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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2013
Volume 12 Issue 81

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

VALENTINE'S DAY 411
SEE PAGE 3

THE WHAT A VIEW ISSUE

Rent Control Board considers fee increase for landlords

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The Rent Control Board on Thursday will get a look at a plan to raise registration fees on rent-controlled apartments and shift some of that cost to landlords for the first time as part of a plan to close a possible half-million dollar budget gap.

Like other public entities, the Santa Monica Rent Control Agency is facing rising heathcare and pension costs for its employees.

Despite the Rent Control Board cutting its staff in half since 1995, total expenses for the current fiscal year are $361,977 over revenues, which mostly come from registration fees.

If those fees remain at the current rate of $13 per month per unit, that deficit is expected to expand to almost $500,000 by the next fiscal year, according to a report by the Rent Control Board.

That would not only leave the agency mired in red ink, it would sink its fund balance below the $745,000 it needs to meet recommendations by the Finance Department to hold 10 percent of the current year's budget and money to cover unused paid time off for employees.

Registration fees haven't been revisited since 2006, and landlords have had the option to pass those costs onto tenants since rent control was first established in Santa Monica in 1979.

That was done to lessen the shock of

SEE FEE PAGE 11

Boutique theaters sniffing around Downtown SM

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN At least three independent movie theater operators have been sniffing around the Downtown site recently dropped by AMC Theatres, city officials say, sustain-

SEE THEATERS PAGE 9

Victim identified in Malibu hit-and-run that killed tow truck driver

BY MELISSA CASKEY
Special to the Daily Press

PCH A male tow truck driver was struck and killed in a suspected hit-and-run crash on Pacific Coast Highway and John Tyler Drive on Monday night, according to Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department officials. The victim was identified as Ronald Carver, 45, of Newbury Park, Calif.

Jill Rose, 44, of Santa Monica is suspected of striking Carver while he assisted a disabled car on the eastbound side of PCH near Pepperdine University, said Sgt. Phil Brooks of the Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff's station. Rose allegedly fled the scene and crashed into a parked car two miles east near the Malibu Pier.

SEE MALIBU PAGE 8



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

TAKING A GANDER: **Australian tourist Benjamin Thomas tries a new distance viewer on the Santa Monica Pier on Tuesday.**

New telescopes grace Santa Monica Pier

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM PIER Benjamin Thomas, an Australian, peered through a coin-operated pair of binoculars on the north end of the Santa Monica Pier.

"I saw the beach and lots of cold people," he said, grinning.

While Tuesday may not have been Santa Monica's most ideal beach day, it was picture perfect, a fact that Thomas and other patrons that wandered up to the new viewing fixtures can appreciate better now than any time in the recent past.

Each of the coin-operated distance viewers on the pier and in Palisades Park have been replaced with newer, sleeker models that have the benefit of improved optics to enhance the views of the beach and Pacific Ocean.

The machines come in both binocular

SEE PIER PAGE 9

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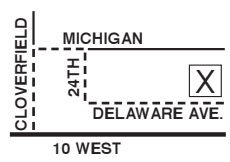
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2013

Balance and fall prevention
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
1 p.m. — 2 p.m.
Physical therapists Rhea Deal and Mary McGrego teach a workshop for seniors on what you can do to improve your balance and minimize fall risk, including exercises that can be done at home. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Westside writers unite
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
Offered in conjunction with the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, the Westside Writers Schmooze is a chance to network, make friends and get connected with writers in the Southland. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Thursday, Feb. 14, 2013

Sing-a-long with your little sweetheart
Ocean Park Library
2601 Main St., 3 p.m.
Songwriter Alina Celeste leads a Valentine's Day program of songs in English and Spanish for ages 5 and up. For more information, call (310) 458-8683.

Magic of love
Magicopolis
1418 Fourth St., 8 p.m.
Spend your Valentine's Day with a presentation of "Escape Reality!" While you're there for the magic show snack on pizza, toast with champagne and sparkling cider and collect your souvenir bag of tricks and magical surprises. For more information, call (310) 451-0749.

Valentine's Day galore
See page 3 for a complete list of things to do on this special day for lovers.

Friday, Feb. 15, 2013

Inside the library
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 12:30 p.m.
Docents lead tours of the sprawling facility, showing off some of the features that make the library a Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design gold rated building. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Bacon crazy
Wine Expo
2933 Santa Monica Blvd.,
5 p.m. — midnight
Experience the mystical bond between top shelf sparkling wine and the glorious meat candy known as artisanal bacon. Cost: $30 plus gratuity. (310) 828-4428.

High school musical
Barnum Hall,
Santa Monica High School
601 Pico Blvd., 7 p.m.
The Santa Monica High School Theatre Department invites you to enjoy a performance of Stephen Sondheim's "Into The Woods." Join Little Red Riding Hood, Jack & the Giant, Cinderella and other beloved characters in this musical fractured fairy tale about the importance of community and the perils of greed, with a live orchestra in historic Barnum Hall. Tickets are $10 for students and $15 for adults and can be bought at the door or at www.samohitheatre.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



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SMC

College reaches out to east L.A. residents

Santa Monica College, in collaboration with the California Works Alliance, has helped 124 residents of east Los Angeles County earn degrees in sustainable resource management from the California Resource Recovery Association (CRRA), officials announced this week.

The group is the latest to pass through the Jobs Through Recycling program and will graduate Wednesday in Pico Rivera, Calif.

Even before graduation, 18 participants have been placed in jobs at NASA Services, Inc. of Montebello, Calif., a recycling company, and many more are expected to get work in the high-growth, high-demand field of recycling and resource management, college officials said.

Although previous training programs have been held at SMC, this latest training was held at a facility in Pico Rivera. Laina Long, SMC's project manager for California Works Alliance, said her program wanted to reach out to unemployed and underemployed people at the east end of Los Angeles County.

The participants received employee and driver training in zero waste, customer service and recycling.

"This has been one of our most successful group of graduates so far," said Judi Gregory, certification manager with the CRRA. "The partnership and collaboration with the city of Pico Rivera and NASA Services was very successful and resulted in many new job placements. Additionally, those being hired stated that they felt the advanced training helped them do a better job and made them feel more engaged and part of a team."

The training provided by CRRA, which hires industry professionals to teach the participants, is an 11-week program and covers topics such as recycling, reuse, waste prevention, zero waste, composting, construction debris management, sustainability, climate change, event recycling, food waste recycling and auditing tools. Each student also completed a group capstone project.

The Jobs Through Recycling program began in January 2011 and is funded by a $4.87 million Community-Based Job Training Grant awarded to SMC by the U.S. Department of Labor. Under the terms of the grant, approximately 500 people are to be trained in green jobs and careers through June 2013.

College officials said the program is important to SMC, not only because of the employment opportunities it creates, but also because it underlines the college's commitment to sustainability.

Officials have noted that the recycling industry is as large as the automobile industry in America, and that 25 percent of all green jobs in California are in recycling. In addition, research has shown that for every 10,000 tons of solid waste going to landfills, one job is created. That same amount of waste — if diverted from landfills — can create four composting jobs, 10 recycling jobs, and 75 reuse-materials jobs.

For more information on the program or to apply for classes that start March 1, contact Judi Gregory at judi@crra.com or to go www.crra.com/scholarship.

– DAILY PRESS



File photo

ROUND AND ROUND: **Brandon Vanderput and Chelsea Schloesser ride the Pacific Wheel on the Santa Monica Pier during a recent Valentine's Day. Pacific Park is offering a free LED rose and sweet treats to the first 500 couples that take a spin on the wheel.**

Santa Monica's Valentine's Day rundown

BY MYA MCCANN
Special to the Daily Press

CITYWIDE Do you smell that? It's love. Valentine's Day is near and businesses all over Santa Monica are getting ready to woo you with their promotions and events. Check it out!

Oceanside dinner: Hotel Casa del Mar put together scrumptious dinner deals for couples and groups of friends to enjoy at The Veranda Bar. Dinner is three courses and is $85 a person. Packages range from $85-$2,500 and include food, drinks and other fun treats like a ride on the famous Santa Monica Pier Ferris wheel. For more information or to place a reservation, visit www.hotelcasadelmar.com.
Where: Hotel Casa del Mar, 1910 Ocean Way

Vosges chocolate dinner: One Pico restaurant at Shutters on the Beach is offering a fabulous Vosges chocolate menu for Valentine's Day. The menu infuses chocolate into each course and has a truffle paired alongside. The dinner is $105 a person and reservations can be made on the website at www.shuttersonthebeach.com.
Where: Shutters on the Beach, 1 Pico Blvd.

Race for a rose: The first 500 couples at Pacific Park receive a free LED rose and chocolate kisses with their Ferris wheel ride on Valentine's Day from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. To receive the complimentary rose and kisses, couples need to purchase a ticket for the Ferris wheel and notify the attraction's operator.
Where: Pacific Park, 380 Santa Monica Pier

Spicy meatball: All lovers receive 10 percent off their order if they kiss in the shop. Delivery excluded.
Where: Abbot's Pizza, 1811 Pico Blvd.

Take back the bar: Join other activists as they take a stand against domestic violence. One dollar of every drink bought will benefit Sojourn Services For Battered Women and Their Children. City Hall, OPCC, One Billion Rising, the Westside Domestic Violence Network and the Male Violence Prevention Project are collaborating on this fundraiser. Why do another expensive dinner when you can help make a difference in your community?
When: 5:30 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.
Where: Areal Restaurant, 2820 Main St.

Free fitness class: Led by L.A.'s top fitness instructors, Momentum by Iron will be holding two free classes for those without a Valentine. Reservations are required and can be made by calling (310) 264-9800.
5:30 p.m. — Tabata: Short, efficient moves are done in 20 second intervals with 10 seconds of rest. Repeat each move eight times.
6:30 p.m. — Barre Flow: The perfect blend of deep muscle toning with cardiovascular intervals to pump up the heart.

SEE **VALENTINE'S DAY** PAGE 10

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Private parties play a role

Editor:

I read your article on "Program to close achievement gap opens future for SMMUSD seniors," Feb. 1. It started off with one of our students, Logan Henderson, who we worked with in conjunction with the program Young Collegians, which services at-risk students to help them gain entrance into college. We helped Logan with school selection and his essays.

While Young Collegians is a wonderful program for the SMMUSD and I commend them, some things need to be put into perspective. Logan's success was not based totally on the Young Collegians program; there were private, outside sources as well.

When I first met Logan, he was in the 11th grade. He worked part time at Ca'd'Oro as an office assistant. The CEO of the bakery, Chris Ryan, was very taken by this young man, and kept telling me he wanted me to assist Logan. He had taken on a personal interest to help Logan succeed.

While we often spoke about Logan and the massive issues he has had to face, the fear of never knowing what will come next, we all marveled at his determination and hunger to succeed.

One day, Chris contacted me and asked if The College Admissions Consultant, an outside college counseling company which assists students in mapping out their high school programs, prepares students for the SAT, ACT and SAT subject exams, and helps to brain storm and develop creative essays, would consider helping out Logan. I agreed to take on Logan as every year The College Admissions Consultant, Inc. takes in a few pro bono matters to help those at-risk students like Logan succeed.

While I am very grateful that there are programs like Young Collegians, all of Logan's success can not be credited to this program alone. There have been a lot of fingerprints placed on Logan that have shaped who he has become, and while I am sure Logan is one of the star participants of this program, there is a lot that went on behind the scenes.

I am glad that SMMUSD has this great program, but to really build a solid educational base schools need to look at what the community can offer in the way of private contributions. The sad part is that the schools want to keep all of this information mum. Consequently, they turn away these wonderful resources in fear of losing jobs or programs. It's sad to think of it that way when in California there is one counselor for every 810 students.

In Logan's case many of us were able to work with him and hopefully have changed the course of his life forever. He is bright and dedicated and deserves to do well. While I embraced what the Young Collegians program has had to offer, students need to have access to not only the school programs, but to those private ones that may be able to enrich their lives. Logan's success is based not just on the SMMUSD or the Young Collegians, it is based on a lot of finger prints and experiences, which have touched Logan that set him apart from others.

Patty Finer
Director, The College Admissions Consultant, Inc.
Malibu, Calif.



Your column here

Robin Guenther — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Toxic chemical industry fights for outdated, unhealthy materials

THE WAR OVER TOXIC CHEMICALS AND human health is spilling over into places we live and work: our buildings. The American Chemical Council (ACC) has launched an expensive and focused attack on the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) to protect the status quo of a small set of bad-actor manufacturers of toxic and obsolete chemicals. But innovative companies across the building industries and human health advocates are fighting back.

The American Chemical Council is lobbying to end the federal government's use of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) building certification system unless USGBC removes all references to human health. If successful, they will keep taxpayers from receiving the cost savings and productivity benefits that LEED certification has generated. Why does a chemical industry trade association think better buildings are such a threat, you may ask?

The USGBC has transformed the global building industry with its emphasis on high performance, low energy and healthier building practices through its LEED certification program. In only a decade, LEED plaques have become synonymous with the best buildings in the world.

USGBC's mission is to make buildings not only more energy-efficient, but healthier spaces for those who inhabit them. The new draft version of LEED seeks to assuage human health concerns of buildings by offering voluntary credits for buildings using healthy materials. Many in the health community see this as a long overdue step for the rating system.

The ACC, however, sees this as a dangerous threat to their member companies because a few of them make a pretty penny producing controversial chemicals.

So if you can't beat 'em, lobby against 'em, right? ACC is doing what it does best — spreading misinformation and shoving truckloads of cash into lobbying efforts to keep the market from abandoning toxic materials and embracing green chemistry.

They've even gone so far as to form the laughable "American High-Performance Buildings Coalition," a group whose membership reads like a who's who of industries that make unhealthy products, all uniting to lobby against LEED. From big chemicals to vinyl to adhesives to petrochemicals — they're all here.

These toxic trade associations are trying to convince us that they are the ones who truly support "green" building. Perhaps next they'll suggest that their products only increase your odds of developing "green" cancer.

While they claim LEED is not consensus-based, this is demonstrably false. Any revision to the LEED standard must be approved through a democratic balloting process open to all 14,000 members of USGBC. These members are architects, engineers, builders, contractors and product manufacturers.

In fact, the ACC and many of its member companies are participating in the LEED development process. But when the professionals who purchase building materials began to suggest that a LEED credit be available for purchasing healthier building materials, suddenly the process is flawed, and not consensus-based.

GREEN BUILDINGS ARE ABOUT MORE THAN ENERGY AND WATER CONSERVATION; THEY MUST ALSO INCLUDE CONSIDERATION OF HUMAN HEALTH.

In the real world, when your customers ask for something, you don't lobby against their right to buy what they want, do you?

Let's hope these companies wake up and start to reign in their out-of-control trade association before people really start to notice who's behind the curtain.

Green buildings are about more than energy and water conservation; they must also include consideration of human health. Hospitals have started to lead the way. The Health Product Declaration, an independent, open-source methodology for declaring content of building products, is ushering in a new age of transparency in corporate reporting. The Healthier Hospitals Initiative recently released targets for safer products that include credit for avoiding chemicals of concern in interior furniture. Major manufacturers of health-care building products have begun substituting PVC and phthalate plasticizers with safer alternatives. These firms are innovating and capturing market share.

While the ACC protests these LEED credits, we would venture to say their innovative members are investing in R&D to move to safer alternatives precisely because of these initiatives. The construction industry needs the USGBC and LEED; citizens do, too. Someone has to make the push to get these chemicals out of our faces.

GUENTHER, FAIA, is a principal, focused on health care architecture, at Perkins+Will, a global design firm.





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

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2013. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West LA. Members of CNPA, AFCP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

PUBLISHED BY NEWLON ROUGE, LLC
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The Taxman

Jon Coupal
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

The shameful history of parcel taxes

CALIFORNIA HOMEOWNERS ARE HEARING more and more about parcel taxes. Either they recently suffered sticker shock when they opened their property tax bill to see a parcel tax that they weren't expecting or they have followed the news from Sacramento where politicians talk about making parcel taxes easier to impose.

Since the parcel tax war in California is about to heat up in a big way, it is important for all California taxpayers to know what these pernicious levies are, why they are so dangerous and the perversion of the California Constitution that permits them in the first place.

Property taxes in California are governed by both Articles XIII and XIIIA of the California Constitution. The latter, Article XIIIA, is more affectionately known as Proposition 13.

Before Proposition 13's enactment in 1978, property taxes were required to be imposed only as a percentage of value or, if you like Latin, on an ad valorem basis. Moreover, all property was required to be taxed at the same rate. Proposition 13 was intended to change neither of these features.

However, throughout the 1960s and '70s property taxes were rising dramatically, so Howard Jarvis thought that "value" should be defined in a way that would save homeowners from being taxed out of their homes. Thus, while property is still supposed to be taxed only as a percentage of value, Prop. 13 defines "value" as how much you paid for the property plus 2 percent per year. Prop. 13 also limited the tax rate to 1 percent.

Knowing that politicians and special interests would try to circumvent Proposition 13's property tax limitations with a myriad of new and different taxes, Howard Jarvis also put a two-thirds voter approval requirement at the local level for any additional "special tax." Thus, Section 4 of Prop. 13 provides that "cities, counties and special districts, by a two-thirds vote of the qualified electors of such district, may impose special taxes on such district, except ad valorem taxes on real property or a transaction tax or sales tax on the sale of real property within such city, county or special district."

The clear language of Section 4 reveals the intent to place a restriction on local governments from imposing any and all local taxes to make up for the property tax limits of Prop. 13. Indeed, the California Supreme Court acknowledged that that was indeed the intent of Section 4.

This constitutional language also reveals something else, that additional property taxes would not be permitted under any circumstance — even with a two-thirds vote. After all, the primary purpose of Prop. 13 was to limit property taxes.

Although Prop. 13 survived a direct legal challenge shortly after its enactment, it didn't take long for the courts and the legislature to start weakening its homeowner protections after it became law. For starters, the term "special tax" was defined narrowly as any tax intended for a specific purpose. Thus, all kinds of local taxes — including utility user taxes — which went into a local government's general fund were deemed not subject to the two-thirds vote requirement.

LET'S CHANGE THE STATE CONSTITUTION TO REFLECT THE ORIGINAL INTENT OF PROP. 13 AND BAN PARCEL TAXES ALTOGETHER.

But the biggest perversion of Prop. 13 had to do with parcel taxes. Courts held that, notwithstanding the existing law requiring that property taxes be imposed only as a percentage of value, and notwithstanding Section 4's clear prohibition against other forms of property taxation, that the term "special tax" could include a brand new form of property levies called "parcel taxes" as long as they received a two-thirds vote.

To ascribe to Howard Jarvis and the millions of voters who voted for Prop. 13 the intent to create a whole new form of property tax that never existed before is laughable. Parcel taxes are usually flat rate taxes imposed on property irrespective of value. Therefore, the retired couple living on a fixed income in a modest bungalow pays the same amount as the owner of a multi-million dollar mansion in Beverly Hills. In short, parcel taxes represent the most regressive form of taxation imaginable — something Howard Jarvis would never countenance.

While politicians and the special interests seek to make the imposition of parcel taxes easier by lowering the vote threshold, we have a better idea: Let's change the state constitution to reflect the original intent of Prop. 13 and ban parcel taxes altogether.

JON COUPAL is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association – California's largest grass-roots taxpayer organization dedicated to the protection of Proposition 13 and the advancement of taxpayers' rights.

The Q Line

Something in the air

City officials are actively seeking the public's opinion on medical marijuana dispensaries. There are currently none located in Santa Monica, but there are certainly interested parties who would like to set up shop.

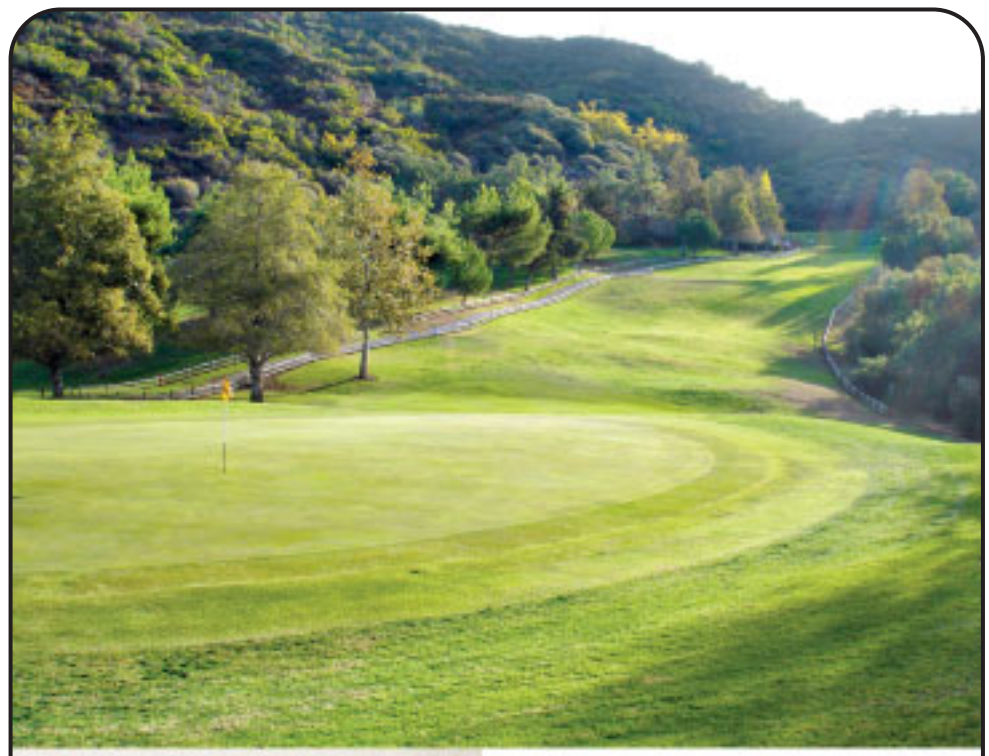
So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think dispensaries should be allowed in town, and if so, where and under what guidelines?

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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Report: Higher education funding proposal too lax

CHRISTINA HOAG
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES California Gov. Jerry Brown's proposal to increase higher education funding lacks mechanisms to ensure the extra money will result in improved graduation and enrollment rates, according to a report by the state Legislative Analyst's Office released Tuesday.

The 40-page report also criticized Brown's plan, contained as part of his proposed state budget for 2013-14, as taking key education policy decisions out of the state Legislature's hands.

The report said funding increases to the University of California, California State University and the Community Colleges of California should be allocated to pay debt and employee pension costs, and fully fund community colleges as priorities.

If there's extra money after meeting those priorities, that funding should be specifically linked to benchmark goals for graduation rates and enrollment, the legislative analyst said.

The report noted that only 23 percent of full time community college students graduate or transfer within three years and fewer than half of Cal State students graduate within six years.

Under an agreement reached last fall with the governor, the University of California and California State University agreed not to raise tuition in return for $1.4 billion in additional funding for the 2013-14 academic year.

This fiscal year, the state is spending $11.9 billion on higher education.

The report said an extended tuition freeze was worrisome as it would result in a steep increase in the next economic downturn. It notes that tuition paid by students only funds about 30 percent of the University of California's costs and just 6 percent of Cal State's.

Brown also wants the university systems to offer more online courses that would increase student access to high-demand courses. Currently, many students cannot get into needed courses, forcing them to take unnecessary units to remain enrolled and take longer to graduate.

The legislative analyst said Brown's goal of redesigning the higher education funding system was worthwhile, but funding should be linked to degrees earned, research activity and cost reductions.

STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Judge begins cutting three strikes sentences

A Los Angeles judge has reduced sentences of five three-strikes inmates as a first step in carrying out a voter-approved initiative.

Proposition 36 was overwhelmingly approved by voters. It provides for reducing sentences for relatively minor crimes under California's tough three strikes law.

The Los Angeles Times reports Tuesday that the first reconsideration resulted in reduction of five sentences. Among those cases was a 74-year-old man who has served more than 15 years for possessing $10 worth of drugs and an 81-year-old who served 17 years for stealing cigarettes.

The men have already served more time than their reduced sentences and will be released.

The Times says the judge is expected to reconsider sentences of 1,000 inmates in hearings likely to continue through the year.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Metrolink financial chief resigns after bad report

The chief financial officer of Southern California's Metrolink system has resigned after a report found accounting irregularities.

The Los Angeles Times says Nancy Weiford stepped down over the weekend.

An internal report released last Friday called the railroad's accounting system a "morass." It said the agency that serves 40,000 riders daily had underfunded cash accounts by tens of millions of dollars and that its record-keeping was so poor that Metrolink board members couldn't understand it's financial situation.

Weiford declined to comment to the Times.

The report recommends changes that include hiring financial consultants.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Lawyer pleads no contest to smuggling drugs

A lawyer has pleaded no contest to conspiring to smuggle $30,000 in drugs to a client at a downtown Los Angeles courthouse in exchange for $100.

City News Service reports the judge agreed Monday to sentence Kenneth Roger Markman to one year in county jail, one year in residential treatment and three years of probation.

Markman faced five felony charges, including a gang enhancement, for allegedly helping a street gang member commit a crime.

The 48-year-old was accused of bringing a package containing methamphetamine, heroin and marijuana to the courthouse for Jorge Zaragoza and his girlfriend Jennifer Vasquez to sell in jail.

Both are suspected gang members who have also been charged with conspiracy.

A formal sentencing hearing is set for March 15.

AP

SACRAMENTO

Seniors sickened at care homes

Sacramento County health officials say more than 30 people have been sickened in a suspected norovirus outbreak at two assisted living facilities in Sacramento.

County Department of Health and Human Services spokeswoman Laura McCasland says initial tests have not confirmed norovirus, but the county's public health lab was closed Tuesday.

The Sacramento Bee reported three of the 34 sickened people remained ill Tuesday.

AP

Raindrops, gloomy skies can't stop Mardi Gras

MICHAEL KUNZELMAN & STACEY PLAISANCE
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS Despite threatening skies, the Mardi Gras party carried on as thousands of costumed revelers cheered glitzy floats with make-believe monarchs in an all-out bash before Lent. In the French Quarter, as usual, Fat Tuesday played out with all its flesh and raunchiness.

Crowds were a little smaller than recent years, perhaps influenced by the forecast of rain. Still, parades went off as scheduled even as a fog settled over the riverfront and downtown areas.

Police, who had to deal with massive waves of visitors — first for Super Bowl and then for Mardi Gras — reported no major problems other than Saturday night when four people were shot on Bourbon Street. A suspect has been arrested.

There was a heavy police presence in the tourist-filled Quarter, where crowds began to swell in the early afternoon and would be bursting at the seams by the time police on horseback declared the party over at midnight.

The family side of Mardi Gras unfolded along stately St. Charles Avenue, where some groups camped out overnight to stake out prime spots for parade-viewing. A brief rain shower as the final float in the Krewe of Rex parade passed by didn't dampen the enthusiasm there.

Cliff Kenwood and his wife, Jennie, of New Orleans, brought their two children — 8-year-old Ivy and 6-year-old Jack — to the festivities. Each was dressed as a skeleton and Cliff Kenwood wore a banner around his hat referencing the recent publishing changes to the city's newspaper — The Times-Picayune.

The costumes poked fun at the paper's decision to cut back from a daily publishing schedule to three days a week. "We're black, white and dead all over," Jennie Kenwood said laughing.

She said their family kept their subscription even though they thought about canceling. "We can't do it to them. We don't want them to die," she said.

Rain or shine, it was a last chance to soak in some fun during the Carnival season, which ends with the start of Lent on Wednesday.

The Krewe of Zulu led the festivities from city neighborhoods to the business district, followed by the parade of Rex, King of Carnival, and hundreds of truck floats decorated by families and social groups.

In the French Quarter, many revelers had drinks in hand before sunrise. Some donned tutus, beads and boas. Some hadn't been to bed since Monday's Lundi Gras celebrations.

"We'll be in the French Quarter all day," said Bobbie Meir, of Gretna, La., with feathers in her hair and fingernails painted purple. "The sights today are jaw-dropping. It's a ton of fun and the best party in the world. Nobody does Mardi Gras like we do."

On Bourbon Street, women wore bustiers, fishnet stockings, bikini bottoms and little else. Some flashed flesh to attract the attention of people throwing beads from balconies.

"We're a flock of peacocks," said Laura Komarek, a recent New Orleans transplant from Minneapolis who moved to the Big Easy for a teaching job. Komarek and a group of friends walked Bourbon Street wearing leotards and large colorful feathers on their bottoms.

Sipping a hand-grenade, one of Bourbon Street's signature cocktails, Komarek said this was her first Mardi Gras.

"This is a totally different experience than any other event I've ever been to in my life. I'm so happy, having a blast with my friends without a care in the world."

The costumes were plentiful. Many revelers were clad in the traditional colors of Mardi Gras — purple, green and gold. There were cows, bees, pirates and jesters. One reveler rode through the French Quarter on a bike dressed in a U.S. Postal Service jersey adorned with syringes, referencing the doping scandal for the famed cyclist.

Among the revelers wearing plastic breasts and buttocks over their clothes was Mardi Gras first-timer Phil Weipert, of South Lyon, Mich.

"This is one big awesome party," said Weipert, who also had on a purple boa and matching hat with a gold crown. "I'm going to have to give up parades for Lent. I was going to give up booze but I'm definitely going to have to give up parades. I've been to like nine of them and I'm hooked."

Parading started at dawn, led by 82-year-old clarinetist Pete Fountain and his Half Fast Walking Club. Fountain and his group were clad in garish red suits and feathered hats.

"This is my life," he said, referring to his 63rd parade with the group he founded. "We're going to make it before it rains."

Mardi Gras also took on a Super Bowl flavor.

Baltimore Ravens' Super Bowl stars Jacoby Jones and Ed Reed, both Louisiana natives, were aboard a Zulu float. Reed was wearing a traditional Zulu grass skirt.

Nearby, three men identifying themselves as the "Superdome lighting crew" dressed in jump suits with home-made patches reading "Entergy" and name tags saying Larry, Shemp and Curly, a nod to the comedy troupe The Three Stooges.

Peter Menge, 41, of New Orleans, said the power company was an easy target for lampooning after the 34-minute blackout during the Super Bowl. "The power just goes out here a lot," he said.

Mayor Mitch Landrieu led the Zulu parade on horseback in a black shirt and jeans, flanked by mounted police officers.

At Gallier Hall, the old City Hall, Landrieu went to the bleachers to toast the Zulu and Rex monarchs, dancing to the music with others in the stands, including Archbishop Gregory Aymond, clad in his traditional clerical uniform adorned with strands of Mardi Gras beads.

For some, Mardi Gras had an even more special significance.

Kristina Goodner, 30, and Ben Goodner, 45, of Los Angeles watched the parades outside a St. Charles Avenue bed-and-breakfast. The Goodners got married at Disneyland, where Ben Goodner works, but the wedding had a New Orleans theme, including a zydeco band, a second line dance and a king cake. They decided to turn a previously planned family vacation to New Orleans into their honeymoon.

"It's been fantastic," she said. "Aside from the drunk college kids, everyone here is so welcoming."



MALIBU

FROM PAGE 1

Carver, who worked for Platinum Towing of Camarillo, Calif. had lowered the back of the tow truck to pull the disabled car onto the bed when the accident occurred, Brooks said. The owner of the car that Carver was assisting told deputies what they saw.

"The ramp was down, she caught the ramp and did a flip or barrel role, [Carver] was probably next to the ramp or in front of it," Brooks said. "[The driver] landed on her tires and kept going. It's like a 'Dukes of Hazzard' stunt.

"The person having their car towed was standing there and saw the whole thing."

Deputies responded to a call around 9 p.m. reporting that a gray or silver vehicle had struck a man on PCH near John Tyler and driven away from the scene. Responding deputies pronounced Carver dead at the scene.

A short time later, the sheriff's department also received calls that a car matching the hit-and-run description had crashed into a parked vehicle near the Malibu Pier.

"Witnesses positively identified the vehicle at the second collision as the one in the hit-and-run," Sgt. Dan Nagelmann said.

Detectives are still investigating whether Rose was under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time she crashed into the parked vehicle. They most likely won't know until toxicology tests are completed, Nagelmann said.

Rose was admitted to a local hospital for undisclosed injuries and is listed in critical condition, Nagelmann said. He said she is expected to recover from her injuries. Detectives accompanied Rose to the hospital to question her and she was detained as a part of the investigation. Brooks said he understood Rose had suffered "some sort of head trauma" and likely would not be released from the hospital for at least two days. She would not be charged with a crime until then, Brooks said.

Sheriff's officials shut down the eastbound side of PCH between Puerco Canyon Road and the Malibu Pier after the crashes were reported. Traffic was diverted to the westbound lanes until approximately 5 a.m.

editor@smdp.com

This story first appeared in the Malibu Times.





PIER
FROM PAGE 1

and telescope models, as well as two that are accessible to people with disabilities, said Rod Merl, the manager of the pier.

They're the same models used at Griffith Park and even the Empire State Building, which makes sense given that they're provided by the New York-based Fare Share Enterprises.

The City Council approved a contract with Fare Share Enterprises in November to replace the old viewers with the new models. The contract stipulated that the company would put up the money to replace the viewers, and then recoup half of the proceeds.

That's roughly the same deal that City Hall has enjoyed for some time, although those using the devices may notice a difference on their end — the machines cost twice as much to use as they did before, jumping from 25 cents to 50.

The cost is up to the company, Merl said, and may have been necessary to afford the replacement of all of the viewers.

"We're hard put to find out when they were last changed," Merl said.

City Hall believes it will make $6,400 per year off of the binoculars and telescopes after the revenue-sharing with Fare Share Enterprises.

Although that's not a lot in the context of the pier, the new viewers are just another one of a series of changes at the pier that add up to a revitalization of one of Santa Monica's most popular attractions.

The iconic destination — which has appeared in movies, commercials and publications and in many ways signifies Santa Monica — is in the process of changes both big and small that will add up to a significant shift in how the pier looks and feels.

From chains of energy-efficient lights that hang like a necklace from the sides of the pier to an $8.5 million reconstruction effort that will restore it to an all-wood state, City Hall has committed to investments for one of the city's biggest draws.

That was certainly true for Thomas, who traveled by bus from West Hollywood specifically to see the pier, as well as the estimated 6 million other visitors who make the site a destination every year.

"We want people to enjoy the pier," Merl said. "Anything that makes the pier more attractive is good."

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THEATERS
FROM PAGE 1

ing hope that the break in negotiations with the company will not hurt development efforts there.

Arclight Theatres, LOOK Cinemas and Ipic — all boutique brands — have expressed some interest in putting a theater at the corner of Fifth Street and Arizona Avenue, said Jason Harris, economic development manager with City Hall.

It's very early in the process, what he described as "kicking the tire."

"At this point, we are meeting with companies interested and asking them to submit proposals," he said. "So far, none have been received, but I believe several are working on them."

Harris hopes the situation will be clearer within a month. None of the companies involved would confirm looking at the development.

Inquiries about the site come less than three months after AMC backed off negotiations with City Hall to put a state-of-the-art multiplex theater on the City Hall-controlled property.

The AMC development team said that the 70,000-square-foot project would not make them enough money to justify the cost of building it, according to a city report.

The company had been in exclusive negotiations with City Hall since September 2009, and had just released a draft environmental impact report for the project, an expensive study that looks at traffic, pollution and other impacts caused by the development.

It backed out months after the Chinese conglomerate Dalian Wanda Group Co. purchased the company for $2.6 billion.

AMC may be pulling back from existing deals because it's seen the success that smaller, boutique theaters have had, said Agata Kaczanowska, an entertainment industry analyst with IBISWorld, a Los Angeles-based industry research firm.

The company has "quite a lot of capital to work with" since its purchase and needs to figure out how best to invest, Kaczanowska said.

Successful theaters have a common thread — they provide an experience that people can't get at home. With high definition and even three-dimension televisions available for purchase, it's up to theaters to find new ways to appeal to consumers.

It will also have an impact on the size of theaters, Kaczanowska said.

"It will mean smaller theaters because they're more customized," she said. "They'll have bigger seats, may have service during the show and really amenities that people aren't going to have at a normal theater."

IBISWorld expects that the theater industry will see success in these strategies. It's expected to grow 2 percent in 2013, and an average of 1.3 percent each year for the next five.

In comparison, per capita disposable income is expected to grow 1.7 percent in 2013, Kaczanowska said.

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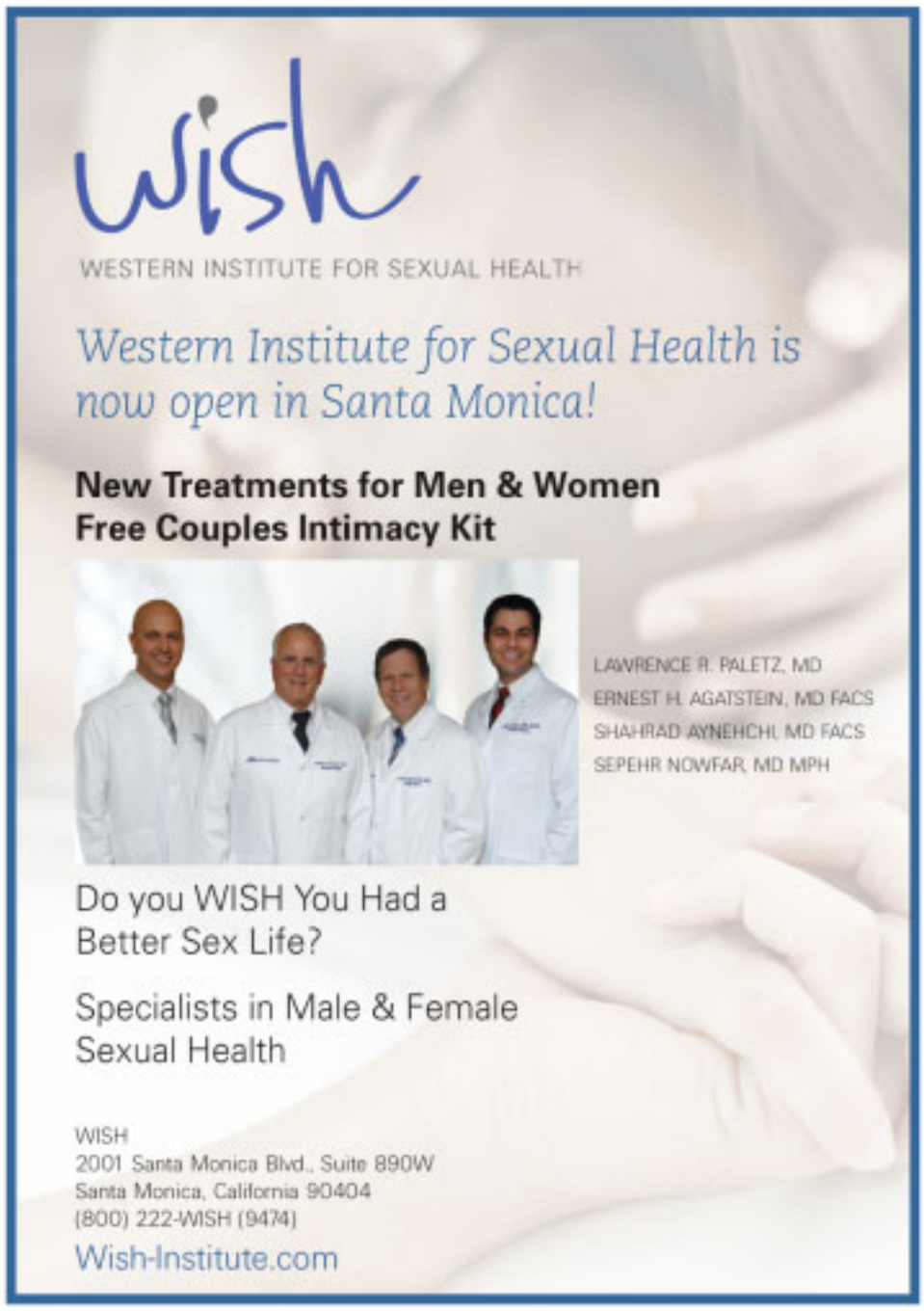
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VALENTINE'S DAY
FROM PAGE 3

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Where: Momentum of Iron, 1919 Broadway.

Stoplight party: Guests dress in specific colors based on relationship status. Wear red if you're taken, yellow if you're on the fence, and green if you're single and ready to mingle. There will be a DJ, special menu options and an extra V-Day surprise for guests. This is a 21+ event.
Where: Brick+Mortar, 2435 Main St.
When: 9 p.m.

Making macaroons: Join the Gourmandise School of Sweets & Savories in an intense baking class that will focus on the technique of making macaroons by experimenting with flavor combinations. As a special Valentine's Day treat, students will be able to make the cookies into heart shapes and color them pink. The class is $85 a person and includes vanilla bean macaroons, whipped ganache, caramel filling, and strawberry buttercream. Reservations must be made online at www.cookingschoolsofamerica.com/the-gourmandiseschool.
Where: The Market, 395 Santa Monica Place
When: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Paint together, stay together: Celebrate Valentine's Day at Paint:Lab. Complimentary champagne, strawberries and chocolate will be served; $60 a couple and it includes paints, brushes, set-up and clean-up — canvas sold separately. Mention this post and receive a 10 percent discount on your canvas purchase. Reservations required and can be made at www.paintlab.net.
Where: Paint:Lab, 2912 Main St.
When: 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Dinner and dancing: The recipe for a spicy and fiery Valentine's Day? A sexy night out achieved by the "Dinner & Dancing" package. This package is available for $140 (exclusive of tax and gratuity for the dinner portion) and is bookable by calling (310) 459-2264 (or toll free (877) 373-2623). The package includes a private salsa lesson and a four-course Mexican dinner at one of L.A.'s culinary institutions, Border Grill.
Where: The Dance Doctor, 1440 Fourth St.

A more extensive list of Valentine's Day events is available on the Santa Monica Convention & Visitor's Bureau website at www.santamonica.com.

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FEE
FROM PAGE 1

transition to a rent controlled system, said Patricia Hoffman, co-chair of Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights and rent control advocate.

"It was a radical change," Hoffman said. "There was a concern at the time of not wanting it to be overly stressful."

That could change under the proposal put forward by agency officials that would raise the registration fee by between $2 and $3 per month and shift some of the cost directly onto landlords.

The proposal reflects a change in how the agency does business now compared to 13 years ago when a policy called vacancy decontrol took effect, allowing landlords to raise rents to market rate every time a tenant left, said Tracy Condon, administrator for the board.

Now, more than 60 percent of apartments that fall under rent control in Santa Monica have risen to market rate, and the agency's services are more directed toward owners than ever before.

The agency runs an apartment listing service for owners, runs seminars to teach new owners the ins and outs of rent control and employees spend much of their time processing the 4,500 to 4,700 registration forms that come in every year, Condon said.

It's more equitable if all who benefit from the agency's services pitch in, she said.

Wes Wellman, a past president of the Action Apartment Association, which represents property owners in Santa Monica, thinks that landlords have been charged quite enough for the privilege of doing business in Santa Monica.

Voters approved in November a new method to adjust rents each year that pegs increases to three-quarters of the consumer price index (CPI), a measure of change in the cost of goods and services.

The change simplifies a convoluted and uncertain process that was used in decades past that came out to roughly 77 percent of the CPI. The board is already trying to change the deal, Wellman said.

"If now, after having voter approval of this new CPI formula, the board introduces an expense not historically paid by owners, it would disrupt the delicate balance of income and expenses that was approved by the voters," Wellman said.

Before taking aim at landlord revenues, the agency should look to cut costs in its own staff, Wellman said, likening public employee compensation to "a runaway freight train."

The agency has already taken some steps toward reining in those costs. Employees contribute 9 percent of their compensation toward their retirement costs, and the City Council created a second tier of retirement benefits for employees hired after July 1, 2012.

The state legislature took that one step further in the California Public Employees' Pension Reform Act of 2013, which established a third and lower tier of benefits for those hired on or after Jan. 1, 2013.

While those will help in the future, it does nothing for current costs. Other possibilities to save money include cutting special liability insurance, lowering or eliminating car allowances to some staff members, moving out of City Hall and reconsidering contracts with Sacramento lobbyists and other contract employees.

All of that together would only lower costs by $250,000, according to the report, not enough to close the budget gap.

Raising the fee to $15 per month would keep pace with expected cost increases until the 2015-16 fiscal year, after which revenues would drop to almost $1 million below expenses, according to projections.

A $16-per-month fee would keep the agency's finances solid at least through 2017-18, the last year in the projection.

No final decisions will be made until June, Condon said.

"We just wanted to get it out there now," she said.

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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **55.9°**

WEDNESDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **1-3 ft** ankle to waist high
WNW swell fades through the day; plus sets for top exposures

THURSDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high
WNW swell drops to leftovers; plus sets for top exposures

FRIDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high
Potential small WNW pulse rises up through the day

SATURDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to thigh high occ. 3 ft
Potential small WNW swell

TIDES

Still need to be taken into consideration as mid/late morning high tides will be pushing 5'+ for the first half of the week before draining out to negative lows in the later afternoon. Things moderate more as the week progresses. Plan you sessions accordingly.

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 **February 6, 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 -- 8
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 38 / 28
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alloe creeks.	ns	ns
Unocal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Wishtoyo Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	C
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	B	A+
Solstice Canyon at Eno Blocker County Beach.	A	A+
Pearce State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	A+
Malibu Lagoon storm drain at Pearce Beach, at 24872 Malibu Rd.	D	C
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (beach location) - daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	B	A
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	C
Los Flores State Beach at Los Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	C
Big Rock Beach at 19548 PCH storm.	A+	A
Pena Creek at Los Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	F	A
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	F	F
Will Rogers State Beach at 17208 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	A
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	A+
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	B	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	A
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	F
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	A+
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	A
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	A+
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.	A	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 CSAW 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+	A+

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

Heal the Bay 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.

MLB

Dodgers start spring with expectations, pressure

JOHN MARSHALL
AP Sports Writer

GLENDALE, Ariz. Players wander into the Los Angeles Dodgers' spacious clubhouse all morning, exchanging handshakes and hugs, asking about health and family, smiles all around.

The weight of expectations from what likely will be baseball's highest payroll are nowhere to be found. With six weeks until Opening Day, eight months until the World Series starts, there's plenty of time for that.

Right now, the middle of February, the first day of spring training, the focus is not on what this team might be able to do, but on setting the foundation to even give themselves a chance to get there.

"All these expectations are just noise to me and noise to our club," Dodgers manager Don Mattingly said on Tuesday, reporting day for pitchers and catchers at Camelback Ranch Stadium. "We should win the World Series and this and that, that's all fine, that's all good, but my job is to prepare this team to play and to cut out the noise."

Mattingly has plenty to work with after the team's owners went on a spending spree.

Stuck in bankruptcy, the Dodgers opened last season 12th in the majors with a payroll of $94.7 million.

After Frank McCourt sold the team in May, the new ownership group that includes Mark Walter, Magic Johnson and Stan Kasten whipped out the wallets, working out deals to acquire Hanley Ramirez, Adrian Gonzalez, Josh Beckett, Carl Crawford and Brandon League.

The Dodgers kept handing out stacks of cash during the offseason, paying a combined $183 million to right-hander Zack Greinke and South Korean pitcher Ryu Hyun-jin.

The wheeling and dealing sent the Dodgers payroll over $200 million, into luxury-tax range and likely ahead of the New York Yankees, baseball's biggest spender the past 14 years.

A price tag like that brings expectations, particularly for a storied franchise that hasn't been to the World Series since winning the title in 1988.

"I expect to win. I expected to win last year, I expected us to win the year before, honestly," Mattingly said. "I just believe that you can do anything if things work out. Granted, this year I have some more leeway."

The trouble in spring training will be figuring out how to get all these high-priced pieces to fit.

Los Angeles has talent and depth across the field and its bench, leaving Mattingly with a lot of evaluating and figuring to do during the spring.

Injuries to key players also could stretch the decision-making into the season.

Center fielder Matt Kemp is recovering from left shoulder surgery and left fielder Carl Crawford, picked up in last season's blockbuster trade with Boston, is recovering from surgery on his left elbow and wrist.

Pitcher Clayton Kershaw had problems with his right hip late last season — he says he's healthy now — and fellow starter Ted Lilly is coming off left shoulder surgery and Chad Billingsley, No. 2 in the rotation last season, is returning from a partially torn right elbow ligament.

Putting this puzzle together won't be easy and Mattingly will likely have to make some choices as spring ends and the season starts.

"Everybody can't hit third or fourth and there's only going to be one closer, for the most part, so there's going to be roles for everybody," Mattingly said. "When you build a club, you're trying to build a club where the pieces fit together and you don't have four second basemen or four center fielders. You want that guy who is a utility player, who comes off the bench and is happy doing that and likes that role. When you put a club together you can't just throw a bunch of names together and expect it to work. "

The biggest decisions will likely come in the starting rotation.

The Dodgers enter spring training with eight pitchers vying for five spots in the rotation.

Kershaw and Greinke appear to be locks at the top and Mattingly said Tuesday that he doesn't see right-hander Josh Beckett as someone who could move to the bullpen. That will likely leave Ryu, who will get a crash course in American culture and baseball, Chris Capuano, Aaron Harang, Billingsley and Lilly fighting for what may be just two spots.

"Everything's kind of up in the air right now," Mattingly said.

The glut of starters could end up helping the Dodgers.

Having so many potential starters certainly gives them depth, which could prove useful later in spring or even into the season, particularly with three of the pitchers coming off injuries.

It also fosters a competitive atmosphere, with even the guys at the top knowing they can't let up with so many players fighting for the same spots.

"Unless we do something different and go with six starters, there's going to be competition," Kershaw said. "But it'll make spring training mean something and helps us drive each other and push each other. Good competition is fun."



MOVIE TIMES

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AMC Loews Broadway 4
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(888) 262-4386

Call theatre for details.

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

Nicholas Sparks doubleheader

The Notebook (PG-13) 2hrs 3min
Safe Haven (PG-13) 1hr 55min
7:30pm

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

Port of Shadows (Le Quai des brumes) (NR) 1hr 31min
1:55pm, 7:20pm

Argo (R) 2hrs 00min
1:20pm, 7:00pm

Impossible (PG-13) 1hr 47min
4:10pm, 9:50pm

Rust & Bone (De rouille et d'os) (R) 1hr 55min
4:30pm, 9:40pm

Clandestine Childhood (Infancia clandestina) (NR) 1hr 50min
1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:55pm

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

AMC Criterion 6
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-7910

Parker (R) 1hr 58min
11:15am, 1:55pm, 4:55pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Bullet to the Head (R) 1hr 31min
11:30am, 2:10pm, 4:40pm, 7:20pm, 9:50pm

Silver Linings Playbook (R) 2hrs 00min
11:15am, 2:00pm, 4:50pm, 7:40pm, 10:30pm

Side Effects (R) 1hr 46min
11:30am, 12:15pm, 2:15pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 5:45pm, 7:45pm, 8:30pm, 10:30pm

Mama (PG-13) 1hr 40min
11:20am, 1:40pm, 4:25pm, 7:10pm, 10:00pm

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

Say 'yes' to an invite, Libra

ARIES (March 20-April 19)
★★★★ Put your best foot forward, even in an unpredictable situation. You tend to help others feel a lot more relaxed and at ease. Claim your power, and do what you want. Tonight: Do your own thing.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Read between the lines rather than immediately react. In fact, the less said, the better. You might have difficulty getting past a problem or a bad mood. Just let time do its thing. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Look at what is going on in a meeting. Note the different roles others play. These roles are interesting in that they reflect each person's issues. You might be so detached that others could feel uncomfortable with you. Tonight: Only where the crowds are.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Take a stand and know what you want to do. Somehow others easily misunderstand you. You could feel as if someone is bullying you. Walk away. You might take a strong stand in a key matter. Realize that you might be the one creating a problem. Tonight: Take the lead.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Take the lead in a situation before someone can interfere. The unexpected occurs, and it floors you and many others. A meeting points your attention in the right direction. Pressure comes from your schedule and its demands. Tonight: Go to a favorite spot that has music.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Deal with someone you care about directly. The interaction might surprise you at first, and then could delight you later. You need that type of dynamic in a bond in order to stay interested. Understand your need for change. Tonight: Play "follow the leader."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Defer to others, and avoid an argument. A power play might get the best of you if you get involved in it. The smart move is to steer clear and do what is necessary. Do not respond. If you continue to say nothing, the game might end. Tonight: Say "yes" to an invitation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ You might try to bypass a problem when the unexpected occurs. Recognize that you can do only so much. Do not attempt a power play or any other type of manipulation. You know what is acceptable. Tonight: Opt for a foot rub or a massage, should someone offer.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 21-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Your playfulness emerges when speaking to friends and loved ones. You express your love of the good life by living in the moment. Pressure builds around your finances. Tonight: Celebrate the moment.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Get back to the basics, and understand what is happening with a family member. You really don't need to ask questions. Just trust in this person's ability to work through these issues. Tonight: At home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You'll speak your mind. Others will either brainstorm with you or decide to counter your thoughts. Perhaps they even might choose to ignore you. Make a call to a relative you no longer can avoid. Tonight: Paint the town red.

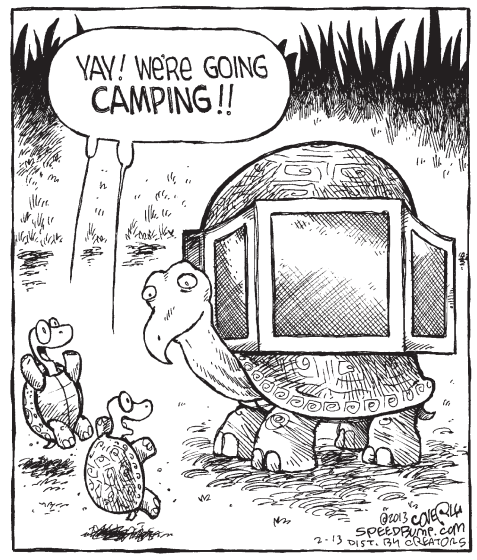
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ You could have a different opinion from a friend about a money matter. This situation could blow up in your face or evolve into a major power play. Decide which way to go, or consider a different option. Your mind can be unusually resourceful. Tonight: Keep it low-key.

Happy birthday

This year the unexpected runs rampant in your day-to-day life. It prevents boredom, and it helps you identify your priorities. You might have difficulty walking away from drama. Rather than fight the trend, let the exciting dynamics roll right past you. If there's one thing you can be sure of, it is change, and it is right around the corner. If you are single, you could have a sequence of intense potential sweeties. Take your time deciding, and you will benefit. If you are attached, the two of you have a great time together. When you relax, you are like two kids playing together. ARIES makes you laugh.

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

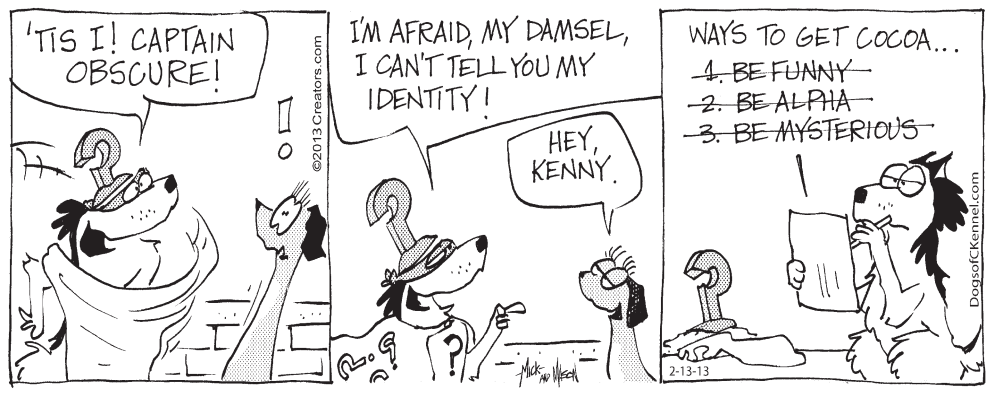
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



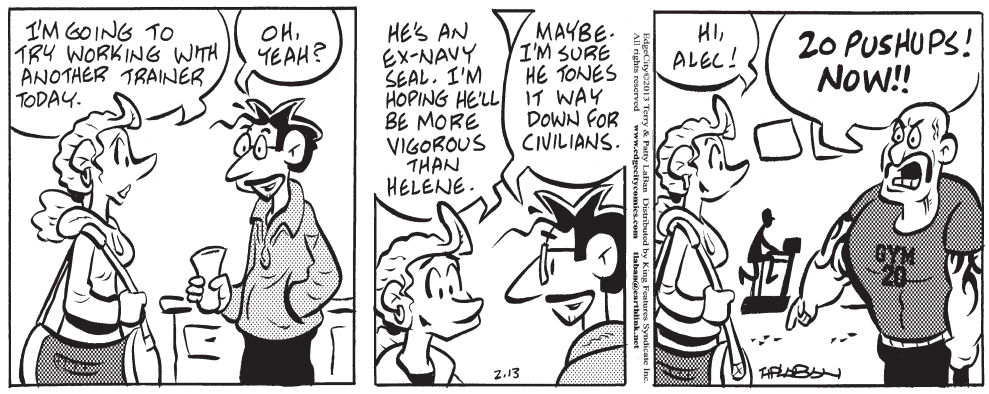
Strange Brew
By John Deering



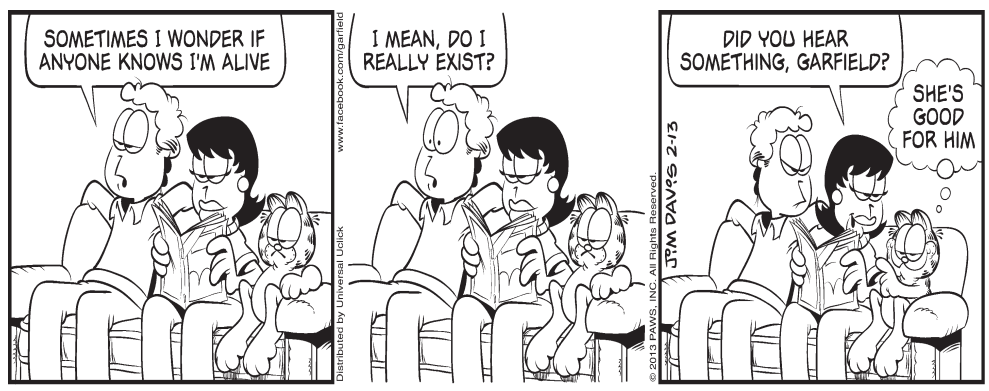
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



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 ★★★

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

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

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

Reader Dave Thomsen correctly identified this photo of the Wertz Brothers Antique Mart on Lincoln Boulevard. He will receive a prize from the Daily Press. Check out Thursday's paper for another chance to win. Send your mystery photos to *editor@smdp.com* to be used in future issues.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Résumé listing
5 Paint the town red
11 Touch on
12 Large lizard
13 Crisply fragrant
14 Sinew
15 Min. part
16 Flexed
17 Lift
19 Crony
22 Give one's case
24 Diver's gear
26 Shopping aid
27 Wallet bills
28 Tickle
30 Ventilation pipes
31 Puppy cry
32 Plot out
34 Gift tag word
35 Print units
38 Flowering shrub
41 Kin of PDQ
42 Train stops
43 Wise teacher
44 Abhor
45 Start the bidding

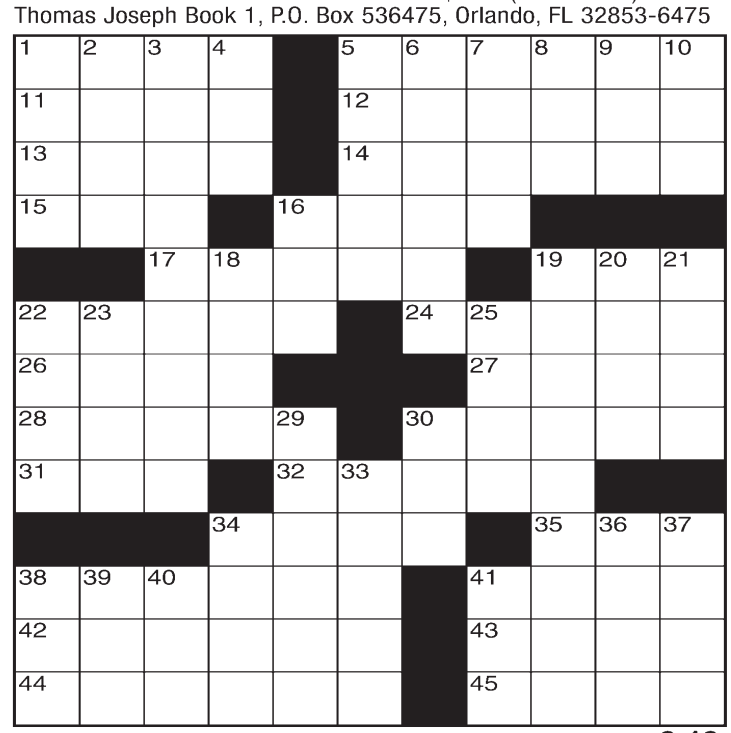
DOWN

1 Spielberg movie
2 Theater award
3 Crimps
4 Pig's place
5 Quick snacks
6 FBI employees
7 Little one
8 Suffered from
9 Lennon's love
10 Scathing review
16 Auction signal
18 Feedbag fill
19 Enlivens, as writing
20 Aid in crime
21 Colleen
22 DVR button
23 South American city
25 Brilliant act
29 Wading birds
30 Reservoir maker
33 Comic tribute
34 Ice chunk
36 Foal's mother
37 Revolved
38 Say further
39 Last letter
40 Fitting
41 Previously

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



2-13

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 2/8
6 15 20 39 50
Meganumber: 5
Jackpot: $13M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 2/9
16 32 35 40 47
Meganumber: 24
Jackpot: $21M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/12
4 18 25 30 33

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 2/12
MIDDAY: 4 9 2
EVENING: 0 5 4

SANTA ANITA PARK
Draw Date: 2/12
1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 06 Whirl Win
3rd: 03 Hot Shot
RACE TIME: 1:42.07

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

■ Twin brothers Aric Hale and Sean Hale, 28, were both arrested on New Year's Eve in Manchester, Conn., after fighting each other at a hotel and later at a residence. Police said a 27-year-old woman was openly dating the two men, and that Sean thought it was his turn and asked Aric for privacy. Aric begged to differ about whose turn it was.

■ Voted in December as vice presidents of the U.N. Human Rights Council for 2013 were the nations of Mauritania and the Maldives, both of which permit the death penalty for renouncing Islam. In Mauritania, a person so charged has three days to repent for a lesser sentence. (An August 2012 dispatch in London's The Guardian reported widespread acceptance of slavery conditions in Mauritania, affecting as many as 800,000 of the 3.5 million population. Said one abolitionist leader, "Today we have the slavery (that) American plantation owners dreamed of (in that the slaves) believe their condition is necessary to get to paradise.")

TODAY IN HISTORY

1951 - Korean War: Battle of Chipyong-ni, which represented the "high-water mark" of the Chinese incursion into South Korea, commences.

1954 - Frank Selvy becomes the only NCAA Division I basketball player ever to score 100 points in a single game

1960 - With the success of a nuclear test code-named "Gerboise Bleue", France becomes the fourth country to possess nuclear weapons.

1960 - Black college students stage the first of the Nashville sit-ins at three lunch counters in Nashville, Tennessee.

1971 - Vietnam War: Backed by American air and artillery support, South Vietnamese troops invade Laos.

WORD UP!

lollapalooza
\ lol-uh-puh-LOO-zuh \ , noun;
1. an extraordinary or unusual thing, person, or event; an exceptional example or instance.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Roomates
Commerical Lease
Real Estate
Real Estate Loans
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I Represented the Buyer

202 South Rockingham Avenue

List Price

$3,650,000



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

1751 Appian Way #401
For Lease
$6,400 per month

Santa Monica's Prime Beach Location



- Captivating Ocean Views
- 3 Bedrooms
- 2 Baths
- Hampton Style
- Newer Construction

603 16th Street
For Lease
$5,750 per month

Newly Remodeled Kitchen w/ Stainless & Limestone
Open Sunday, February 17th
1 pm to 4 pm



- 3 Bedrooms
- 1 Bath w Vintage Tiles
- Hardwood Floors
- Freshly Painted
- Stainless Steel Appliances

Average Price of **ALL** Santa Monica Single Family Homes From **ALL** agents in **ALL** companies Listed for Sale as of Mid February 2013		
Santa Monica Canyon	=	$10,200,000
North of Montana	=	$ 4,885,100
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$ 2,811,250
South of Wilshire	=	$ 669,000
Sunset Park	=	$ 1,319,271
Ocean Park	=	$ 1,550,000
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.