, city officials said.

City Hall has no plan to build staging areas for the pedicabs but De Hope is hoping to persuade them otherwise.

"It would give us structure," he said. "We would know where we can park and where we can't."

Code Enforcement officers did two rounds of spot checks in December. Two citations were given for unsafe driving.

At this point, City Hall doesn't plan to recommend any changes.

"The program is still new and the market is still making adjustments," city officials said.

dave@smdp.com







FOOT BALL

Morgan Genser *editor@smdp.com*

Morningside's Kevin Mendoza knocks the ball away from Samohi's Omar Sanchez Friday during an Ocean League match in Santa Monica, which Samohi won 5-2. WIth the win, the Vikings' record improves to 3-1 in league and 9-2-4 overall.

PARKS

FROM PAGE 3

Hall and named in honor of a long-serving City Council member and mayor. Though much smaller and more formal than its neighbor, the new plaza is more than just a space to pass through when going to City Hall for permits and business licenses; seating areas and a water feature make it a place to sit and have lunch or to enjoy the sunshine, representatives with the alliance said.

"We are honored that Tongva Park and Ken Genser Square have received national recognition by the City Parks Alliance as Frontline Parks," said Santa Monica Mayor Pam O'Connor. "Through creative use of space, the parks have transformed a flat asphalt lot into a magical oasis amid our urban environment. Tongva Park and Ken Genser Square provide welcome respite and enhance the well-being of people of all ages — residents, visitors, and area workers alike."

Tongva Park and Ken Genser Square are being featured on CPA's website, www.cityparksalliance.org, during the month of January.

City Parks Alliance is the only independent, nationwide membership organization solely dedicated to urban parks. It leads and serves a community of diverse organizations, championing high quality urban parks throughout the nation. CPA's vision is that everyone in urban America will have access to parks and green spaces that are clean, safe and vibrant. www.cityparksalliance.org



File photo

ENJOY: A couple takes a walk in Tongva Park.

editor@smdp.com

ON STAGE
Sat. - 2 Reggae Bands
TERRY GOT FIRED
THE STUTAILS
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CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed bids for:

BID #4125 FURNISH AND DELIVER FIVE (5) NEW AND UNUSED HONDA CIVIC CNG VEHICLES, AS REQUIRED BY FLEET MANAGEMENT.
• Submission Deadline Is February 11, 2014 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

BID #4130 FURNISH AND DELIVER THREE (3) NEW AND UNUSED FORD TRANSIT CONNECT VEHICLES TO BE USED BY THE POLICE DEPARTMENT ANIMAL CONTROL UNIT, AS REQUIRED BY FLEET MANAGEMENT.
• Submission Deadline Is February 11, 2014 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

The bid packets can be downloaded at:
http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/QuickSearch.cfm

Request for bid forms and specifications may be obtained by e-mailing your request to Regina.Benavides@smgov.net. Bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica.

Vendors interested in doing business with the City of Santa Monica are encouraged to register online at http://www.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/

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SURF REPORT



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FACEBOOK.COM/ONEILLSANTAMONICA

Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **59.9°**

SATURDAY – **FAIR TO GOOD** – SURF: **5-7 ft** head high to 2 ft overhead
Good-size WNW groundswell continues; small SW swell;
more size out to the west in the region; favorable AM winds

SUNDAY – **FAIR TO GOOD** – SURF: **4-5 ft** shoulder to head high
Solid WNW swell is easing; modest SW swell mixes in; favorable AM winds

MONDAY – **FAIR TO GOOD** – SURF: **3-4 ft** waist to shoulder high
WNW swell mix eases; potential reinforcing WNW swell moves in; modest SW swell

TUESDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** Knee to chest high occ. 4ft
Old WNW swell fades; SW swell fades; possible new shot
of WNW swell showing late, stay tuned

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 22, 2014**

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 -- 1
Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
Number of wet days -- 0
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 41 / ns
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 4 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: simplehuman LAcarGUY SIMA and Swain Barber Foundation

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Los Alisos creeks.		
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	B	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A	ns
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach.	A+	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 21572 Malibu Rd..	A	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (broach location)- daily.	F	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	C	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	ns	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	ns

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

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

Heal the Bay'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.

Dodgers sign Chone Figgins to minor league deal

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES The Dodgers have signed infielder Chone Figgins to a minor league contract and invited him to spring training.

The 36-year-old last played in the majors in 2012 with Seattle.

Figgins has a .277 career batting average with 35 home runs and 402 RBI in 11 seasons with the Angels and Mariners. He was an All-Star in 2009 in Anaheim. He has played second base, third base, shortstop and in the outfield during his career.

Harris' big game lifts Magic over Lakers

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ORLANDO, Fla. Tobias Harris had 28 points and a career-high 20 rebounds to lift the Orlando Magic to a 114-105 victory over the obviously fatigued Los Angeles Lakers on Friday night.

Arron Afflalo added 23 points and Jameer Nelson scored 22 as the Magic won for only the second time in their last 14 games. Rookie Victor Oladipo had 15 points, 12 rebounds and five assists.

Pao Gasol led Los Angeles with 21 points and 10 rebounds. The Lakers, playing the sixth game of a seven-game road trip, got 19 points and 14 assists from Kendall Marshall and 17 points from Jodie Meeks, but ran out of gas in the third quarter.

The Lakers led 65-55 with 9:27 left in the third quarter, but Orlando finished the period on a 36-15 run to seize control of the game. The Magic held the Lakers scoreless the last 3:30 of the quarter, scoring the final 11 points to take a 91-80 lead into the fourth quarter.

The Lakers scored the first six points of the fourth period to cut the deficit to 91-86, but that was close as they would come. Orlando responded with an 8-0 run and never let the Lakers closer than six points the rest of the game.

Dodger Stadium is ready for historic outdoor game

BY GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES The Los Angeles Kings and the Anaheim Ducks are skating on solid ice at Dodger Stadium.

Southern California's NHL teams held separate practices under cloudy skies in Chavez Ravine on Friday, testing the ice sheet for their landmark outdoor game.

The temperature was significantly lower than on the recent 80-degree days leading up to Saturday's meeting in the first warm-weather outdoor game in NHL history. The Los Angeles weather was practically ideal for this unlikely outdoor event — as long as no rain fell.

"This is the crown jewel for hockey in Southern California," Ducks defenseman Ben Lovejoy said. "We both live in a great part of the world, and this will be a great showcase for how far hockey has come in this area."

The rest of the preparations for the outdoor game also neared completion, including a cordon of palm trees just behind the open center-field fence. There's a ball hockey court between the mound and the backstop, while a beach volleyball court is in left field and a performance stage in right.

The boards, benches and glass were trucked in from the Winter Classic in Ann Arbor, Mich., but the ice has been built up patiently over the last 10 days. The league's ice-making crew covered the sheet in a heat-reflecting blanket during the day and worked through the night to establish a game-worthy surface.

NHL facilities guru Dan Craig's improbable ice sheet actually has been among the smoothest aspects of this strange chapter in the league's expansion of its outdoor slate this season. While Southern California's growing hockey fan base embraced the novelty of the concept, the league overpriced tickets for the event, forcing reductions to avoid the embarrassment of a non-sellout.

But the hiccups likely will be forgotten when fans get a look at the ice in the middle of baseball's third-oldest active park.

"I've been asking for an outdoor game here for a long time," Ducks captain Ryan Getzlaf said. "I'm just glad I don't have to go out and freeze my butt off at one of these."

Dodger Stadium took on a carnival atmosphere, but the event is more than a mere sideshow. The Kings — the home team in this scenario — realize they've got two points at stake after losing 2-1 to the NHL-leading Ducks in Anaheim on Thursday night.

"We should have some fire in our belly and be upset," Kings forward Justin Williams said after Thursday's loss. "You have a home-and-home with a team, especially a team in our division, and the top of the league right now, you better have some fire in your belly, and we'll have that."



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MOVIE TIMES

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

Saturday, Jan. 25
Rear Window (PG) 1hr 52min
7:30pm

Sunday, Jan. 26
Downhill (NR) 1hr 45min
Rebecca (NR) 2hrs 10min
7:30pm

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade
(310) 458-3924

August: Osage County (R) 2hrs 10min
11:00am, 1:25pm, 4:30pm, 7:45pm, 10:00pm

Nut Job (PG)
11:00am, 2:00pm, 7:15pm

Nut Job in 3D (PG)
4:45pm, 9:45pm

Devil's Due (NR)
11:30am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:45pm

Gimme Shelter (PG-13)
11:15am, 1:45pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:55pm

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

Frozen (PG) 1hr 25min
10:30am, 1:15pm, 4:05pm, 7:00pm, 9:55pm

I, Frankenstein (PG-13)
11:00am, 5:00pm, 11:00pm

Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (NR) 1hr 40min
10:40am, 1:30pm, 4:15pm, 7:15pm, 10:50pm

Ride Along (PG-13)
11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:45pm

I, Frankenstein 3D (PG-13)
2:00pm, 8:15pm

Wolf of Wall Street (R) 2hrs 45min
10:45am, 2:45pm, 6:45pm, 9:45pm

American Hustle (R) 2hrs 09min
10:50am, 1:35pm, 4:45pm, 7:45pm, 10:45pm

Lone Survivor (R) 2hrs 01min
10:35am, 1:45pm, 4:50pm, 8:00pm, 11:00pm

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

Rocket: The Maurice Richard Story (PG) 2hrs 03min
11:00am

Broken Circle Breakdown (NR) 1hr 52min
11:00am

Inside Llewyn Davis (R) 1hr 45min
4:30pm, 9:55pm

Nebraska (R) 1hr 50min
1:40pm, 7:20pm

Great Beauty (La Grande Bellezza) (NR) 2hrs 30min
10:45am

Philomena (R) 1hr 34min
10:45am, 1:50pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 9:55pm

Her (R)
1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

12 Years a Slave (R) 2hrs 13min
1:10pm, 4:10pm, 7:10pm, 10:10pm

For more information, e-mail **editor@smdp.com**

ORDER IN TONIGHT, VIRGO

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Dealing with a family member could be discouraging and/or difficult. This situation is not new; however, it does continue to cause you confusion. Let go of the issue at hand, and you might gain a new perspective as a result. Tonight: Follow the gang.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You might feel closed off by what occurs, but you need to stay on top of a problem. Understand that an associate closes down when he or she is upset. This person might come across as confusing, so ask for clarification. Tonight: Make dinner for two.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Pace yourself, and be aware of your objectives. You tend to believe that you are in total control of situations in your life. You might want to express a little more vulnerability, especially if you would like others to pitch in more often. Tonight: Out with a favorite person.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You might consider deferring to someone else, as this person seems much more demanding and less willing to give in. You don't really care who does what -- you simply are content to be with this person. Tonight: Relax with a loved one.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Remain stoic when dealing with an upset loved one, even if you feel as if you've had enough. Take a break from your routine. Go off and enjoy a friend with whom you really have a great time. Tonight: Enjoy being more childlike.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You might feel as if a loved one has cut you off, or perhaps this person feels that way about you. Perhaps you would like to welcome some distance. You just might decide to cocoon at home and read a good book or take a nap. Tonight: Order in.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You could be taken aback by a financial venture, and you might not be sure which way to proceed. You will need to use self-discipline once more. Tonight: Hang out with a friend at a favorite spot.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You might need to end a difficult situation or cut off communication with someone who has an adverse effect on you. This person likely means well, so perhaps you need thicker skin. Tonight: Your treat.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ You might feel the need to hold back. The less you discuss a problem that's on your mind, the larger it will become. If the issue is a misunderstanding, you might be surprised as to how the other party sees the situation. Tonight: Ready to paint the town red.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ A friend who is older or more serious might not be the best of company. In fact, you could feel as if this person is shutting down. You will notice his or her changed energy. Tonight: Be with a family member who is always upbeat.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You might be overserious or too controlling. If you note others pulling away, take a personal assessment as to what is bothering you. Your smile draws many people toward you. Smile and bring back those whom you enjoy. Tonight: Wherever you are, there is a celebration.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ If you have an opportunity to go to a movie or a concert, do. The change of pace will make you feel much better and as if you have been on a mini-escape or holiday. Refuse to take someone's comments too seriously. Tonight: The spotlight shines on you.

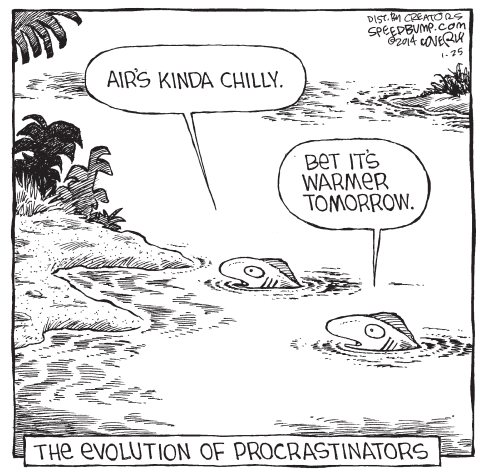
Weekend Edition, January 25-26, 2014

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

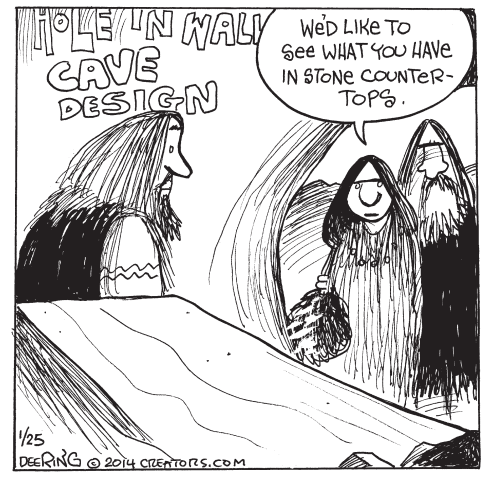
This year you take a bigger role at work and/or within your community. You might even be surprised to see your leadership abilities emerge. Others enjoy the way you think. You often force them to reconsider their ideas. If you are single, a friendship will be instrumental in finding romance. This event will occur most likely after spring. If you are attached, you find your sweetie far more endearing than you have in years. Enjoy this phase -- it will last awhile. SAGITTARIUS makes a great friend.

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
Check out the HOROSCOPES above!
smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office **(310) 458-7737**

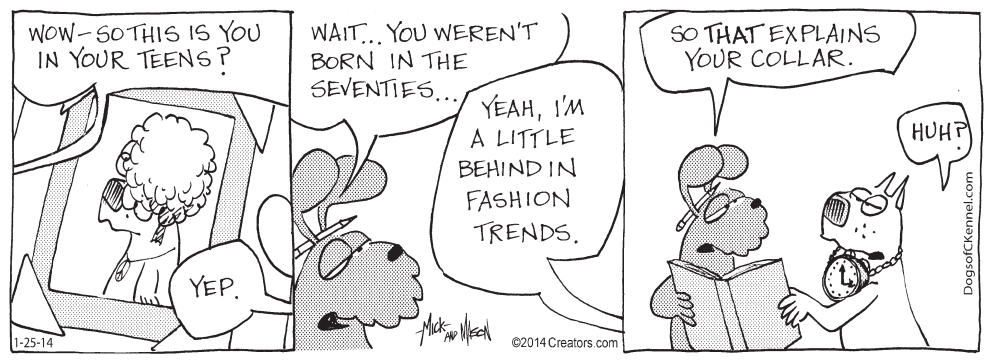
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



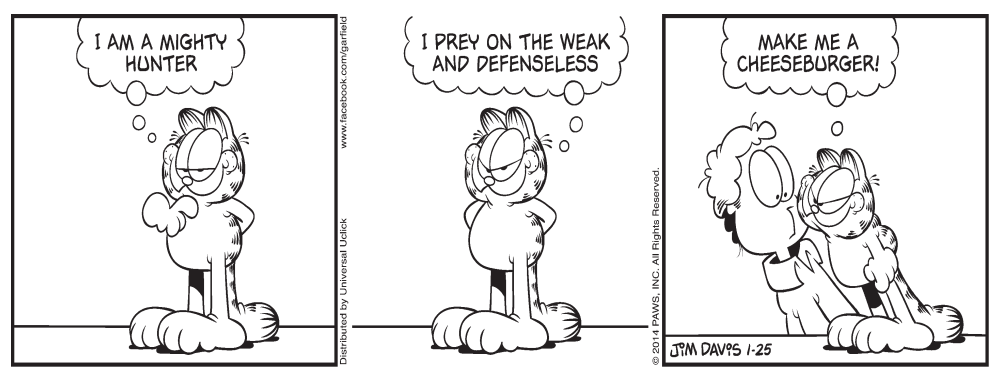
Strange Brew
By John Deering



Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

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

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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 Map line
5 Laughable
10 Archipelago makeup
12 Puzo subject
13 TV tryout
14 Funeral heaps
15 Coffee dispenser
16 Cart puller
18 Daiquiri need
19 Dakota city
21 High pair
22 Climbing flowers
24 Noggins
25 Grapefruit cocktails
29 Turn down
30 — mâché
32 Complete
33 Private room
34 — alai
35 "Ninotchka" star
37 Show gratitude to
39 Bothered
40 Following
41 Bus units
42 Jury member

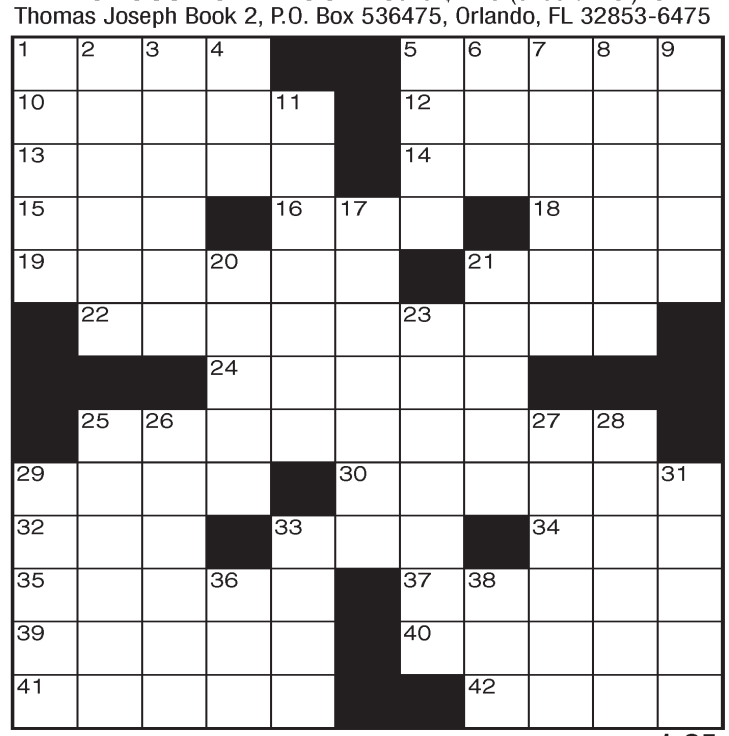
DOWN

1 Tatter
2 Brother of Isis
3 Completely redone
4 — gratias
5 Little rascals
6 Dissenter's vote
7 Serengeti setting
8 Reunion group
9 Moves cautiously
11 Eye rudely
17 Do an old newspaper job
20 Answer
21 Man of morals
23 Literalists
25 Capitol group
26 Tenor Bocelli
27 Demi Moore movie
28 Spooky gathering
29 "The Rehearsal" painter
31 Picard's first officer
33 Braille bits
36 Diamond club
38 With it

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



1-25



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Florida's second-most populous county, Broward, announced in December it was removing the agricultural tax break for 127 properties because it appeared their "farming" work was a sham. Broward's property appraiser estimated the county had lost "hundreds of millions of dollars" over the years granting the bogus reductions -- as landowners were blatantly housing just a few cows (in some cases, merely renting them) to graze and calling that "agricultural." The appraiser's office, after auditing only a few of the exemptions, found, for example, that land occupied by a government-contract prison was "agricultural" (with a rent-a-cow arrangement).

■ The Ontario College of Trades ministry, finally implementing a long-ago reclassification of about 300,000 professionals, announced in November that barbers would immediately face fines if they had not acquired new licenses demonstrating proficiency with perms and highlighting and other aspects of women's hairstyling. Even barbers who had cut men's hair for decades and with no desire to accept female customers would probably need a costly study program for the upgrade, which one barber estimated at 2,000 hours and $5,000 or more. Said one exasperated old-timer, "We're barbers, not neurosurgeons."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1924 - The 1924 Winter Olympics opens in Chamonix, in the French Alps, inaugurating the Winter Olympic Games.

1932 - Second Sino-Japanese War: The Chinese National Revolutionary Army begins its defense of Harbin.

WORD UP!

banal \ buh-NAL, -NAHL, BEYN-l \ , adjective;

1. devoid of freshness or originality; hackneyed; trite: a banal and sophomoric treatment of courage on the frontier .

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Assisted Living community is looking for a cook to help prepare meals for senior residents. Previous experience preferred. Schedule includes weekdays, weekends, and holidays. Pre employment drug test and criminal background check required. If interested, please come to 2107 Ocean Ave. SM 90405 to apply or fax resume to (310) 314-7356. EOE.

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Handyman

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Average Price of **ALL** Santa Monica
Single Family Homes
From **ALL** agents in **ALL** companies
Listed for Sale as of Late January 2014

Santa Monica Canyon	=	$	5,537,800
North of Montana	=	$	4,899,333
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$	2,675,516
South of Wilshire	=	$	949,000
Sunset Park	=	$	1,436,667
Ocean Park	=	$	3,047,000

Statistics updated every Friday

Buyers' Needs

I am currently working with fully qualified buyers who are looking for the following:

~ ~

Condo - Santa Monica
Minimum 2 + 1.75 - Dead On Ocean Views
$1,000,000 - $4,250,000

~ ~

Income Property/Teardown
Santa Monica or Brentwood
$1,000,000 - $4,000,000

~ ~

Raw Land/Teardown
West of 10th St (North of Wilshire or North of Montana)
Up to $4,500,000

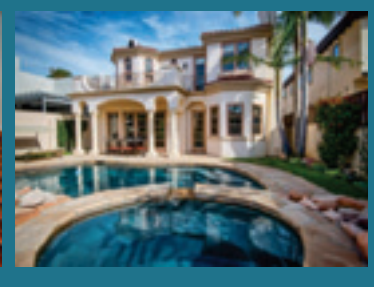
North of Montana Mediterranean Home!

632 16th Street

$3,999,000

- Built in 2000
- 4 Bedrooms
- 4.5 Bathrooms
- Approx. 4,000 Sq Ft
- Detached Guest House
- All Bedrooms En-Suite
- Xtra-Large Kitchen
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- Oasis Pool & Spa



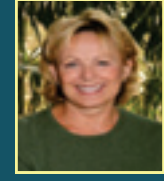
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