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Volume 12 Issue 68

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

SAMOHI'S LARUE PICKS SCHOOL
SEE PAGE 3

THE IN THE FIELD ISSUE

SMC students say pepper-spray report incomplete

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

PICO BLVD Students involved in the April 2012 protest at Santa Monica College that ended when campus police unleashed pepper spray on the crowd dispute the characterization of protesters in a report released this month and say school officials should take more responsibility for events of that night.

The report — which spans 184 pages and includes a play-by-play of the night and supporting documents — was created by a five-member panel comprised of college officials, the campus attorney, a trustee and a student board member.

It documents the events leading up to and following the Board of Trustees meeting on April 3, 2012, in which students and other protesters were exposed to pepper spray unleashed by an officer who has since resigned from the SMC Police Department.

SEE SMC PAGE 8

Pier businesses fear pending construction

Safety improvements will take a year, officials say

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN AVE Businesses on the Santa Monica Pier are not pleased with City Hall's plans to rebuild a weakened section of the iconic structure, saying they were not consulted on the decision that will impact their livelihoods.

City officials maintain that the pier will be open throughout construction, and that they will build a parallel trestle along the side of the pier to provide access even while construction crews do their work.

Still, construction is expected to last at least a year, although it will be broken into phases to minimize the impact on businesses, said Martin Pastucha, director of public works.

Businesses want to avoid interrupting summer, their busiest season. Officials have already promised to suspend work on weekends to avoid disrupting crowds more than usual.

Officials have not yet considered dropping rent as part of the process.

"It's an important time period for all the tenants on the pier," Pastucha said.

The $8.5 million construction project covers the complete demolition and reconstruction of a 360-foot section between the high tide line to the concrete westerly portion of the pier.

That section is comprised of wood, and has been weakened to the point that it has difficulty accommodating emergency and commercial delivery vehicles, according to a

SEE PIER PAGE 11



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

HOP ON: **A couple boards one of the gondolas on the Pacific Park Ferris wheel on Monday.**

Assembly speaker seeks to expand Medi-Cal for poor

GARANCE BURKE
JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. Assembly Speaker John Perez introduced legislation Monday to expand Medicaid in California under the federal Affordable Care Act, extending the health care program for the poor and disabled to include more than 1 million additional people.

At the same time, health care providers escalated their legal fight against the state's planned cuts to Medicaid reimbursement rates, saying any further reductions to the state's payments could keep patients from accessing vital care at a time when the state seeks to expand quality coverage for uninsured Californians.

Perez, a Los Angeles Democrat, said the cost of covering the additional recipients is still unknown, but would be paid for by the federal government as part of the health overhaul.

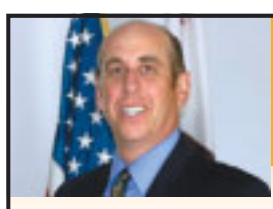
"This legislation is 100 percent covered by the federal government for the first 3 years," he said at a news conference in Sacramento as the legislature began a special session on health care reform.

Doctors, pharmacies and advocates said Monday that some providers have stopped serving patients who are already enrolled in the insurance program for the poor — called Medi-Cal in California — because the state's reimbursement rate is so low.

Advocates warned that if the additional cuts go forward, clinics could go out of business and more providers would opt out of caring for low-income patients, just as the state seeks to expand and improve access as

SEE HEALTH PAGE 9


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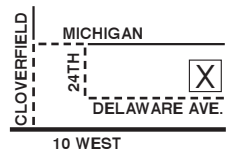
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, Jan. 29, 2013

Stories with Mr. Jesse
Ocean Park Library
2601 Main St., 10:45 p.m.
Join Mr. Jesse for some stories, rhymes, songs and puppets. This program is for children 18 to 35 months. Registration required. For more information, call (310) 458-8683.

Picture perfect
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6 p.m.
Learn to edit digital images using free web-based applications. Advanced level. Seating is first come, first served. For more information, visit the reference desk or call (310) 434-2608.

The greening of Santa Monica
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m.
Learn all about living a green lifestyle during this workshop. Tips for reducing water and energy usage, cutting landfill waste and exposure to toxic chemicals will all be discussed. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Learn a librarian's tricks
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m.
Ever been curious about the Dewey Decimal System? Cure your curiosity this Tuesday during a workshop aimed at teaching citizens on how to research and discover reference texts using the library and the Internet. Discover that knowledge is power. For more information, call (310) 458-8600 or visit smpl.org.

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2013

Chess the easy way
Ocean Park Library
2601 Main St., 3 p.m.
Join Wendy Chen to learn the fundamentals of chess in a relaxed stress-free environment. This program is intended for youth and families, however, all are welcome and no registration is required. Call (310) 458-8683 for more information.

Roll out the mat
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 Pacific Coast Hwy, 9 a.m.
Ages 12 and up are welcome to come down to the beach for some indoor yoga. Yoga is a great way to revitalize the mind and spirit and stay fit.

Baby story time
Montana Library
1704 Montana Avenue, 10:15 a.m.
Come join library staff for story time. Story series for babies age 0-17-months. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Preschool story time
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 10:30 a.m.
The library invites kids ages 3-to-5 to join them for a collection of children's stories. Call (310) 458-8681 for additional information.

Thursday, Jan. 31, 2013

Learn what's going on in the news
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 1 p.m.
Join a current events discussion for adults ages 50 and up. Why not learn while you're at the library? Discussion moderated by Jack Nordhaus. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Talking classic film
Montana Library
1704 Montana Avenue, 2 p.m.
The library will be screening "Local Hero." The comedy stars Burt Lancaster as an American, representing a Texas oil company and the small inhabitants of a village in Scotland. The screening is followed by a discussion with film scholar Vivian Rosenberg. For more information, visit smpl.org.

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



L.A. County plans move on immigrant birthing hotels

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Los Angeles County is planning a crackdown on makeshift maternity wards where mothers from other countries stay while giving birth so their children will be U.S. citizens.

The county has received 60 complaints about such facilities in the past month, according to a report by the Planning Department submitted to the Board of Supervisors, the Los Angeles Times reported Sunday.

That compared to just 15 complaints in the previous five years. The surge might be due to publicity over the closure of a house in Chino Hills that authorities contended had been used to house as many as 30 Chinese women.

It isn't illegal for foreign citizens to give birth in the U.S., but authorities say the maternity tourism hotels frequently are remodeled single-family homes in areas that aren't zoned for hotels or boarding houses.

County Supervisor Don Knabe wants to develop a county law that would specifically outlaw such facilities.

"They're a moneymaking machine. They're totally unsafe," Knabe said. "It's so obvious that they jeopardize not only the health of the baby, but the mother as well."

The Planning Commission report said efforts were being made to crack down on the hotels for zoning, building and health code violations.

Pregnant women, many from Asia, can pay thousands of dollars to stay in the facilities, authorities said.

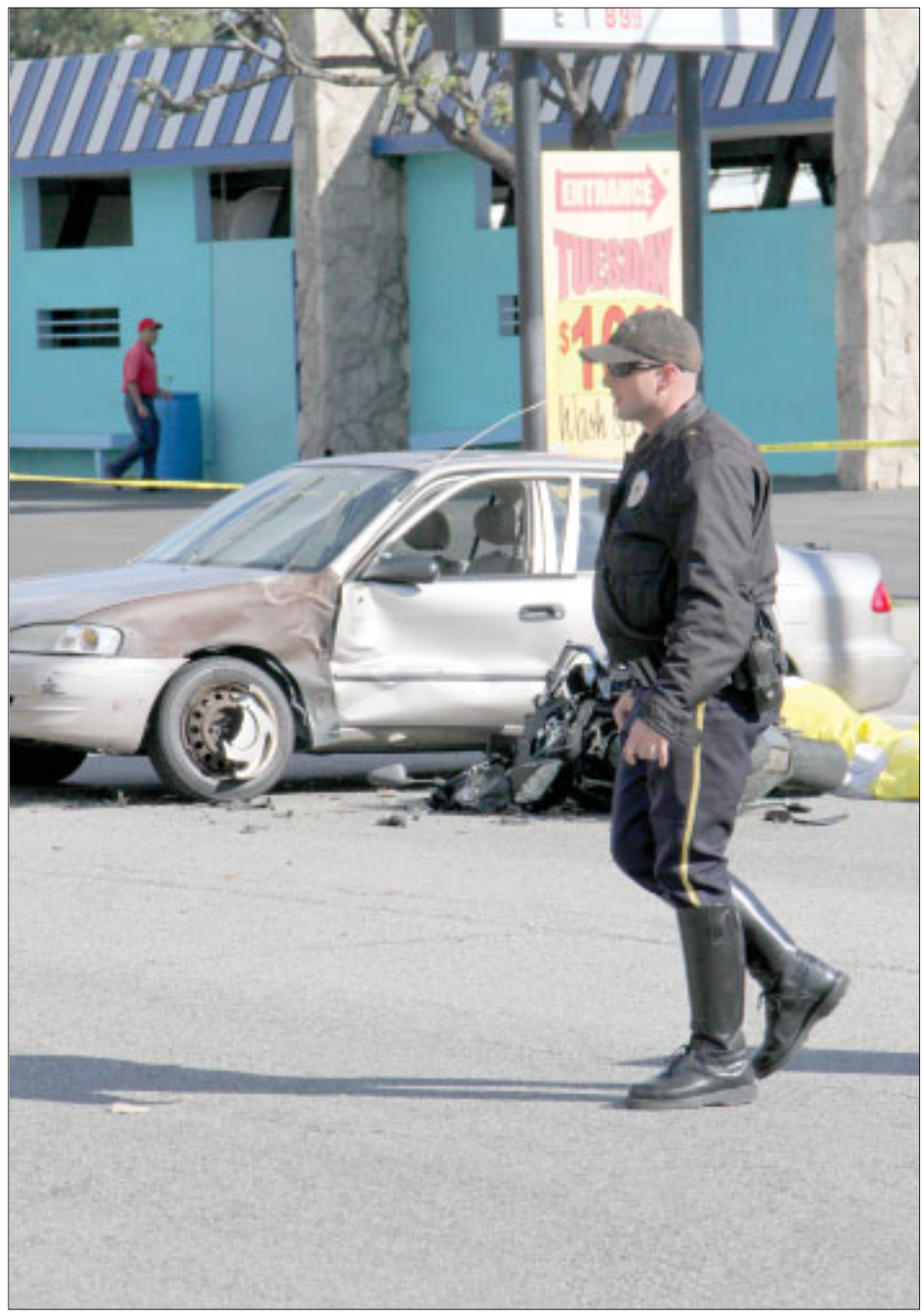
Officials who went to the Chino Hills home in November said the single-family home had been divided into 17 bedrooms and 17 bathrooms. Neighbors complained of a sewage spill from an overloaded septic tank.

The house was shut down after the city sued the owners.

Elsewhere, joint inspections have been staged by the planning, public works and child welfare departments, and cases have been referred to the state tax board, the report said.

Inspections can be difficult because people answering the door sometimes claim they are unable to speak English and won't allow inspectors to enter. The Planning Department will try to include Chinese-language translators on its inspection teams, the report said.

In addition, child welfare investigators will look for signs of child abuse and neglect, such as newborns crowded into makeshift nurseries, said Neil Zanville, a spokesman for the county Department of Children and Family Services.



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

ON SITE: **A Santa Monica police officer inspects the scene of a fatal traffic accident at the corner of 25th Street and Pico Boulevard on Monday. The crash involved a car and a motorcycle.**

Motorcyclist killed in traffic collision on Pico

BY HENRY CRUMBLISH
Special to the Daily Press

PICO BLVD Streets were blocked off and traffic was diverted Monday afternoon as police investigated a fatal traffic collision that left one man dead on Pico Boulevard.

The collision, which took place at the intersection of 25th Street and Pico Boulevard, marks the first fatal automobile accident in Santa Monica for 2013, said Sgt. Richard Lewis, spokesman for the Santa Monica Police Department.

The crash, which was reported at 1:03 p.m., involved two vehicles — a motorcycle and a mid-size sedan. The motorcyclist, an unidentified 22-year-old male, was pronounced dead at the scene at around 1:45 p.m.

Police said the victim was traveling east on Pico when he collided with the car, which was preparing to turn onto Pico from 25th Street.

A crowd of roughly 50 onlookers ranging from residents to local business owners began to gather at the scene to witness the carnage on the pavement. Police covered the body with a yellow tarp but blood could be seen on the concrete. Next to the body was a helmet and the remains of the mangled motorcycle.

Two male Latinos were in the sedan, and the driver was issued a field sobriety test by officers. So far drugs and alcohol are not cited as contributing factors. No arrests were made and the investigation is ongoing. Lewis said the driver and passenger of the sedan were cooperating.

editor@smdp.com

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ROUNDUP

Samohi's Sebastian LaRue picks Texas A&M

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI The recruiting trail for Santa Monica's Sebastian LaRue appears to be ending with his decision to play for Texas A&M.

LaRue tweeted his choice over the weekend, ending what had been a hot pursuit for the speedy wide receiver's services.

He had previously committed to USC, but backed out last month to pursue other options.

Notre Dame, Michigan, Oklahoma and UCLA were all said to be high on the playmaker.

NO. 1 TAKES ON NO. 2 AT ST. MONICA

The top two girls' basketball teams in CIF-Southern Section Division 4A will face each other in a battle for playoff positions.

No. 1 ranked St. Paul travels to No. 2 St. Monica Tuesday in not only a big game within the division, but also within the Camino Real League.

Both teams enter 4-1 in league, but St. Paul holds the tiebreaker, having defeated St. Monica earlier this season.

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Don't forget about grandpa

Editor:

After retiring from my 37-year career as a probation officer, I heard about Emeritus College, which offered classes for seniors. I was soon enrolled in an acting class, an endeavor I had never pursued in my life. Within a short time, my father, recently widowed, came to class with me. For three years we attended weekly, performing in our class showcases twice a year onstage in front of a live audience. It brought joy and purpose to our lives. It helped my father stay happy, healthy and active rather than being a burden on his family and society. It changed my life completely, launching me into an acting career.

I came to realize how vital and valuable senior programs are. I advocate for senior community programs whenever possible as I am living proof of their benefits. Senior community programs fill the gap for seniors that employment or child rearing used to occupy. They give seniors a purpose, empowering them to take better care of themselves and thus have fewer medical problems. Without a sense of purpose, seniors feel alienated, depressed and worthless.

The funding for senior programs is being cut because times are hard and the economy is bad. The argument that giving money to senior programs takes money from education of our children is specious. One should have nothing to do with the other. If senior community programs are lumped under a bundle called education, and that argument persists, then transfer them to a new and separately funded category called something like: The Department of Senior Enrichment. Government agencies are looking for ways to save money. Senior programs seem like a perfect target. Why not? What's so important about senior community programs anyway?

Let's take a look at what seniors (that includes Baby Boomers) contribute to society. They are not just elderly people to be put out to pasture. Seniors offer many things. They pass down the family and societal history. They are caretakers. They are role models. They are the guardians of wisdom and experience, of the sensibility of society — society's stewards. Just take a look at most of the members in the Senate and House of Representatives — our own governor.

Social: Many seniors are at a point in their lives where they are able and willing to give back to the community. They constitute the bulk of volunteers at places like hospitals, parks, museums, schools, police departments, etc. Many of our institutions cannot afford to hire enough staff. They couldn't function without volunteers. Seniors have the time, interest and enthusiasm.

Economic: Seniors form a huge demographic. They control vast amounts of wealth, which translates into purchasing power of significant amounts of goods and services.

Political: Seniors form a huge voting block. They are a demographic which should be pursued and courted by businesses and politicians, not ignored.

The idea of offering low-cost classes at Emeritus College in lieu of free classes should be explored. However, let's remember to support our senior programs and not relinquish so easily something we may never be able to reclaim. Seniors have a major impact on our society socially, economically and politically. Just as we spend time, energy, and resources on our children for the sake of our future, so must we spend the same on our seniors for the sake of our present.

Lee Gale Gruen
Beverly Hills, Calif.





What's the Point?

David Pisarra — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Anxious about public art

I'M ANXIOUS, ANXIOUS ABOUT THE state of the city and where we are going. Living in Santa Monica is a great life. We have the beauty of the sea, the comfort of the beach and a community that is involved and engaged.

We have a community that is developing a great deal of land, with densely packed housing, and then large open spaces to offset the crowding. For example, The Village on Ocean Avenue. These very large, tightly built structures are going up very quickly, and with each foot they rise, they darken the sky.

When I workout at the Loews Hotel I look directly into the gaping maw of one of these new buildings. A building that is half built is an ugly thing, and thankfully that phase of it will be over with soon, only to be followed by the permanent sun-blocker of housing. I am hopeful that the actual impact of the building wont be as much an eyesore as the half-built skeleton makes it appear.

Just down the block is the evolving set of parks and City Hall gardens that are starting to take shape. The parks are mostly invisible from Ocean Avenue at this point, but what is visible has me deeply concerned about the balance that was struck between avant-garde design and utility.

Perched like pointing dogs are "observation decks" that look vaguely like some weird fishing net that has been made to look artsy. I haven't been invited to use them yet, and since the park is still under construction there's no way of my knowing how good an idea they are, but so far, I'm nervous.

They sort of fall under the category of utilitarian art. Like that bench at the California Incline that doubles as a sailing ship backdrop. It's creative and useful, it makes you think and is there to be used.

I love a city that commissions art pieces that serve dual purposes. It's indicative of a forethought that demonstrates what good planning can do.

One day I was walking to divorce court for a client when the rose garden in front of City Hall was being removed and I was aghast. As a lover of gardens and gardening, I was appalled at the thought that those mature roses were simply dug up and dumped. Thankfully, then Councilmember Richard Bloom assured me that the roses were given away to residents and that they all found happy homes throughout the city.

The newly denuded space had me worried that we were going to have a giant open space to be filled with cacti and succulents that, while environmentally friendly, were not the most enjoyable. So when I looked at the landscaping plans and saw a forest of trees I was happy, but still worried that the city was going to install the spindly twigs that they have used on Euclid Street to replace oaks and other mature trees.

Imagine my joy when I drove past and saw well developed trees going in, that will further mature and fill in the façade. Once again I was delightfully surprised by the efforts that our city planners had gone to and the inspiring results. I look forward to the day when the parks are all open and City Hall is restored to its deserved magnificence.

I LOVE A CITY THAT COMMISSIONS ART PIECES THAT SERVE DUAL PURPOSES. IT'S INDICATIVE OF A FORETHOUGHT THAT DEMONSTRATES WHAT GOOD PLANNING CAN DO.

Now if we can just keep the momentum going and get back on track fiscally to maintain that which we have we'll be fine. I've heard rumors about the Civic Auditorium and none of them are good. I'd like our city leaders to find a way to ensure its continued presence as I have attended many a great event there. From helping feed needy families at Thanksgiving to "green" events like the AltCar Expo and the Green Construction Conference, I have been educated, entertained and enthused by people coming to the Civic. I have heard symphonies there and seen cat shows. It's a local landmark in my mind that is deserving of being preserved for future generations and I hope that our city finds a way to keep it going.

So because I'm in love with the city, I am nervous about simultaneously keeping it vibrant and quaint.

DAVID PISARRA is a 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



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After the Bell

Merv Hecht
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Asia's where it's at for investments

IT'S BEEN AN EXCITING WEEK. APPLE IS down and Netflix is up. Many experts predicted just the opposite. And my views have changed dramatically in January.

First of all I am looking at the economic forecasts for 2013. The forecast for the U.S. market doesn't look all that exciting in spite of the great corporate earnings reports. In general the experts are predicting a 3 to 4 percent uptick in the stock market for the year. But clearly that's too conservative since the S&P is already up 3 percent and the year has just begun. Many experts think the S&P will get to 1,600 this year.

But the bigger predicted jump is in the Asian markets. For that reason I'm putting a little money into the Asian ETFs. There are a lot to choose from. Here is part of the selection:

- iShares MSCI Pacific ex-Japan Index Fund (EPP)
- BLDRS Asia 50 ADR Index ETF (ADRA)
- First Trust ISE Chindia Index Fund (FNI)
- FTSE RAFI Asia Pacific ex-Japan Portfolio ETF (PAF)
- Global X FTSE ASEAN 40 ETF (ASEA)
- iShares FTSE EPRA/NAREIT Asia Index Fund (IFAS)
- iShares MSCI All Country Asia ex Japan Index Fund (AAXJ)

From these, EPP and GMF have, for some reason, been recommended to me. As I've mentioned before, my preference is always to invest in the U.S. where we have good monitoring of investment information. But economists are predicting that 80 percent of the economic growth in 2013 will be in Asia (40 percent in China alone) and I don't want to be left out.

And, by the way, I'm completely out of Eurozone stocks, with that area likely to be level or slightly down for 2013.

I bought a few hundred shares of Apple stock when it dropped down around $450 a share. I don't know when, but I believe that someday it will go back up into the $500-plus range. After all, the earnings report was good, and the products are still selling. What more could one expect? And that 2 percent dividend doesn't hurt, either.

But in some accounts I'm losing on the $570 Apple puts I sold when the stock was about 100 points higher than now. With the stock down 100 points my 5 put position is losing $50,000 less the $16,000 I've taken in on the initial premium from the put sale, plus some premiums on call spreads I'm continuously writing since the stock went down. That's one of the advantages of dealing in options, instead of just buying stock. When things go against you there are various strategies to recover losses, not just waiting for the stock to recover.

So now I am "rolling" the Apple puts "down and out" (a lower strike price and an expiration date further away) each month at a break-even price, thereby holding on to my initial premium ($12,000) and writing call spreads to try to take in an additional $2,000 a month in hopes of an eventual rebound in the stock. So far it's working, but slowly. My break-even point is about $550, but I consider it only 50-50 that the stock will hit that price during 2013. It depends on what they do with their cash. If they buy something exciting the stock will spike up.

I remain surprised by a lot of other actions taking place in the market. I'm surprised that the price of copper doesn't go up more quickly in light of the rise in construction. I'm surprised that, after an initial upswing, digital printer company stocks, although rising, are not moving up more than they are; it seems like such an exciting technology. But DDD and SSYS have done well.

Another area of interest is natural gas pipelines. There are at least eight companies offering promising returns in this area, and a few look particularly good:

- ENB.N at $43 yields about 3 percent in dividend and payout
- KMI.N at $38 yields about 4 percent

Perhaps the best play there is an MLP fund or an ETF to have a basket of those companies. AMLP is an example.

With S&P yields leveling off at just over 2 percent, the average yield of this sector, at around 3.5 percent, is attractive and someday the U.S. will figure out how to take advantage of all the natural gas supply we have.

Otherwise I'm stymied by the market's treatment of top-notch companies with good, consistent earnings. Even though the volatility index is way down, there remains a few stocks every so often that experience extreme price shifts. My impression is that market psychology is becoming a stronger force in the price of stocks.

For that reason, I think 2013 is a good year to invest a significant portion of investment dollars in the S&P index. If the experts are right it will move up, primarily during the second half of the year. Couple that with the dividends, and the return is not so bad. And if you buy the S&P index and write covered calls against it way out of the money, you can enhance the yield and I would expect an overall return from that strategy of 8 to 10 percent for the year.

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.

The Q Line

Budget woes

City Hall could be facing a $29 million budget deficit by 2018 unless officials can increase revenues or make cuts to programs.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
What do you think could be trimmed to ensure that the city's coffers are not depleted in the next couple of years?

Contact **qline@smdp.com** before **Friday at 5 p.m.** and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. You can also call **310-573-8354**.



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Can reality culture compete with real life in today's world?

TED ANTHONY
AP National Writer

PITTSBURGH The breathtaking model on your magazine cover: Of course she's not that thin and unblemished. That reality show you never miss? You're shocked — shocked that its real-life drama isn't 100 percent unscripted. And that diva who may or may not have mouthed the words to the national anthem to her own prerecorded voice? Yeah, well, so what? It was a big moment, and she wanted to sound her best.

In America these days, in countless tiny ways, much of what we see and experience isn't exactly what it seems. We know it, too. And often we don't care, because what we're getting just seems to "pop" more than its garden-variety, without-the-special-sauce counterpart.

Whether Beyonce actually sang at last week's presidential inauguration — the jury's still out, and she's kept silent — is, on the surface, the textbook teapot tempest. Dig deeper, though, and the conversation — or lack of it — reveals something important about society at this moment. The big question is no longer whether reality matters. That ship sailed long ago. More to the point is this: Can reality compete?

"It's as if the fakery has become satisfactory," says Jonathan Vankin, co-writer of "Forever Dusty," a musical that takes events from the life of the late soul singer Dusty Springfield and — carefully — dramatizes them.

"I think almost everyone knows that we're constantly being fed unreality. And yet there seems to be very little curiosity about figuring out what's really going on," says Vankin, who has also written extensively about how real historical events are represented in fictional settings.

Many, including some of Beyonce's fans and friends, consider the inauguration debate ridiculous because, after all, even if she was lip-syncing she was doing it to her own powerful voice. Fair enough. That ignores, however, two aspects of live performance.

First is what some consider an implicit contract between a performer and a live audience — the expectation that the audience deserves a performance that's in the moment and that might, just might, even be affected by the presence of the crowd. If none of that happens, then why not stay home, skip the hassle and listen to your iPod? And second, the version of Beyonce's voice that might be recorded in a studio — with potential help from digital enhancement and "sweetening" — could be quite different from the one produced live on a windy, wintry January day.

"Reality is complicated, messy, and uncertain. We want it to be shrink-wrapped and labeled clearly," says Mark Carnes, general editor of "Past Imperfect: History According to the Movies" and a historian at Barnard College. "We prefer the crisp clarity of sound bites and slogans to the blaring cacophony of the world around us."

It's hardly just music. These examples of artifice in miniature pop up everywhere in American culture — so much so that we hardly even notice it.

We take it for granted that our Cheetos and Doritos are bright orange — because that's the color that says "really cheesy" to us. We purchase Yankee Candles called "Home Sweet Home" that evoke "a heartwarming blend of cinnamon, baking spices and a hint of freshly poured tea" — even if we have no intention of doing any baking or brewing whatsoever. We buy "movie theater butter" popcorn that has nothing to do with either movie theaters or butter.

Fundraisers sending out bulk mail now commonly use envelopes shaped like personal greeting cards and do their utmost to make the address look like it's handwritten expressly to you, sometimes even adding "personal notes" that are "written" diagonally across the back. And at Walt Disney World, ground zero of artifice, you can go for a "Caribbean" vacation or a visit to "Morocco" without ever encountering the inconvenient realities of the actual locations such as, say, upset stomachs and poor people.

And digital photo retouching: The tools of artifice, once accessible only to professionals, have gone democratic. Now manipulators by the millions can use something called a "clone tool" to erase blemishes, unwanted features and entire people. With the tap of a smartphone touchscreen, you can make an image taken seconds ago look like a "vintage" snapshot from a 1972 Polaroid or a 19th-century tintype. A few years back, HP even came out with a camera that had a "slimming feature," allowing you to choose just how much girth you wanted to remove for Facebook or the family album.

But it is in entertainment — a realm custom built for artifice — that this notion plays out most broadly.

Consider Mike Daisey, the performer who blends journalism and monologue into a compelling hybrid that he used last year in a show about uncovering Apple's business practices in China. Trouble was, when he took it to "This American Life" and the national airwaves, some of his "research" in China didn't hold up to scrutiny. Some things he described hadn't happened; others had happened, but not as he recounted them. Did he have a responsibility to tell the truth, or was his a dramatic performance with understandable artistic license?

"I'm not going to say that I didn't take a few shortcuts in my passion to be heard," Daisey said on a "This American Life" follow-up about his rearranging of the facts.



Boy Scouts considering retreat from no-gays policy

DAVID CRARY
AP National Writer

NEW YORK The Boy Scouts of America is considering a dramatic retreat from its controversial policy of excluding gays as leaders and youth members.

Under the change now being discussed, the different religious and civic groups that sponsor Scout units would be able to decide for themselves how to address the issue — either maintaining an exclusion of gays or opening up their membership.

Monday's announcement of the possible change comes after years of protests over the policy — including petition campaigns that have prompted some corporations to suspend donations to the Boy Scouts.

Under the proposed change, said BSA spokesman Deron Smith, "the Boy Scouts would not, under any circumstances, dictate a position to units, members, or parents."

The Boy Scouts, which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2010, has long excluded both gays and atheists. Smith said a change in the policy toward atheists was not being considered, and that the BSA continued to view "Duty to God" as one of its basic principles.

Protests over the no-gays policy gained momentum in 2000, when the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the BSA's right to exclude gays. Scout units lost sponsorships by public schools and other entities that adhered to nondiscrimination policies, and several local Scout councils made public their displeasure with the policy.

More recently, amid petition campaigns, shipping giant UPS Inc. and drug-manufacturer Merck announced that they were halting donations from their charitable foundations to the Boy Scouts as long as the no-gays policy was in force.

Also, local Scout officials drew widespread criticism in recent months for ousting Jennifer Tyrrell, a lesbian mom, as a den leader of her son's Cub Scout pack in Ohio and for refusing to approve an Eagle Scout application by Ryan Andresen, a California teen who came out as gay last fall.

"An end to this ban will restore dignity to countless families across the country, my own included, who simply wanted to take part in all scouting has to offer," Tyrrell said. "My family loved participating in scouting, and I look forward to the day when we might once again be able to take part."

Many of the protest campaigns, including one seeking Tyrrell's reinstatement, had been waged with help from the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

"The Boy Scouts of America have heard from scouts, corporations and millions of Americans that discriminating against gay scouts and scout leaders is wrong," said Herndon Graddick, GLAAD's president. "Scouting is a valuable institution, and this change will only strengthen its core principles of fairness and respect."

The Scouts had reaffirmed the no-gays policy as recently as last year, and appeared to have strong backing from conservative religious denominations — notably the Mormons, Roman Catholics and Southern Baptists — which sponsor large numbers of Scout units. Under the proposed change, they could continue excluding gays.

Smith said the change could be announced as early as next week, after BSA's national board concludes a regularly scheduled meeting on Feb. 6. The meeting will be closed to the public.

Were the change adopted, Smith said, "there would no longer be any national policy regarding sexual orientation, and the chartered organizations that oversee and deliver Scouting would accept membership and select leaders consistent with each organization's mission, principles, or religious beliefs.

"BSA members and parents would be able to choose a local unit that best meets the needs of their families," he said. "Under this proposed policy, the BSA would not require any chartered organization to act in ways inconsistent with that organization's mission, principles, or religious beliefs."

The announcement came shortly after new data showed that membership in the Cub Scouts — the BSA's biggest division — dropped sharply last year, and was down nearly 30 percent over the past 14 years.

According to figures provided by the organization, Cub Scout ranks dwindled by 3.4 percent, from 1,583,166 in 2011 to 1,528,673 in 2012. That's down from 2.17 million in 1998.

The Boy Scouts attribute the decline largely to broad social changes, including the allure of video games and the proliferation of youth sports leagues and other options for after-school activities.

However, critics of the Scouts suggest that its recruitment efforts have been hampered by high-profile controversies — notably the court-ordered release of files dealing with sex abuse allegations and persistent protests over the no-gays policy.

The BSA's overall "traditional youth membership" — Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Venturers — totaled 2,658,794 in 2012, compared to more than 4 million in peak years of the past. There were 910,668 Boy Scouts last year, a tiny increase from 2011, while the ranks of Venturers — a program for youths 14 and older— declined by 5.5 percent.

In addition to flak over the no-gays policy, the Scouts have been buffeted by multiple court cases related to past allegations of sexual abuse by Scout leaders, including those chronicled in long-confidential records that are widely known as the "perversion files."

Through various cases, the Scouts have been forced to reveal files dating from the 1960s to 1991. They detailed numerous cases where abuse claims were made and Boy Scout officials never alerted authorities and sometimes actively sought to protect the accused.

The Scouts are now under a California court order, affirmed this month by the state Supreme Court, to turn over sex-abuse files from 1991 through 2011 to the lawyers for a former Scout who claims a leader molested him in 2007, when he was 13. It's not clear how soon the files might become public.

The BSA has apologized for past lapses and cover-ups, and has stressed the steps taken to improve youth protection policy. Since 2010, for example, it has mandated that any suspected abuse be reported to police.

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SMC
FROM PAGE 1

Two went to the hospital, and a 4-year-old child was exposed. The incident made national headlines.

The report lays heavy blame on students and the police for the chaos that sprang out of the protest, specifically calling out former Associated Students President Harrison Wills and the officer who used the pepper spray, Sgt. Jeremiah Williams.

That's unfair, say Wills and current Associated Students President Parker Jean, who believe the administration should accept some responsibility for holding a meeting on the controversial topic of contract education in a room with seats for only 20 of the students who showed up.

An adjacent overflow room had space for 60 more, but students feared they would not get a chance to speak, Wills said.

"It's the wrong approach to blame students that were showing up," Wills said. "If we had adequate space where everyone could speak, participate and talk to the media, I'd say we would have to look at things," Wills said.

Even SMC teachers do not walk away unscathed.

Sections of the report — specifically a police report included as Appendix H — claim that the Faculty Association was involved and supported the students in their actions. The report itself limits that accusation to "several faculty" who assisted protesters "in ways that may have misled them about how their actions would be received," according to the report.

Mitra Moassessi, president of the Faculty Association, did not wish to comment for this article.

The report largely dismisses the space issue, saying that the size of the room was not a problem and did not prevent students and other opponents of the program from expressing their views.

"A similar meeting on the same topic was held in March in the board room without incident," said Don Girard, senior director of governmental relations and institutional communications at SMC. "The report documents that there was no operational request to change the venue."

It also makes the observation that it would be unusual to do so, Girard said.

Although the report includes in its appendices some context for the protest, as global as the Arab Spring uprisings that began in Tunisia in December 2010 and as local as the Occupy L.A. organizers that took over a lawn in front of City Hall, it leaves out most student complaints leading up to the campus protests.

While the report documents the fact that students were upset about contract education, it does not mention the sense amongst students that the administration had ignored policies around shared governance, a process which aims to include student representatives in decision-making.

Instead, students felt betrayed by the Board of Trustees who pushed forward with the proposal despite obvious disagreement from students and a motion by the student trustee to pull the recommendation at a March meeting.

The result was an angry student body, which then felt further snubbed by officials when told that only 20 students could be in the room at the time of the meeting.

Students pushed against police officers — also criticized in the report as having a bad contingency plan and being understaffed — and did their best to open the door to the meeting room so that they could participate directly in the meeting.

Those actions became a toxic brew that ultimately led to the release of the pepper spray.

That could have been prevented by forethought on the part of policymakers, Jean said.

"They need to do a better job beforehand in not making these unilateral, top-down decisions," Jean said. "You have to community-build, reach out and compromise as well. That's why it went so terribly wrong."

The report comes to its own conclusions about how to improve the situation, citing 13 policy recommendations and giving a 60-day timeline to get the ball rolling on them.

None of those explicitly include moving meetings with controversial items to a larger room.

"The large point of the report is to improve planning," Girard said. "That process is underway, and there are people responsible at each level to develop clarity as to how to conduct large meetings."

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HEALTH
FROM PAGE 1

part of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul.

"Patients are the ones who will be hurt if these cuts go through," said Duane Dauner, president and CEO of the California Hospital Association. "Especially at risk are rural and safety net hospitals."

About 7.1 million Californians currently lack health insurance.

With the new requirement in 2014 that virtually all Americans have health insurance under the federal Affordable Care Act, providers believe hundreds of thousands more low-income people will soon enroll.

Perez said his proposal would expand the coverage to people who make up to 138 percent of the federal poverty line, or about $15,400 a year for an individual.

Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento, introduced a similar bill Monday after the special session was convened.

"People need and deserve better health care than what they can get when they're violently ill in an emergency room," Steinberg said. "And we also know that investing in coverage, access, prevention and early intervention saves the taxpayers a lot of money."

Providers, however, have argued for years that taking on new patients will not be financially viable.

Last year, a federal appeals court backed California's right to cut payments to the Medi-Cal program by 10 percent. State officials at the time said that would save the state more than $330 million each year.

Groups representing doctors, hospitals and pharmacists said they filed a request Monday for a rehearing before the full 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, rather than a three-judge panel that ruled in the state's favor last year.

"There is no doubt in my mind that if these cuts are allowed to stand, community clinics will close," said Tom Hayes, CEO of Eastern Plumas Health Care, which operates an acute care hospital and medical clinics in rural Plumas and Sierra counties. "Most of our patients are lifelong residents of the area, and to force them to move would be heartbreaking."

The state's planned cuts to reimbursement rates would apply only to those hospitals that have skilled nursing units within their acute care facilities, which represents about 25 percent of all hospitals in the state, said Jan Emerson-Shea, a spokeswoman for the California Hospital Association.

Hospitals, which by law must provide emergency care to the uninsured, will increasingly be treating new Medi-Cal enrollees, said Robin Swanson, a spokeswoman for the Assembly speaker. In turn, that could help offset the cost of charity care and ultimately bring down health care costs for all, she added.

Physicians, however, are not required to treat new Medi-Cal patients and could opt out altogether.

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PIER
FROM PAGE 1

city staff report.

A report by Moffatt & Nichol, a consultant hired to inspect the pier, recommended that the section be replaced with a new pier made of concrete piles and pile caps, timber stringers and timber decking.

The concrete substructure would make the new piece of the pier more durable and low maintenance, according to the report.

While pier tenants do not dispute that the work needs to be done, they're nervous about the lack of detail at this stage of the process, said Chris Volaski, president of the Santa Monica Pier Lessees Association, an organization representing business owners.

"This is a large undertaking, and I'm sure the city can do it, but we need more information and would feel more comfortable when fences go up that are 8 feet tall or there's a one-way sidewalk from the east to the west end of the pier and obstacles people try to maneuver," she told council members.

Once the contractor is on board, officials will be able to craft a strategy to keep visitors in the loop about construction on the pier, Merl said.

He even envisions that this could bring positive interest to the pier, because the process, though disruptive, is ultimately a flashy thing that could attract tourists if pitched appropriately.

"People are wondering what this is and how it will impact me," Merl said. "Are there ways to make it interesting, like showing people how a pier is built?"

Dana Wyatt, director of operations at Pacific Park, is not so sure about that.

Construction will be noisy and disruptive, and Pacific Park's entrance will be right next to the work site. Still, the large amusement park was not briefed on the matter until June 2012, just before the project went out to bid, Wyatt said.

The contract is open ended, and does not require that the contractor stick to a plan or set of measures to avoid impacts on businesses, he said.

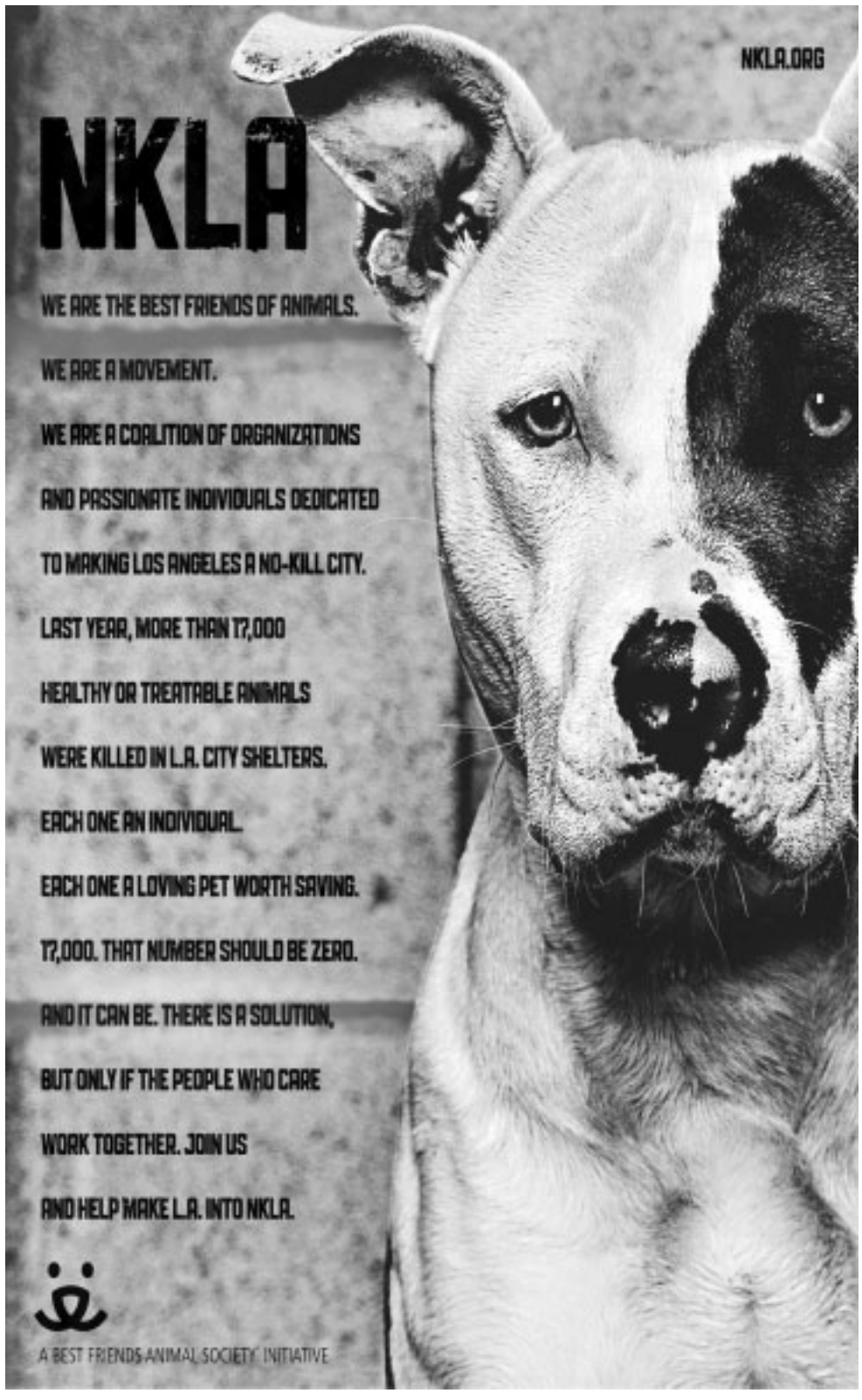
"The lack of a specific plan leaves critical details to the discretion of the contractor and provides no assurance that these concerns will be addressed and adverse impacts to pier tenants and public avoided," Wyatt said.

It's in everybody's interest for the businesses on the pier to do well, Merl said, and its his business to keep the largest number of businesses on the pier as possible.

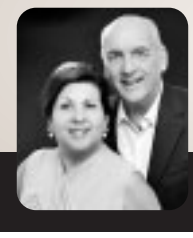
The work must go forward to make sure the pier remains a safe place for visitors and businesses alike.

"It will be good to have a true boardwalk back," Merl said. "That's the goal and safety associated with that to have a stronger, renewed and reinvigorated pier."

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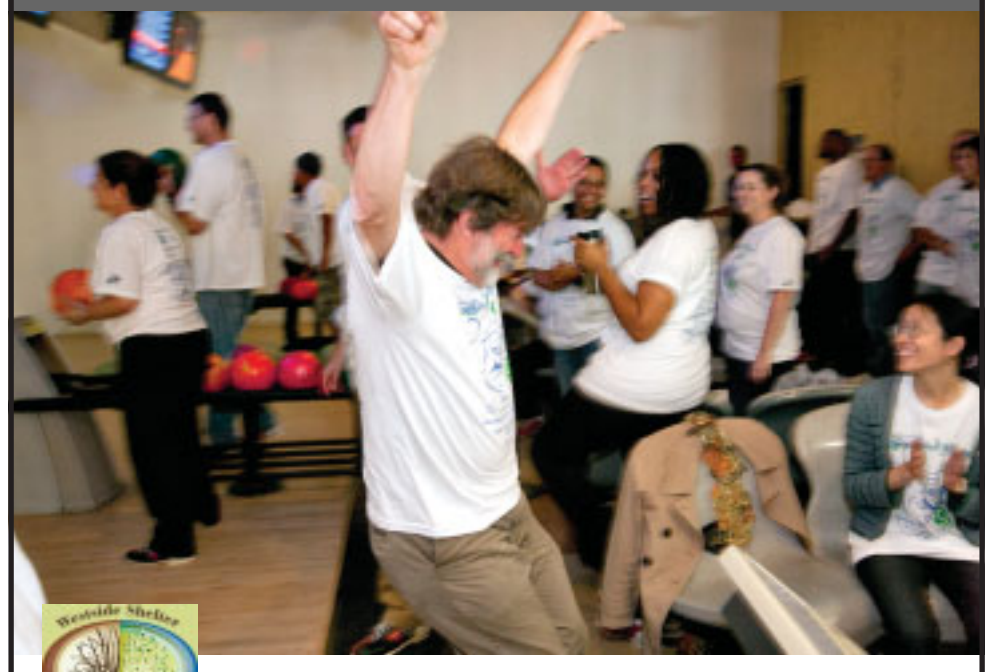
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SURF REPORT



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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **55.6°**

TUESDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high
Small NW swell mix, small S pulse. Larger sets up to waist high for top combo spots

WEDNESDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high
Small, fading NW swell mix

THURSDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high
Minimal new WNW swell. Best for standout spots which are up to waist high on the sets late.

FRIDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high
Minimal WNW swell eases. Mostly shows for standout spots with 2-3' surf there

Tides

Mid morning 5.5'-5.0' high tides, and late afternoon negative lows through the week will continue to affect the size, and quality of the surf. Please keep it in mind when/where you're planning your sessions.

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 23, 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 — 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill — 0
- Number of wet days — 12
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather — 32 / 19
- 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
Los Cerritos Beach, at Arroyo Seguit Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechuza and Las Alloe creeks.	ns	ns
Sweinel Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Strand Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Wishtoyo 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.	B	A
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A	F
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pearce Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	C	C
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (beach location)- daily.	F	D
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	B
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	C
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (paint river).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	A+
Pena Creek at Los Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	B	A
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	B
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	F	B
Will Rogers State Beach at 17308 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+	B
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	B
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	B	C
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	B
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	B
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	F
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	C
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	C
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	D
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	C
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.	B	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A	A
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of CMW jetty).	A+	A
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	A+
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	F

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

Heal the Bay 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

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.

NFL

ACLU's Super Bowl suit over 'clean zone' settled

MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS An agreement Monday has resolved a lawsuit over plans by the city of New Orleans to enforce a "clean zone" where the use of banners, signs and flags would be restricted during Super Bowl week.

The agreement, which must be approved by a federal judge, would allow the city to enforce some limits on commercial activity in the French Quarter and surrounding neighborhoods. The filing says the city can prohibit "off-site and mobile advertising," such as signs attached to a vehicle or worn by a person.

However, American Civil Liberties Union of Louisiana's Executive Director Marjorie Esman said the city has agreed not to restrict other forms of commercial or non-commercial speech in the "clean zone." She said local businesses, for instance, will be free to hang signs advertising their wares.

The ACLU sued the city last Thursday on behalf of an activist and a street preacher. They claimed the "clean zone" limits, spelled out in a new city ordinance and a code enforcement guide, would trample on their free speech rights and limit their activities leading up to the title game between the Baltimore Ravens and San Francisco 49ers.

"The city has essentially eliminated all of the problems with the original drafting" of the ordinance and guide, Esman said of the settlement Monday.

Last Thursday, U.S. District Judge Kurt Engelhardt issued a temporary restraining order that said the city can only enforce the limits in an area near the Superdome, where the game will be played Feb. 3. The ACLU and city on Monday asked the judge to dissolve that order.

Esman says other Super Bowl host cities have enforced similar rules in recent years at the NFL's request, but they had never been challenged in court before.

The new measures took effect Monday and are scheduled to end on the evening of Feb. 5. The city said the settlement clarifies that the "clean zone" is not intended to affect non-commercial speech.

"The clean zone addresses issues such as certain types of signage, outdoor vending and erecting structures and tents that the city already permits," the city said in statement. "It is an additional temporary designation that seeks to protect the quality of life for residents and assists businesses in thriving during the Super Bowl."

The ordinance, passed last month, said that the content of any temporary signs approved by the city must consist of at least 60 percent Super Bowl or NFL branding. But the settlement bars the city from enforcing that provision.

The city, Mayor Mitch Landrieu and Police Superintendent Ronal Serpas were named as defendants in the suit. The plaintiffs are Tara Jill Ciccarone, an Occupy NOLA member, and Troy Bohn, pastor of a religious congregation that regularly preaches on Bourbon Street.

MLB

Dodgers announce launch of TV network for 2014

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES The Los Angeles Dodgers have announced the launch of SportsNet LA, their regional sports network with Time Warner Cable for the 2014 season.

The team said Monday that its ownership group created an American Media Productions LLC subsidiary in December 2012 to launch the network. TWC will make payments and have the exclusive advertising and affiliate sales rights.

Dodgers owner Mark Walter says "we concluded last year that the best way to give our fans what they want — more content and more Dodger baseball — was to launch our own network."

The Dodgers said the agreement is subject to closing conditions. The Los Angeles Times reported last week the nation's second-largest cable operator will pay around $7 billion to carry the games.

The Dodgers will remain on Fox's Prime Ticket, a division of News Corp., this year.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

The Invisible War (NR) 93 min
7:30pm
Discussion following with director Kirby Dick and producer Amy Ziering

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

Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG-13) 2hrs 46min
2:15pm, 6:00pm, 9:45pm

This Is 40 (R) 2hrs 13min
1:15pm, 4:15pm, 7:15pm, 10:15pm

Lincoln (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
3:00pm, 6:30pm, 10:05pm

Haunted House (R) 1hr 20min
1:55pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

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

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

Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters 3D (PG-13) 1hr 28min
12:20pm, 3:00pm, 5:30pm, 8:05pm, 10:30pm

Hansel & Gretel: Witch Hunters (PG-13) 1hr 28min
11:25am, 1:45pm, 4:15pm, 6:50pm, 9:30pm

Django Unchained (R) 2hrs 45min
11:15am, 2:50pm, 6:45pm, 10:35pm

Zero Dark Thirty (R) 2hrs 37min
11:45am, 3:15pm, 7:00pm, 10:35pm

Gangster Squad (R) 1hr 53min
11:15am, 1:50pm, 4:45pm, 7:45pm, 10:40pm

Broken City (R) 1hr 49min
11:20am, 2:00pm, 5:00pm, 8:00pm, 10:40pm

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

Opera in Cinema: Royal Opera House's "La Boheme" (NR) 2hrs 45min
7:30pm

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

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

Quartet (PG-13) 1hr 37min
1:50pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

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

Last Stand (R) 1hr 47min
11:20am, 2:05pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:25pm

Movie 43 (R) 1hr 37min
11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:10pm, 7:55pm, 10:20pm

Parker (R) 1hr 58min
11:05am, 1:55pm, 4:55pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

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

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

Mama (PG-13) 1hr 40min
11:15am, 1:40pm, 4:25pm, 7:10pm, 10:00pm

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

Switch into fun mode, Taurus

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Extremes dominate your thoughts, as you keep switching from one perspective to the next. A discussion evolves into a brainstorming session. As a result, you come up with solutions quickly and efficiently. Tonight: Do something just for you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Your creativity energizes others. You could gain in some form from a conversation that could cause you to see the big picture. Detach in order to see what is really going on. Tonight: Switch into fun mode.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You could be dealing with a difficult situation, like it or not. The good news is that you will make it successfully past any encumbrances. A partner or loved one could point to the right path. Tonight: Be joyous. Look at the glass as half-full.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Your instincts lead you, and the wise will follow. You recognize your own limitations better than many people. How you handle a personal matter could change as the result of a conversation. Tonight: Fun and games.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Curb spending if possible. You might be revamping a project or other undertaking, which could create an endless pit in your finances. Think this over again. Your efforts to get others to agree with you might not work. Schedule a check-up with the dentist. Tonight: Having fun.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You are full of get-up-and-go, and you know what works. Start visualizing your goals and desires. Be sure to look for support from others, but be aware that they could be afraid of your independence and willingness to head in a chosen direction. Tonight: All smiles.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★ Know that it serves you well to slow down and approach a situation differently. You might not be happy with what you are seeing, but you also haven't chosen a new course yet. Talk to a trusted adviser before you make a decision or take any action. Tonight: Do your thing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Know what it is that you want from a situation. With this goal in mind, you can create just that. You might not be as receptive as before. As a result, some people distance themselves. Tonight: Where crowds can be found.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Others come forward with a lot of information to share. You might wonder where it all begins. Your sixth sense doesn't seem to be working for you in a financial sense. Play it conservatively for now. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You are wise for how you are looking at a difficult situation. Your sense of humor emerges when dealing with those you care about. You might want to seek out a respected friend or adviser. Others wonder as they watch you handle this issue. Tonight: Take in new vistas.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Deal with each person in your life without being distracted. You desire to follow through on a certain path, yet there are other options that need to be explored. A boss or an authority figure is difficult; do not kid yourself about that fact. Tonight: Let a friend take the lead.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Defer to others, and make sure you know what needs to happen. A fine-tuned sense of humor separates you from others in a trying situation. A meeting points to many alternatives. You might be tempted to walk the other way. Tonight: Pay more attention to a loved one.

Happy birthday

This year your focus remains on your self-image and how others see you in the community and/or professional circle. You could find that you have to work very hard, as additional responsibility has been tossed into your daily routine. If you do not like your work, be smart and find another job. If you are single, others will think that you are far more serious than you are. Be as authentic as possible when relating. If you are attached, you might not enjoy going out so much; cozy times at home will have far more appeal. Share more with your significant other. VIRGO can be a real pusher.

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

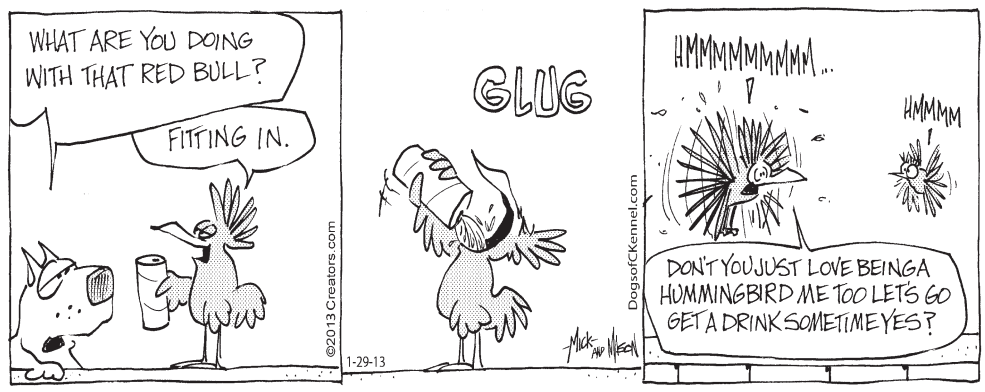
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



Strange Brew
By John Deering



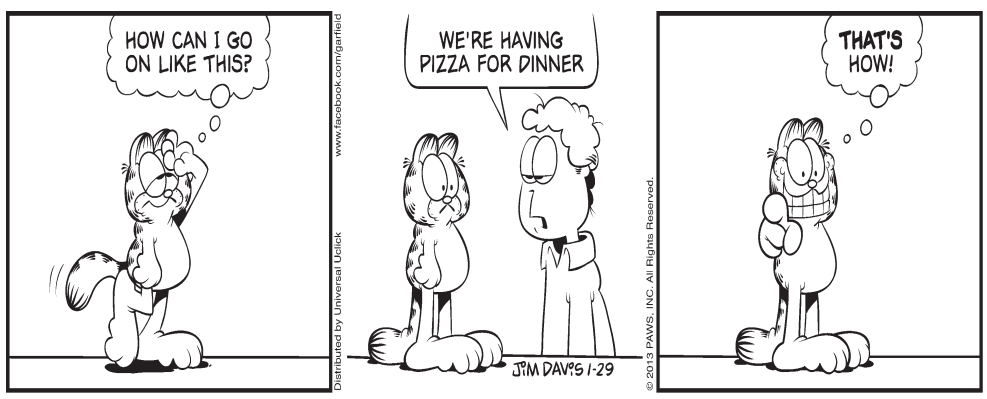
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



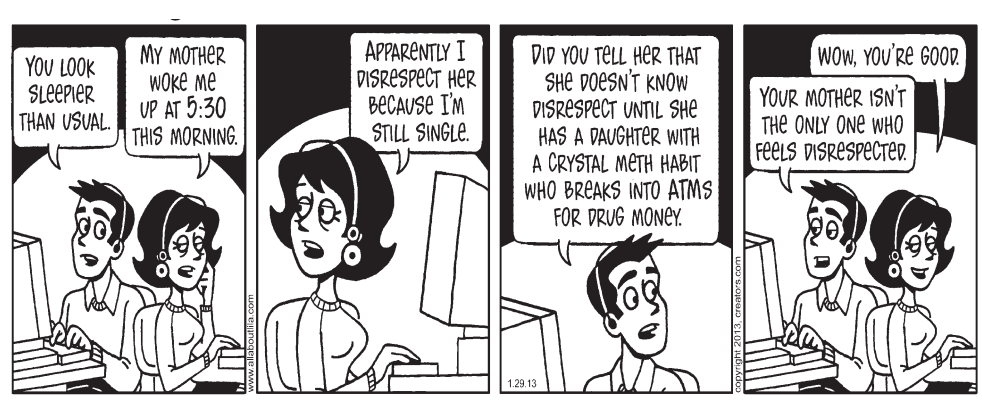
Edge City
By Terry & Patty LaBan



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 ★★

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

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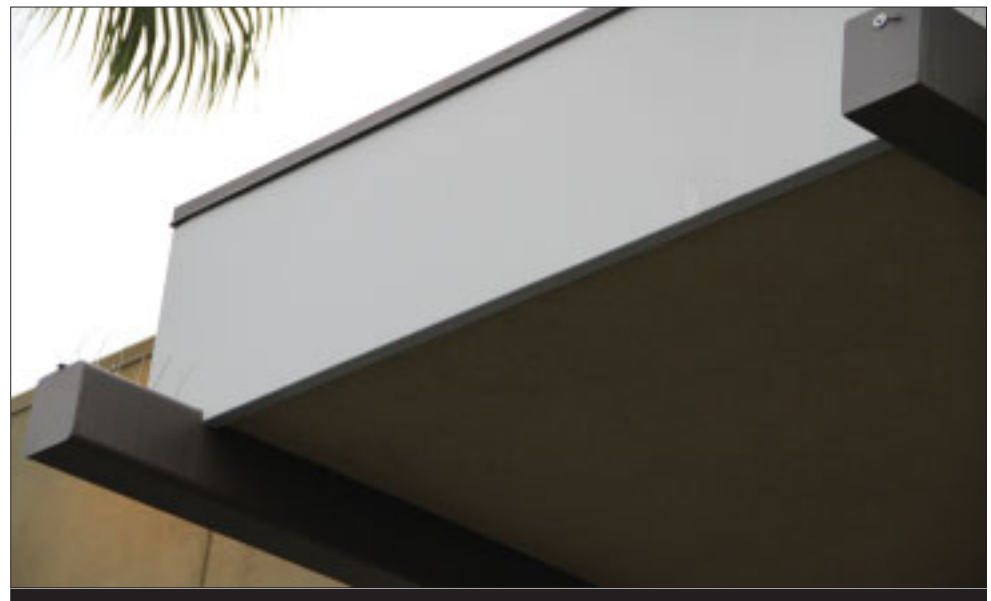
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Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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 Dorian Gray's creator
6 Treat the turkey
11 Blockhead
12 Honolulu hello
13 Make mark-downs
15 For each
16 McKellen of "The Hobbit"
17 Crucial
18 Wash thoroughly
20 Story lines
23 Art inspirers
27 Davenport setting
28 Wise teacher
29 Annoying fellow
31 Flash of light
32 Singer West
34 "Modern Family" network
37 Huck's pal
38 Simile center
41 File transferring aids
44 Broadcast sound
45 Take as one's own
46 Takes a break
47 Scout's rider

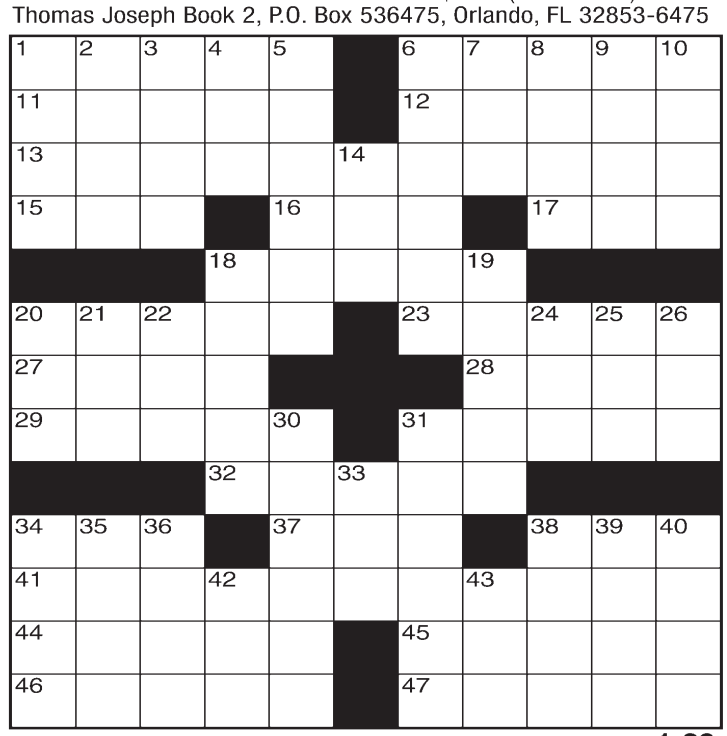
DOWN

1 Bit of smoke
2 Not busy
3 Deceitful sort
4 Uno doubled
5 Moral concern
6 Noted showman
7 Boxing great
8 Punch
9 "Of — I Sing"
10 Effortless
14 Golfer's goal
18 Unadorned
19 "Taps" tooter
20 Peach part
21 Depressed
22 Have debts
24 Take to court
25 Memorable time
26 Total
30 Poignant quality
31 One always working out
33 Auction signal
34 Miles off
35 Sky shade
36 Heels
38 Stratford river
39 Fall mo.
40 Regarding
42 Plop down
43 Wedding words

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



1-29

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 1/25
11 12 17 31 48
Meganumber: 1
Jackpot: $12M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 1/26
4 10 23 24 44
Meganumber: 23
Jackpot: $17M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 1/28
5 7 10 36 39

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 1/28
MIDDAY: 1 9 6
EVENING: 7 7 5

SAINT BRIDE
Draw Date: 1/28
1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 02 Lucky Star
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit
RACE TIME: 1:41.60

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

■ Almost-extinct vultures may be making a comeback within the Parsi community of Mumbai, India, after a pain reliever (diclofenac) nearly wiped it out. Parsis' Zoroastrian religion requires "natural" body disposals (no cremation or burial) of humans and cattle, and bodies have always been ritually laid out for the hungry birds, but the community has also come to rely on diclopfenac in hospitals and for cattle. When News of the Weird last mentioned the problems (in 2001), vultures were dying out from kidney damage caused by the drug, and bodies were piling up. (Parsis were exploring using solar panels to burn the corpses.) However, according to a November New York Times dispatch, clerics are reporting modest success in weaning Parsis off of diclofenac, and the vultures appear more plentiful.

■ Once again, a public library has been sued for gently asking a patron to leave because his body odor was provoking complaints. George Stillman, 80, filed a $5.5 million lawsuit in October against the New York Public Library for feeling "humiliat(ed)" by the staff of the St. Agnes branch in Manhattan. Stillman said he views body odor (his and others') as mere "challenge(s) to the senses" and "a fact of life in the city." Actually, he had also denied that he had any body odor at all, but a New York Post reporter, interviewing him about the lawsuit, said she noted "a strong odor."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1963 – The first inductees into the Pro Football Hall of Fame are announced.

1967 – The "ultimate high" of the hippie era, the Mantra-Rock Dance, takes place in San Francisco and features Janis Joplin, Grateful Dead, and Allen Ginsberg.

WORD UP!

word-hoard
\ WURD-hawrd \ , noun;
1.
A person's vocabulary.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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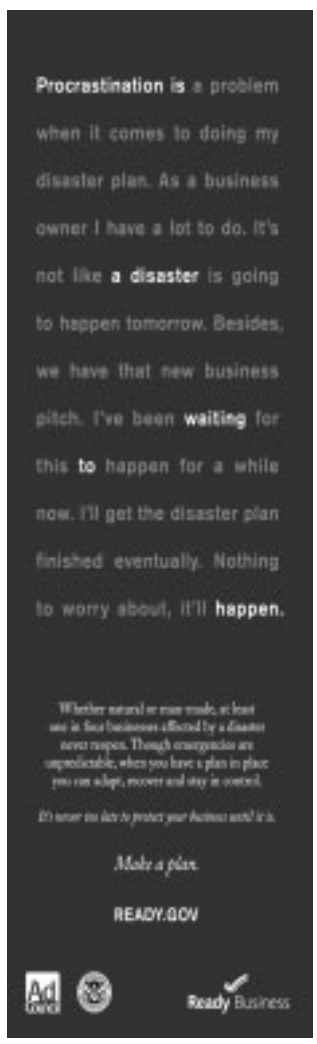
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* Stainless Steel Appliances



Average Price of **ALL** Santa Monica Single Family Homes From **ALL** agents in **ALL** companies Listed for Sale As of late January 2013		
Santa Monica Canyon	=	$10,200,000
North of Montana	=	$ 5,455,222
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$ 2,508,000
South of Wilshire	=	$ 660,000
Sunset Park	=	$ 1,289,544
Ocean Park	=	$ 749,000
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.