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Santa Monica Daily Press
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Volume 11 Issue 82



GETTING FIXED
SEE PAGE 3

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

THE CUTE KIDS ISSUE



Photo courtesy Joan Krenik

SPREADING THE LOVE: **Students at John Adams Middle School took part in the school's first Heart Day on Tuesday.**

JAMS takes a new look at the heart

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SUNSET PARK The adminstration at John Adams Middle School took a day better known for generic cards and sugar candies and transformed it into an instructional moment meant to inspire students to think more broadly about the term "love."

Normal classes and school work were suspended for JAMS' first Heart Day, which co-opted the pink and red trappings of Valentine's Day and added to it a curriculum of movement, empathy and expression.

"We want to expand it from the romantic sense to include love of self, love of 'other' and love of community," said JAMS Principal Eva Mayoral.

Love of self represented not just self esteem, but taking care of your body through proper exercise and nutrition. Commensurately, love of the "other" was as much about supporting the people around you as it was about accepting their differences.

Finally, love of community focused on creating a space in which all students at JAMS could learn and grow.

Students and teachers alike gathered on the JAMS field, each in a red T-shirt that read "I'mpossible" on the front and "JAMS, Dream Big, Work Hard" on the back for a morning of music and dance.

The coed student choir sang "One Love" by Bob Marley to a simple keyboard accompaniment, followed by two students performing original works, one touting heart-felt affection while the other took on the sticky subject of bullying.

Then, it was time to boogie.

Zumba instructor Will Williams and a small army of energetic co-instructors led the kids in dance routines aimed at getting their hearts pumping on Heart Day.

The mix of top 40 music and encouraging demonstrators got kids up and shuffling through LMFAO's "Party Rock Anthem" and grooving to Maroon 5's "Moves like Jagger."

"It felt like a party out there," Williams said after the workout.

The kids then dispersed to three groups. One continued working out on the field using team building exercises, while the second went to another area to write "notes from the heart," homages to those who have made a difference in their lives.

The third group went to a question and answer forum with Dr. Terrance Roberts, a motivational speaker who was one of the Little Rock Nine.

SEE HEART PAGE 10

Landmark designation denied for trailer park

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The Landmarks Commission on Monday denied an application to give special status to one of two mobile home parks left in Santa Monica.

Commissioners voted five to two — with Roger Genser and Margaret Bach voting in opposition — against designating the Village Trailer Park a local landmark, a status which would have prevented changes to certain pieces of the park.

Commissioners spoke of an appreciation for the sense of community and uniqueness of the place, but seemed troubled by the specific elements that they had the authority to protect.

Trailers technically cannot be landmarked because they are considered vehicles, and therefore could be moved from the park at any time. Neither could the commission weigh in on the use of the land as a trailer park.

That would leave the concrete pads upon which the trailers stand, private paved roads, a club house, laundry room, swimming pool, manager's residence, management office and landscaping.

"I keep moving back to the idea that this is more of a use," said Commissioner Nina Fresco.

Preserving the community and feel of the park was beyond the scope of the Landmarks Commission, and would have to fall to the arts, said Commissioner Barbara Kaplan.

"We'll leave it in the hands of the novelists, poets and photographers," Kaplan said.

The decision came in spite of a report by consultant ICF International, a Los Angeles-based consultant which determined that Village Trailer Park met two of the potential six requirements for historic designation.

SEE TRAILER PARK PAGE 9


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2012

The American dream
Fairview Branch Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
1 p.m. — 3 p.m.
Watch and discuss the feature film "For Me and My Gal," starring Judy Garland. Anna Stramese, who has a master's in critical studies from USC, will lead the discussion. This is part of a series focusing on films that captured the pursuit of the American dream. Cost: Free. For more information call (310) 458-8681.

Finding an outlet
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
6 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Learn about recent developments in the electric vehicle revolution sweeping across California, including cash incentives for purchasing a new electric car, during a presentation at the Main Library. The workshop will focus on plug-in electric vehicles (PEVs) and feature a panel of local owners discussing their experiences with PEVs in everyday life. The workshop is free, and refreshments will be provided. To register, go to www.energycenter.org/cvrp-events

Key to college dollars
Fairview Branch
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
A workshop for students grades 11-12 that will review the forms required to apply for financial aid, go over the types of aid available (grants, loans, scholarships) and the pros and cons of each. Presented by Diana Hanson, student counselor at College Mentors. For more information call (310) 458-8681.

Check
Ocean Park Branch Library
2601 Main St., 3 p.m. — 6 p.m.
Children and adults are welcome at Youth and Family Chess, a weekly instructional class meant to help you not just learn, but appreciate the ancient game of chess. Cost: free. For more information, call (310) 458-8683.

Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012

Starting off young
Morgan Wixson Theater
2627 Pico Blvd.,
3:30 p.m. — 6:30 p.m.
Award-winning, fun-filled musical theater and creative dramatics classes for ages 4-17, beginner to advanced. Work with a theater professional and work towards a final performance in Kids On Stage's Spring Play Festival in May and June 2012. Act, sing, dance, choreography, scene study, theater techniques, collaboration, brainstorming, team and confidence building, performance direction and final show. Classes vary. Class days: Monday through Saturday. To register, call (310) 314-0035.

Bug out
Santa Monica Pier
1550 Pacific Coast Highway,
8 p.m.
Cirque du Soleil's "OVO" is under the big top by the sea. In this show, Cirque delves into the secret lives of bugs to tell their unlikely stories. The show runs through Feb. 26. For more information, call (800) 450-1480.

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





Photo courtesy Google Images

STEMMING THE TIDE: **Feral cats are the subject of an initiative to help reduce their population through sterilization.**

Animal groups target feral cats for sterilization

SUE MANNING
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Cat owners have done a good job spaying and neutering their pets. The big issue now when it comes to felines is population control of feral cats, and that's led to a movement by animal welfare groups to trap colonies of these wild cats for sterilization.

A study conducted for Alley Cat Allies in 2007 and published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association in 2009 showed Americans owned about 82 million cats and 80 percent of them had been spayed or neutered.

But there may be just as many feral cats in the country and fewer than 3 percent of them are sterilized, said Becky Robinson, president of Alley Cat Allies in Bethesda, Md.

Feral cats are born on the streets. They struggle to survive and end up too wild to be handled. They often form colonies or communities, feed on rodents and garbage, and breed without restraint. It's almost impossible to tame an adult feral cat and most shelters won't accept them except to euthanize them.

Stray cats — cats that run away from home or get dumped or lost — may be tame and comfortable around people, but they often fall in with feral colonies.

Feral cats tend to mate and reproduce in warmer weather. Millions of feral kittens will be born over the next few months and taken to animal shelters across the country. "Unfortunately, few of these kittens find adoptive homes. Many, if not most, are killed in shelters," Robinson said.

More cats than dogs enter shelters, according to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and 70 percent of shelter cats end up euthanized, compared to just half of shelter dogs.

Feral cats are one of the reasons World Spay Day exists. The Humane Society of the United States started Spay Day USA in 1995. It's now held the last Tuesday of every February and observed in 46 countries. Hundreds of events are scheduled, and many of them offer free or low-cost sterilization for pets as well as for street cats and dogs.

PetSmart Charities Inc. has awarded $26.3 million in grants since 2007 to subsidize nearly 1 million spay and neuter surgeries in the United States. A new $1 million grant will help sterilize thousands of cats in February and pit bull terriers in August. Nationwide, 65 nonprofit clinics will get grant money, said executive director Susana Della Maddalena.

The spay and neuter center run by the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles will use the money to spay all female cats for $20, said spcaLA president Madeline Bernstein.

Spaying or neutering is safe for kittens as

SEE **CATS** PAGE 10

Whitney Houston's estate set to grow

RYAN NAKASHIMA
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES Whitney Houston's career is getting a post-mortem boost, but it isn't likely to be as big as the one that enriched the King of Pop's estate after his death.

Like the late Michael Jackson, Houston was in the midst of an attempted career revival. She was found dead at age 48 on Saturday in her Los Angeles hotel room on the eve of the Grammys, a stage she once ruled.

It could be weeks before the coroner's office completes toxicology tests that could establish the cause of death.

In an outpouring of grief — and a desire to remember her soaring voice and upbeat personality — Houston's fans have propelled her decades-old recordings to the top of sales charts on iTunes and Amazon.com. Twitter recorded more than 2.5 million Tweets about her within two hours of her death.

Not unlike Jackson's posthumous star turn in the movie "This Is It," Houston will star in a film that is set for release this fall. In addition, dozens of the six-time Grammy-winner's unreleased recordings may someday be released to a public grieving her loss.

"It really is a finite universe of celebrities that are able to transcend their own death to create commercial opportunities," said David Reeder, vice president at GreenLight, a subsidiary of Corbis Images that helps license the images and work of late icons such as Albert Einstein and Johnny Cash. "People want to remember her back in 1986 at her peak, when nobody was doing it better than she was."

As a former model who crossed racial barriers, Houston's image might find a home with a fashion brand, much like Elizabeth Taylor, who continues to grace fragrances, or Audrey Hepburn, who has been given numerous tributes by clothing companies long after her passing.

If Houston breaks into Forbes' list of top-earning dead celebrities in 2012, she will

SEE **HOUSTON** PAGE 8

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Why no living wage?

Editor:

[The weekend] Daily Press has a really bizarre editorial saying it would be bad for the city to require workers be paid a living wage in return for a developer receiving special rights under a development agreement.

For those who are unfamiliar with the proposed 710 Wilshire Blvd. development, there is an historic building on the corner of Seventh Street and Wilshire. The developer is proposing expanding that historic building to such an extent it would no longer be recognizable as historic. In addition, their total building would be double the size that is permitted by the zoning code. The real reason for this "spot zoning" (which is supposed to be illegal), is so the developer can make millions of dollars in additional profits. The city is now working backwards to try to find "community benefits" in order to justify this absurdity. One of the city's ideas is to require that the developer share a little of their millions of dollars in extra profits with the building's hotel workers, by providing them with a living wage. The developer is of course opposed to any "community benefit" that would actually cost them money. What makes no sense is the Daily Press complaining that a developer should not be required to actually spend money on "community benefits."

The Daily Press' editorial says it is bad to require a living wage because it will cause a bad precedent, but does not state what that "bad precedent" would be. I would like to remind the Daily Press that the two hotels that rent land from the city are required to pay their workers a living wage; that virtually all companies that do business with the city, are required to pay their workers a living wage; and that it is the height of hypocrisy for a developer, who is trying to get permission to build double the building size than is allowed by zoning code, to be complaining about the city interfering with competition.

Jeff Segal
Santa Monica





Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Time to unfriend Bateman

NO OFFENSE TO JASON BATEMAN, BUT I'm just about ready to unfriend him on Facebook.

Yes, I know it was me who friended him in the first place. I didn't do it because I'm his No. 1 fan (although I will admit to a minor crush back in the "Silver Spoons" and "It's Your Move" days). Nope, I did it because I was tooling around on Facebook late one night and saw that a college buddy of mine was a friend of his. On a lark I sent him a friend request, which he accepted, like, immediately. That should have been the first sign.

A couple of weeks ago he was all over my news feed because he announced that he was answering questions from his friends. Well, friends like me, anyway. Because apparently I had nothing better to do at that exact moment (same goes for all the moments I spend on Facebook, I reckon), I sent him one, which he responded to, like, immediately. (For those with inquiring or idle minds, yes, he's still chummy with Ricky Schroeder, but really only when they run into each other from time to time.)

But that was the second sign, and final straw, really. He's just too available. You want your celebrity Facebook friends to be like your OB/GYN — easy on the eyes, but in the end, all business. Promote your film, post a cheeky interview from some hipster website, or, better yet, have your publicist upload pictures of you looking fabulous on the red carpet. But that's it.

When a celebrity Facebook friend starts doling out pearls of wisdom that, by all appearances, seem to be ripped straight from Hallmark's dumpster on topics like marriage or how to punk other second- and third-tier movie stars, it's time to cut the cord. I just hope this doesn't ruin "Arrested Development" for me if I ever get around to joining Netflix. And you can bet your bottom dollar I won't be friending Alfonso Ribeiro, Tina Yothers or Nancy McKeon anytime soon. No need to spoil the rest of the 1980s for me.

A former colleague sent me a Facebook message last year and asked if I could get Chevy Chase to autograph a "Fletch" poster for his buddy. You know, because Chevy and I are Facebook friends. What I took away from our e-mail exchange was that he assumed that, as with Jews west of the Mississippi, all Facebook friends must necessarily know one another. If that in and of itself wasn't enough of a joke (or should have been, at least), he was including my celebrity Facebook friends among the people I was assumed to know.

Sometimes Facebook assumes I know other famous people because we have Facebook friends in common. Unfortunately, the celebrities who show up in my "People You May Know" section are mostly just B-list producers, cable TV stars or Ricki Lake. It's never anyone that rises to the level of a George Clooney or a Brad Pitt — you know, people I'd really like to know, biblically or even just well enough to get a glimpse of their "Activities" and "Interests," which, as everyone knows, is the Penthouse Forum section of Facebook.

There's one geeky celebrity with a cult-like following whom I've met in person on a couple of occasions and spent a little time with, and who is my Facebook friend. As it turns out, he actually uses his Facebook page just for his friends. I'm not sure how I slipped in there under the radar, but I try to keep real quiet so he doesn't notice me. I like being part of his super boring yet exclusive inner circle, and I just cross my fingers hoping he doesn't get around eventually to spring-cleaning his 315 friends and send me packing. That would break my nerdy heart more than a little.

I'm friends with Henry Winkler on Facebook, but mostly because I get a tiny thrill from having a connection to the Fonz. He doesn't do anything fun on his page though — it's mostly filled with junk postings from loser fans (unlike me, who is totally part of the in crowd; see above). Say what you will, but I have a Facebook friend who is Facebook friends with Erik Estrada for the exact same reason.

There are a couple of other Facebook celebrity friends of mine whom I've had to hide in my news feed because their status updates are super annoying. I have enough real-life friends whose status updates need to be hidden. Don't ruin your memorable guest turn on "Sex and the City" by posting daily pictures of your ugly dog, or making snarky comments about black licorice (black licorice digs its own grave by existing; it doesn't need any help burying itself). It proves that stars really are just like us. And that just about ruins the last guilty pleasure I had in life.

Thanks for nothing, Jason Bateman. But before I break up with you, would you mind putting in a good word with your sister? I wouldn't mind glancing at even just the Basic Information section of her Info page. Social media porn for idle minds. Sigh.

More at www.MeredithCarroll.com.

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The Taxman

Jon Coupal
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Stop special interest money

UNLESS ONE IS WEARING BROWN COLORED glasses, it is easy to see that California is a mess. We rank second in unemployment and millions of Californians have fled the state since the millennium — most as economic refugees seeking to carve out a better life for themselves where taxes are lower and job opportunities are better.

Most taxpayers see as their biggest obstacle to an improved life those elected officials who work against their interests, while bowing and scraping before those who provide millions of dollars in campaign cash. What it comes down to is that the Sacramento politicians are making war against regular folks, while assisting narrow, well-heeled, special interests to prosper.

What happens when an average Californian travels to Sacramento and requests an office meeting with a state representative? Those few ordinary citizens who attempt this pilgrimage are in for a rude awakening. First, you're lucky if you get a meeting. If you do, it will most certainly be with a junior staffer just barely old enough to vote. Not so for those lobbyists whose firm or organization contributed thousands of dollars to the politician's most recent campaign fundraiser. Those who provide campaign cash expect access to "their" lawmaker at a moment's notice and they demand "correct" votes on the legislation they care about. And no, this is not a partisan issue; representatives from both political parties are more than willing — and some are eager — to take contributions from powerful special interests.

In 2010, corporations, business groups and labor organizations gave $89 million dollars to the Sacramento politicians. Unions weighed in with $25 million in direct contributions, while major corporations ponied up $48 million.

Saying these payouts were made to advance good government would not pass the "laugh" test. Look at these examples. PG&E donated $561,000 playing in 70 percent of state legislative races. BNS Rail infused another $400,000 into 94 percent of legislative races, while AT&T was good for $760,000 to 99 percent of races. These records demonstrate that the goal of these firms is to buy influence with whoever is elected.

For the unions and corporations these expenditures are a great deal, even if for average taxpayers it is not. A few hundred thousand dollars invested in politicians can provide big payouts in return. Of bills passed by the Legislature, 60 percent are written by lobbyists and attorneys for special interests.

This corruption of the legislative process is nothing new, but with our state's failing economy and high taxes, it can no longer be ignored. This fall, California voters will have the opportunity to strike a major blow against the system of influence peddling that currently dominates Sacramento.

A just-qualified initiative, Stop Special Interest Money Now, will appear on the November ballot. It will accomplish three things that will diminish the control of special interests over elected officials. First, it will prohibit corporations and unions from contributing directly to the campaigns of political candidates. Second, it will bar contributions to officials by those contracting with, or seeking to contract with government — no more "pay to play." Finally, it will stop labor unions from taking money, to be used for political activity, directly from workers' paychecks without their explicit permission.

While there may be no foolproof way to totally prevent special interests from trying to manipulate the system for their benefit, the passage of Stop Special Interest Money Now will go a long way toward leveling the playing field so that the concerns of average Californians are given the same consideration as those of big corporations and unions in the deliberations of government.

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

Trouble brewing

The redevelopment of the Fairmont Miramar Hotel & Bungalows has proven to be a polarizing project. There are those that say the added tax revenue is good for the city, while others say that it's too big for the area.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Where do you stand on the project and why?

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) 458-7737 ext. 107**.



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BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Rocker pleads with LAUSD board to save arts

Grammy Award-winning drummer Matt Sorum says he wants to meet with the Los Angeles Unified School District superintendent to discuss ways to keep arts programs in elementary schools.

Matt Sorum of the band Velvet Revolver and formerly with Guns N' Roses, told the board Tuesday that music helped keep him in school because he was not good at academics.

The board is considering a proposal to slash arts, adult education and preschool programs from elementary schools in 2012-13 to close a $557 million budget gap.

Sorum says cutting arts would be a travesty and wants to get the entertainment community involved in keeping arts in public schools.

After hearing from Sorum and many others, the board has decided to postpone the vote until March 13.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Except for bite, most DNA excluded detective

A forensic expert acknowledged in testimony Tuesday that her years of DNA analysis of evidence in the 1986 murder of a woman did not cast suspicion on a veteran Los Angeles police detective until she focused on saliva from a bite mark on the victim's arm.

Under questioning by defendant Stephanie Lazarus' attorney, criminalist Jennifer Francis said bloody evidence from the crime scene did not suggest any suspect when she was first given the case in 2004.

There was no DNA match for any person other than victim Sherri Rasmussen on such items as blood from the walls, a towel, speaker cord and car key, she said.

It wasn't until 2009 that Francis focused on analyzing the bite mark and discovered there was DNA on the sample that was different from the genetic profile of Rasmussen, she said.

Francis testified earlier that the bite mark DNA was subsequently compared to a saliva sample taken from Lazarus' mouth and it was a match.

The discovery shocked Los Angeles Police Department detectives who had worked with Lazarus for a quarter of a century as she rose to become a highly decorated detective specializing in art thefts.

Lazarus' attorney, Mark Overland, led Francis through a virtual science class for jurors in the techniques of DNA analysis. He has suggested that the materials submitted to Francis for analysis had deteriorated over the years and evidence containers may have been subject to tampering.

Francis said that when she pulled a test tube with the saliva sample from a yellowed, torn evidence envelope, the tube was not sealed.

"So all you had to do was unscrew it?" asked Overland.

"Yes," said the witness.

Overland asked if mold was growing on the swabs in the tube.

"It's hard to say," said Francis. "I did not see green growing on it."

Prosecutors contend Lazarus killed Rasmussen after the woman married a man who had been Lazarus' lover for a year. Lazarus has pleaded not guilty.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Expert in ancient art to head Getty Museum

An expert in ancient art who has overseen museums in England, the U.S. and his native Australia has been named director of the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles.

Getty officials announced Tuesday that Timothy Potts takes the position Sept. 1.

He replaces David Bomberg, who resigned earlier this month to return to research, scholarship and writing.

Bomberg was appointed interim director two years ago.

Potts has been director of the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, England, since 2008.

Before that he ran the Kimbell Art Museum in Forth Worth, Texas, for 10 years.

Previous to that he was director of the National Gallery of Victoria in Australia.

Potts has a doctorate in ancient Near Eastern art and archaeology from the University of Oxford and has written extensively on art.

AP



States may intervene in hybrid settlement

ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO A judge on Tuesday granted California and four other states more time to consider objecting to a class-action settlement between Honda Motor Co. and car owners over inflated fuel-efficiency claims about the automaker's hybrid vehicles.

The states' sudden interest in the proposed settlement came shortly after Honda owner Heather Peters won $9,867 in small claims court — much more than the couple hundred dollars cash that the settlement is offering.

Attorneys general in California, Iowa, Massachusetts, Texas and Washington asked last week — only two days before Saturday's deadline — for more time to consider the settlement with about 200,000 Honda Civic hybrid owners.

San Diego County Superior Court Judge Timothy Taylor granted the states an extension until Feb. 29, but only after questioning why they missed the deadline when dozens of opponents didn't. The states were notified of the settlement in October.

"They managed to get theirs in on time. I don't see why you can't," the judge said.

Albert Shelden, a California deputy attorney general, acknowledged to reporters that Peters' victory this month in a Los Angeles court caught the attention of authorities.

"From a number of different sources, other questions have been raised," he said. "Everything figures in."

California has not decided whether to enter the fray and, if it did, on what grounds it would object, Shelden said. The amount of the offer would be among the questions it considers.

"We're going to look at the whole settlement," he said.

American Honda Motor Co., the Japanese automaker's U.S. subsidiary, said Tuesday that it believed the settlement was a "very good resolution."

"We look forward to a discussion with the state attorneys general concerning the benefits that our customers will receive from the settlement," Honda's statement read.

Peters, who attended the hearing, told reporters the states' objections might carry enormous weight.

"It resonates with the judges," she told reporters.

Alan Mansfield, an attorney for the class-action plaintiffs, said the significance was unclear.

"For me to presume what is important to a judge is not for me to say," he said.

Peters, who has been working full-time to challenge the settlement, was denied an opportunity to address the judge. She told Taylor that her license to practice law was recently reactivated, but the judge said he didn't have any evidence to support her claim.

Peters opted out of the class-action lawsuit so she could try to claim a larger damage award for the failure of her 2006 Honda Civic to deliver the 50 mpg that was promised.

The proposed class-action settlement would give aggrieved owners $100 to $200 each and a $1,000 credit toward the purchase of a new car. Legal fees in the class action would give trial lawyers $8 million.

Honda noted that the settlement includes rebates of up to $1,500 toward the purchase of a new car and a warranty extension on the battery. Some owners would be eligible to seek additional relief.

The judge granted the extension only after attorneys for Honda and the class-action plaintiffs said they had no problem with it. He gave less time than the states wanted and insisted on sticking to a March 16 hearing to decide whether to accept the settlement.

Geoff Greenwood, a spokesman for the Iowa Department of Justice, said California was taking the lead and declined to comment on his state's involvement.

Grant Woodman, a spokesman for the Massachusetts attorney general, also declined to comment. Spokesmen for attorneys general in Texas and Washington did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Shelden said the states would likely file any objections jointly.

Deputy who arrested Gibson settles bias case

ANTHONY MCCARTNEY
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES The deputy who arrested Mel Gibson for drunken driving and later claimed he suffered religious discrimination at work settled his lawsuit Tuesday against the Sheriff's Department.

Attorneys for James Mee said a $50,000 settlement was reached and must be approved by a county claims board. A trial scheduled to begin this week was canceled.

Mee, who is Jewish, claimed his superiors discriminated against him after arresting Gibson in 2006. Gibson had appeared in a public service announcement while building close relations with the department.

"Deputy Mee did not file his lawsuit for money, but he filed his lawsuit for the principle of what happened to him and he strongly believed in his case," his attorney Etan Lorant said.

Sheriff Lee Baca's spokesman Steve Whitmore said the department acknowledged no wrongdoing in the settlement.

"The sheriff has no issues with the settlement," Whitmore said. "It was purely a business decision."

Mee pulled over Gibson in Malibu in 2006 and claims his supervisors forced him to remove anti-Semitic comments made by the actor at the time from a report. Mee claimed he later received negative performance reviews and was denied promotion opportunities.

The county denied any wrongdoing throughout the case.

"Deputy Mee loved and still loves being a sheriff's deputy," said Yael Trock, another attorney representing the deputy. "All he wants to do is to put his employment dispute behind him and go back to his work protecting the public."

Gibson's reputation was damaged for years after details of his rant during the arrest were leaked to celebrity website TMZ.

The actor apologized for his conduct, and his conviction was expunged in 2009 after he completed all the terms of his sentence.

A judge had expressed doubts that Mee would be able to prove his case, and tentatively ruled that he wouldn't be able to call Gibson or Baca as witnesses.

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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
PROPOSED FY 2012-13 ONE-YEAR ACTION PLAN
ALLOCATING FEDERAL CDBG AND HOME FUNDS

Notice is hereby given that the City of Santa Monica's Social Services Commission will hold a public hearing to receive public comment to draft the 2012-13 One-Year Action Plan. The One-Year Action Plan, which is a component of the Consolidated Plan, is submitted annually to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), is required in order for the City to receive Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) funds.

The Action Plan details the City's specific projects and activities for one-year use of CDBG and HOME funds, per the City's overall housing and community development priority needs as specified in the Consolidated Plan (FY 2010-15) adopted by City Council and submitted to HUD in May 2010. To obtain a copy of the Consolidated Plan (FY2010-15), please visit us on the web at smgov.net/hsd or contact the Human Services Division, 1685 Main Street, Room 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401, telephone (310) 458-8701; TDD (310) 458?8696. Please send your written comments to the above address or email humanservices@smgov.net by February 27, 2012, or you may present your comments verbally at the public hearing on that date.

The Public Hearing is scheduled at the Social Service Commission meeting for Monday, February 27, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Civic Auditorium East Wing located at 1855 Main Street, Santa Monica

The Civic Auditorium is wheelchair accessible. If you have any special disability-related needs/accommodations, please contact the Human Services Division at (310) 458-8701; TDD (310) 458-8696.



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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

HOUSTON
FROM PAGE 3

likely get in "toward the bottom end" with single-digit millions of dollars, Reeder said. Michael Jackson dominated the list in 2010 and 2011, after his death three years ago.

Mark Roesler, chief executive of CMG Worldwide, a company that collects licensing revenue for the estates of Marilyn Monroe, James Dean and others, said fans will be looking to fill the hole Houston left behind on the eve of music's biggest night.

"For all those reasons, it creates a situation where people feel like something's been taken away from them," he said.

There are no signs that Houston made savvy investments like "the gloved one." Jackson had a 50 percent stake of one of the world's largest music publishing catalogs, Sony/ATV. Houston was known for her voice, but not for songwriting, which can generate lucrative revenue from years of radio play.

Consider that many of her top-selling songs were written by others. "I Will Always Love You" was a song that Dolly Parton wrote and sang in 1974. "I Wanna Dance With Somebody" (1987) was written by George Merrill and Shannon Rubicam and "Didn't We Almost Have It All" (1987) was written by Michael Masser and Will Jennings, according to the National Music Publishers Association.

Houston's image took a hit after her appearances in the Bravo reality TV show "Being Bobby Brown" in 2005. To many, the documentary series with her ex-husband was a cautionary tale about a drug-fueled lifestyle that damaged her voice and ruined her career.

A hard-partying existence contributed to her failure to fulfill a $100 million recording deal she signed with Arista, now part of Sony Music Entertainment, in 2001. At the time she was reported to have owed the label six new albums and two greatest hits compilations. Since then, only four have come out, including a greatest hits collection that was not released in the United States.

It's unclear if any posthumous releases would be part of that recording deal or if the agreement is still in force. A spokeswoman for Sony Music and for her longtime producer, Clive Davis, declined to comment. Houston's publicist did not respond to requests for comment.

Lawyer Bryan Blaney, who represented Houston in a recent fight with her stepmother over the proceeds of a $1 million life insurance policy she took out on her father, said he did not handle her financial affairs. He said that if the singer did not have a will, the proceeds of any continuing revenues would go to her 18-year-old daughter, Bobbi Kristina Brown.

Whatever the case, as the remembrances of Houston continue, her estate will likely be flush with a stream of money that had slowed to a trickle in recent years.

Although she sold 22.6 million albums in the U.S. in her lifetime — half of those through the best-selling 1992 soundtrack to "The Bodyguard" — her latest release, "I Look To You," sold just 978,000 since its debut in 2009, according to Nielsen SoundScan.

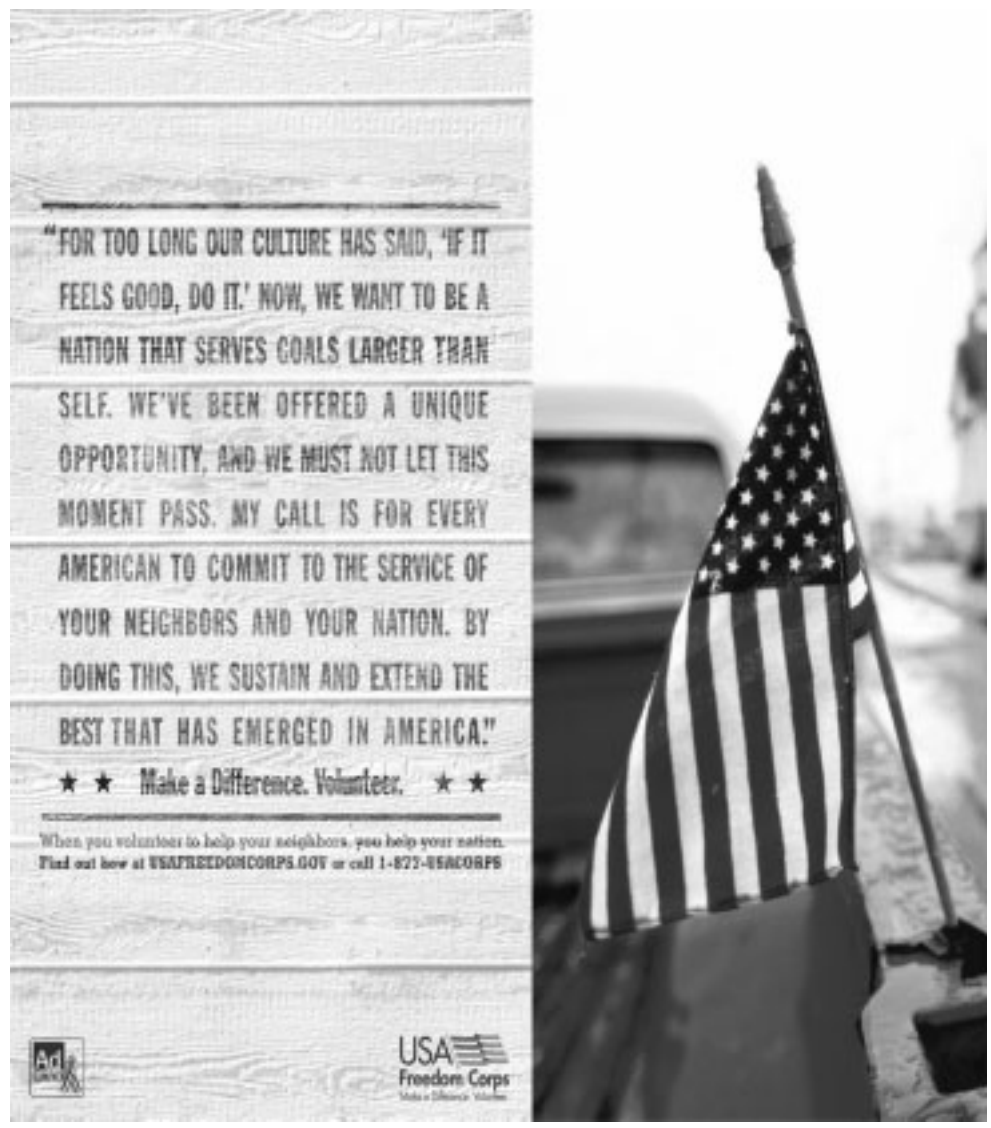
It's not clear whether Houston had debts, but she lost homes in New Jersey and Georgia to foreclosure several years ago, and some reports said she had recently tried to borrow small amounts of money from friends.

Renewed interest in Houston may continue for some time.

Later this year, the singer will appear in the film, "Sparkle," in which she plays a mother concerned about the influence of fame and drugs on her three daughters, who form a singing group.

Houston sings a gospel song on camera and a duet with co-star Jordin Sparks over the credits in the film, which began shooting in October. The movie and a soundtrack are set for wide release in August through Sony Corp.'s TriStar Pictures.

"She was on top of her game," said executive producer Howard Rosenman, who saw a rough cut of the movie on Friday, a day before the singer's death. "She was really coming back."





Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

NOT HISTORIC? **Village Trailer Park was denied landmark status on Monday.**

TRAILER PARK

FROM PAGE 1

A property or building must only meet one requirement to qualify for designation.

According to Peter Moruzzi, representative for ICF International, the park's layout exemplified a design from the period between 1950 and 1970 and it embodied the cultural attitudes of its community.

Village Trailer Park would not meet state or national standards for landmarking, but its place as one of two remaining sites for mobile homes or trailers in the city — alongside city-owned Mountain View Mobile Home Park — made it part of an economic development that had almost vanished, Moruzzi said.

"For the city of Santa Monica, it's a unique resource," Moruzzi said.

Robert Chattel, the consultant hired by developer Marc Luzzatto, begged to differ.

"We do not think the Village Trailer Park is extraordinary," Chattel said. "The fact that there are only two left does not raise this to the level of a landmark."

The loss was a blow to park residents, who have argued for months that the two parcels represent a living museum dedicated to the common man, unlike most landmarks created by the ultra wealthy.

"This was not built to glorify the rich and famous," said Catherine Eldridge, co-chair of the park's homeowner association. "It was for the common worker."

Residents had another motivation beyond class pride to root for the designation.

Landmark status would have stymied attempts to develop the land into a large mixed-use project with retail, condominiums and affordable housing.

The plan, which has been in the works since 2006, would require the residents to move out of the park or take up residence in one of the affordable units in the new development.

If the property was landmarked, it would have made it more difficult to disrupt the elements already there, including the ubiquitous pads spread throughout the park.

David Latham, a resident of the park who campaigned for landmark status, called the decision "disheartening."

"I hate being powerless," Latham said. "That's the problem."

The decision can be appealed to the City Council. It's unclear at this time whether or not the residents of the park will choose that option.

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CATS
FROM PAGE 3

young as 8 weeks old, Bernstein said.

Los Angeles-based Stray Cat Alliance has sterilized more than 75,000 cats in the last decade. Now, through its "I Spayed LA" program, the charity is working with residents in the poorest parts of Los Angeles to provide education and spay and neuter services.

The 90037 zip code covers only three square miles but is home to 50,000 residents and 10,000 cats, said Stray Cat Alliance executive director Christi Metropole.

ISLA lends cages to residents and teaches them to trap feral cats. The animals are sterilized free of charge and returned to the neighborhoods.

If 70 percent of the feral cats in the zip code can be sterilized over the next three years, Metropole predicts it will nearly eliminate the homeless cat population at the South Los Angeles shelter, where the kill rate for cats now is over 80 percent.

Not every agency believes in trap, neuter and release (TNR) but groups like Alley Cat Allies, HSUS and ASPCA say it's the best way.

When a feral cat is spayed or neutered, the top quarter-inch of its left ear is cut off. Called ear-tipping, the ASPCA says it is safe and the best way to easily identify which cats have been sterilized.

FixNation in Los Angeles offers free spay and neuter service to cat colony caregivers. They sterilize more than 70 cats a day and have trapped, neutered and returned nearly 80,000 cats since 2007, said co-founder Karn Myers. But the organization's five-year grant has now run out and if FixNation can't raise $500,000 by March, its free feral sterilization program will be in jeopardy, Myers said.

GetYourFix.org is a Virginia group that matches sponsors with pet owners who can't afford surgery. In nine months, they've matched more than 200 owners with donors, said Stephanie Downs, co-founder of parent FiXiT Foundation.

California is even tapping its car culture. The Department of Motor Vehicles is taking orders for a pet lover's license plate that sponsors say will generate a steady stream of money for free and low-cost spay and neuter programs. The state needs 7,500 orders before the plates can be made. The campaign is five months in and halfway there.

The plate says "Spay & Neuter Saves Lives" and features a drawing by actor-artist Pierce Brosnan.

HEART
FROM PAGE 1

Roberts was one of the first African American students to attend an all-white school in Little Rock, Ark. through forced integration.

"He experienced the most intense hatred for a child to deal with," Mayoral said. "People hurled objects at them, and hateful language."

In this, Roberts exemplifies a love of self, she said, because he owned his experience without stooping to the level of his bullies.

Mayoral was the key architect of the day's activities.

She approached staff, faculty and parents individually in December to describe her vision of a different, better Valentine's Day that got away from the chocolate and popularity contests and delved into meaningful topics and disucssion.

The Parent Teacher Student Association pitched in money for the shirts, and parents rallied behind school staff to watch the morning's dance routine and help prepare food for the afternoon barbeque.

"She was very passionate when she talked about it," recalled Joan Krenik, PTSA President for JAMS.

The day comes against the backdrop of Heart Month. Next week, the kids will focus their lessons on compassion. Other topics ranged from the actual biology of the beating heart to an analysis of love poems.

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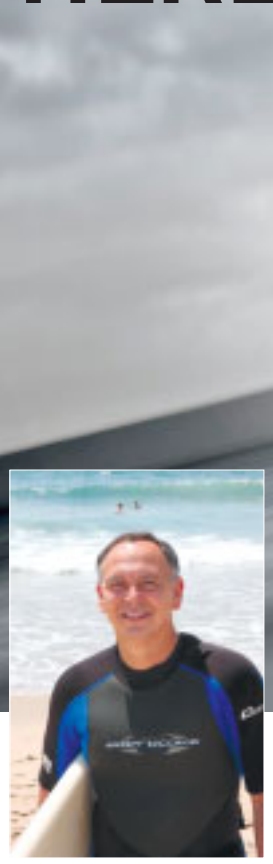


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Stocks stage late rally and finish flat

CHRISTINA REXRODE
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK The stock market rallied in the last half-hour Tuesday, seizing on reports that suggested the unraveling Greek debt talks might be saved after all. Stocks finished flat after languishing in the red for most of the day.

The Dow Jones industrial average gained 4.24 points to close at 12,878.28, about 12 points shy of its best finish this year. The Standard & Poor's 500 lost 1.27 points to close at 1,350.50. The Nasdaq composite index gained 0.44 point to 2,931.83.

As usual, it was about Greece. U.S. stocks were weighed down as European finance chiefs canceled a meeting planned for Wednesday to discuss a second international bailout for the country.

The meeting was called off after Athens failed to deliver on several demands made by its partners in the euro currency union. Greece needs a 130 billion bailout by March 20 to avoid a default that could rattle the world financial system.

Stocks in the U.S. were also hurt by a discouraging report on retail sales. Bank of America led the Dow lower, dropping 3.3 percent.

The Dow was down as much as 87 points at its low for the day. But the market found hope in reports quoting Greek government officials as saying party leaders would promise by Wednesday to implement deep spending cuts and other reforms.

Declining stocks still outnumbered advancing stocks by about 2-to-1. Volume was light at about 3.8 billion shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

The stock market has been rising slowly but steadily most of this year, despite the unresolved debt crisis in Europe and a stalemate over U.S. tax policy and benefits for the long-term unemployed.

For most of Tuesday, investors appeared to be waiting for more clarity on all those issues before sinking more money into stocks, said Colleen Supran, a principal at the investment adviser Bingham, Osborn & Scarborough.

"Everyone wants to know the rules of the game before making these decisions," Supran said.

The late-day rally was a sign that investors expect the coming round of Greek debt talks to resolve some of those outstanding questions. The talks have brought incremental and sometimes contradictory developments that have confused some investors.

The country has already passed some of the deep spending cuts its lenders were demanding but hasn't really satisfied anyone. Greeks have rioted, saying the cuts are too harsh, and Greece's neighbors have expressed concern that the cuts are not enough.

"Every week it's, 'The sky is falling,' then, 'No, it's not.' 'There's rioting in the street,' then it's over. 'There's going to be a deal Friday,' then, 'No, it's not Friday, it's Wednesday,'" said Ben Schwartz, chief market strategist at Lightspeed Financial in Chicago. "We really don't know what's underneath the covers over there."

He thinks U.S. stocks will continue to inch forward — not because investors are particularly optimistic about U.S. companies but because they have even less faith in European governments.

"We're the best house in a bad neighborhood," he said.

Downbeat economic news from Europe reinforced the danger. Greece said its economy shrank drastically at the end of last year, and Europe is expected to report Wednesday that the economies of the 17 countries that use the euro shrank 0.4 percent after growing 0.1 percent the quarter before.

Late Monday, Moody's also downgraded its debt ratings on six European countries, including Italy, Portugal and Spain. Moody's also said it might cut France, Austria and the U.K. as well.

News out of the U.S. was also disappointing. The Commerce Department said U.S. retail sales rose 0.4 percent last month, but analysts were expecting 0.7 percent, and spending on auto sales was down. Automakers had reported higher sales, so Tuesday's numbers could mean they have had to offer more discounts to persuade customers to spend.

• Yahoo fell 5 percent after reports that its plans to sell its Asian assets, a key strategy for turning around the troubled company, fell apart.

• Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. fell 5 percent after its fourth-quarter profits missed analysts' expectations.

• Bank of America fell 3.3 percent after Citi analyst Keith Horowitz downgraded his rating to neutral, saying the bank's "legacy issues," notably its 2008 purchase of mortgage lender Countrywide, "will take a while to play out."

• Luxury retailer Michael Kors Holdings Limited was a bright spot, shooting up 28 percent after revenue skyrocketed 68 percent in the latest quarter. The company, which peddles $300 sequined jumpsuits and wristwatches at stores in cities like Milan and Paris, was helped by strong holiday sales as well as new stores. Its results are also a sign that wealthy customers are continuing to shop even as the rest of the economy struggles.







Banking for pot shops eyed in Colorado

KRISTEN WYATT
Associated Press

DENVER Medical marijuana is legal in 17 states, but the industry has a decidedly black-market aspect — it's mostly cash-only.

Banks won't touch pot money. The drug is illegal under federal law, and processing transactions or investments with pot money puts federally insured banks at risk of drug-racketeering charges.

In Colorado, state lawmakers are attempting an end-run around the federal ban with a bill that would create the nation's first state cooperative financial institution for dispensaries and growers to allow them to store and borrow money.

The proposal, if enacted, would be a direct challenge to the U.S. Justice Department, which warns that all financial transactions involving pot money are illegal.

But for Colorado's 600 or so medical marijuana dispensaries, and hundreds more growers and associated industry workers, the problem of not being able to bank marijuana money is big enough to make the challenge worthwhile.

"I've been kicked out of three banks," said Matthew Huron, owner of two dispensaries and an edible marijuana company in Denver. One of his shops, Good Chemistry, greets patients with a sign on the register, "CASH ONLY."

Huron pays his bills with money orders. Huron's current bank, which he won't name, doesn't know the true source of his company's deposits. But without a checking account, Huron said he wouldn't be able to pay the required payroll tax for his 15 employees.

Small business loans are also out of the question, Huron said. In order to build a warehouse to grow the marijuana he sells — a requirement under Colorado law — Huron had to grow pot during construction and sell the pot to make cash payments to finish the warehouse.

"It's very cumbersome, the banking aspect," Huron said.

Cumbersome and dangerous. Dispensary robberies are rare, but the Denver-based Medical Marijuana Industry Group, which supports the legislation, reports that its members complain of being followed home with some saying they have been victims of robberies they haven't reported..

Marijuana businesses have large amounts of cash on their premises, a fact as widely known as the price of the product they sell.

"It freaks everybody out," said James Laws, general manager at the Good Chemistry pot shop in Denver. "It's off-putting when people come in and we have to say, 'Sorry, our ATM's down so you need to go down the street and get cash or we can't help you.'"

The bill up for debate in the state Senate Finance Committee Tuesday would set up a financial institution somewhat like a credit union.

Only licensed members of Colorado's medical marijuana industry, or their patients, could join. Initially, the Medical Marijuana Financial Cooperative would simply function as a vault of sorts for pot money. Members could deposit money and take money out.

Eventually, the cooperative could decide whether to issue loans or provide other banking services.

Several Democrats in Congress, including Colorado Rep. Jared Polis, have proposed federal legislation opening financial services for medical marijuana businesses in states where they're legal. However, prospects are remote.

"The truth is, this is just not something that's going to be addressed in this Congress," said Steve Fox, director of public affairs for the Washington-based National Cannabis Association.

Without federal action, Colorado's proposal may be a big waste of time. The same reason banks won't touch pot money — the risk of federal drug-laundering charges — would confront a state cooperative, as well.

"This bill attempts to address this big problem for the industry, the lack of financial services. But what it cannot do is get around the federal money-laundering piece of this," said Sam Kamin, a law professor at the University of Denver who follows marijuana regulations.

Threat of federal intervention appears to be growing. American Express announced last May it would no longer handle medical marijuana-related transactions because of fear of federal prosecution.

A month later, U.S. Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole gave banks an explicit directive about pot.

"Those who engage in transactions involving the proceeds of such activity may also be in violation of federal money laundering statutes and other federal financing laws," Cole wrote in a memo.

Cole's memo spooked the few small banks still doing business with marijuana growers and sellers.

"You'd have one bank at a time saying, 'We're going to pull out of this.' Then everybody would go to the next bank, and the next bank, until all the banks pretty much shut down," Fox said.

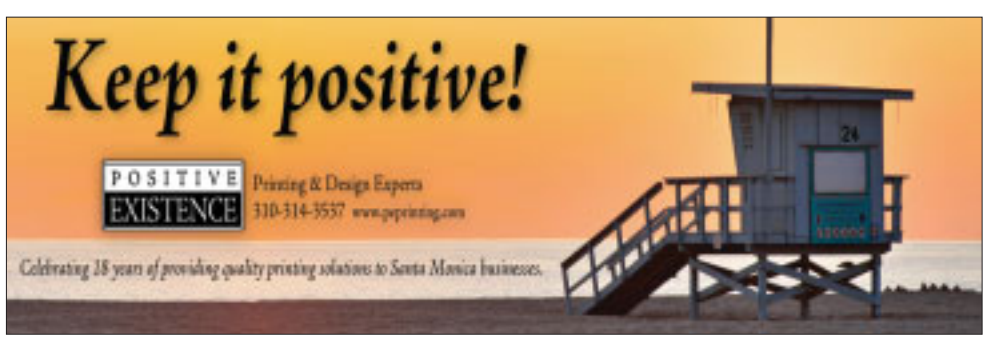
The sponsors of Colorado's bill concede that a state cooperative is unlikely to solve the problem.

But in a state with the nation's most regulated pot industry, where the government oversees nearly every aspect of how the drug is grown and sold, they say a banking proposal is the logical next step. Medical marijuana in Colorado produces about $20 million a year in state and local taxes, and employs from 5,000 to 10,000 people, according to the industry group.

"It's really hard to try to figure out how to create a workable local solution here," said Democratic Sen. Pat Steadman of Denver, one of the sponsors of Colorado's bill. "We have zero confidence that Congress is going to do something. But no matter how creative you try to get, there's only so much you can do at the state level."

So why bother? Steadman has several dispensaries in his district and says he worries about their safety if something isn't done to help them bank.

"They've got bags of pot, bags of cash. It's a bad combination," Steadman said.



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Santa Monica Community College District
Facilities Planning
1900 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 90405

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
SANTA MONICA COLLEGE
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTER
(RFQ NO. 002-2012)

Issued February 15, 2012

The Santa Monica Community College District is requesting qualified persons, firms, partnerships, corporations, associations, or professional organizations to perform the architectural and engineering services for the District's Early Childhood Education Center. This is a cooperative project with the City of Santa Monica and will be financed by the college's Measure AA Bond Program and the City of Santa Monica. The District will construct a new early childhood education center on property at the Santa Monica Civic Center. The proposed project constructs a new state licensed Early Childhood Education Center to provide a teaching laboratory for Santa Monica College's Early Childhood Education curriculum serving up to 100 infants, toddlers and preschool age children in the community.

The following experience is mandatory and required for all submissions:
- **Recent experience in the planning and design of a child development center.**
- **Experience submitting and certifying projects through the Division of State Architect (DSA).**

If you are interested in this RFQ, go to our web site, register and complete the questionnaire by 2:00 pm Thursday, March 1, 2012. Our web site is located at: **smcbondprogram.com**

All responses are due by 2:00 pm on Thursday March 15, 2012.
Late responses will be returned unopened. FAX OR EMAIL RESPONSES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. If you have any questions regarding this RFQ please send and email to rfc@smcbondprogram.com. Include the words "Early Childhood Education Center" in the subject line. **We are unable to respond to telephone calls.**
The District reserves the right to reject any and all proposals for any reason.

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SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

Santa Monica Community College District
Facilities Planning
1900 Pico Blvd. Santa Monica, CA 90405

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES
SANTA MONICA COLLEGE
MALIBU CENTER
(RFQ NO. 001-2012)

Issued February 15, 2012

The Santa Monica Community College District is requesting qualified persons, firms, partnerships, corporations, associations, or professional organizations to perform the architectural and engineering services for the District's new Malibu Center. This is a cooperative project with the City of Malibu and the County of Los Angeles and will be financed by the college's Measure S Bond Program. The District will construct a new classroom and lab building at the Malibu Civic Center. The proposed project includes a Los Angeles County Sheriff's sub-station. The building is approximately 25,000 gross square feet with a construction budget of $15,000,000.

The following experience is mandatory and required for all submissions:
- **Recent experience in the planning and design of a college or university classroom building.**
- **Recent experience with the planning and design of a public safety facility.**
- **Experience submitting and certifying projects through the Division of State Architect (DSA).**

If you are interested in this RFQ, go to our web site, register and complete the questionnaire. Our web site is located at: **smcbondprogram.com**

The entire process is accomplished electronically online; no paper submissions will be accepted. Please note that we may be using your public web site to view examples of your completed projects and to obtain other information about your firm as part of the evaluation process.

All responses are due by 2:00 pm on Thursday March 1, 2012. Late responses will not be considered. FAX OR EMAIL RESPONSES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. If you have any questions regarding this RFQ please send and email to rfc@smcbondprogram.com. Include the words "Malibu Center" in the subject line. **We are unable to respond to telephone calls. The District reserves the right to reject any and all proposals for any reason.**

Florida only U.S. state with an official chef

TAMARA LUSH,
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. The air in the parking lot of Orlando's Citrus Bowl smells like fresh cut oranges, shrimp and barbecue. A crowd has gathered before the game around a guy in a black chef's coat. A camera crew orbits as he sets some shrimp and star melon kebabs on the grill with a flourish.

"Florida seafood — ya gotta love it!" the guy says, grinning. The crowd cheers. The cameraman is happy.

A man walks up and inquires about the hoopla. Someone in the crowd tells him the man in black is Justin Timineri, the state chef of Florida who's filming a spot for ABC.

"Never heard of him," said Paul Pedersen, of Orlando. "He's like the governor's mansion kinda deal? I had no idea we had a state chef."

Move over, Mario Batali. Step aside, Gordon Ramsay. There's a new chef on the cusp of celebrity in the U.S., and he's from Florida.

Timineri is part culinary ambassador, part farm expert and part cheerleader for Florida-grown food. Technically, he's a state employee working for the Florida Department of Agriculture — and he's the only full-time state chef in the nation.

Timineri — tall, bald and known for wearing colorful sneakers — travels the Sunshine State showing people how to use the state's produce and seafood in recipes. He creates healthy menus for people on food stamps and limited incomes and promotes the state's food during trade missions around the world and in TV spots. Next month, he's headed to Brussels to talk up Florida grouper at the world's largest seafood expo.

It makes sense for the state to market its bounty: Agriculture is Florida's No. 2 industry, and unlike tourism, the No. 1 business, farming didn't suffer much in the recession. Florida is the nation's top producer of oranges, grapefruit and sugarcane. It's also No. 1 with a range of vegetables, from snap peas to squash and sweet corn, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"He is such a fantastic ambassador not only for promoting products grown in Florida," said Florida Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam. "But he's also a terrific ambassador with kids."

Timineri has a new mission this year: teaching schoolchildren to eat healthier. As part of the Department of Agriculture's effort to get kids to eat locally grown produce, Timineri does in-school cooking demos he's dubbed "Extreme Cuisine." A recent personal victory came when he got a class of sixth-graders to try guacamole; the children were skeptical of whole avocados but loved the finished product.

"I have the best job in all of state government," Timineri said.

The 37-year-old grew up in Tallahassee with Italian grandparents and good food.

"I knew ever since I could remember that I wanted to be a chef," he said. "When I was little, I was always peeking around in the kitchen."

Timineri didn't go to culinary school. Instead, he got a job in a Tallahassee restaurant and then worked his way up in various kitchens. Eventually, he took a job as an event chef for the professional stock car and golf tours.

In 2006, he heard the state chef's job created in the mid-1990s was open. He was hired over 60 others and makes $43,000 a year as part of the ag agency's marketing department. His office includes a small test kitchen attached to the Bureau of Seafood.

Since becoming Florida's state chef, Timineri won a Food Network Challenge with a recipe for crispy, pan-seared Florida snapper with passion fruit cream.

When he's not traveling, he helps with events at the governor's mansion. He especially likes cooking for Gov. Rick Scott and his family.

Timineri has one tip for home cooks: Buy produce in-season, and buy local.

"People should first go to grocery store or the farmers market and find out what's fresh and in season," he said. "Then go home to find a recipe to match it."



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MLB

Dodgers' bidders to meet ownership committee

RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK Remaining bidders for the Los Angeles Dodgers have been told they will be scheduled for meetings with Major League Baseball's ownership committee early next month.

The exact date of each group's meeting has not been set yet, but the range of dates for the sessions has been given to the bidders, a person familiar with the process said Tuesday. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the parties have signed nondisclosure agreements.

"What we will be doing is vetting the various groups presented to the committee, and that's in the process of being done now," said Atlanta Braves chairman emeritus Bill Bartholomay, the ownership committee chairman. "Then they'll be meetings, background checks, and things of this kind will be taking place. That's a process that will take some time, but it will be done expeditiously."

Bartholomay said the committee will investigate "very deep" into not just the lead individuals of the groups, but also the proposed limited partners and corporations that plan to invest.

The process was agreed to by Major League Baseball and Dodgers owner Frank McCourt in a deal filed with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Delaware. MLB agreed to process up to 10 bidders. Normally, Bartholomay's committee processes only the finalist to purchase a franchise.

"Let's face it, when you have the United States government involved, it takes a different profile," he said.

Bartholomay said he is joined on the ownership committee by Baltimore Orioles chairman Peter Angelos, St. Louis Cardinals chairman Bill DeWitt, Seattle Mariners chairman emeritus John Ellis, Detroit Tigers owner Mike Ilitch, New York Yankees managing general partner Hal Steinbrenner and New York Mets chairman Fred Wilpon.

While the date for the next round of bids has not been set, it appears the process is on a track to have a mid-March submission date for the offers.

After putting the team in bankruptcy last year, McCourt signed an agreement with MLB saying he would select the new owner by April and close a sale by April 30, matching the date he is due to give former wife Jamie a $131 million divorce settlement.

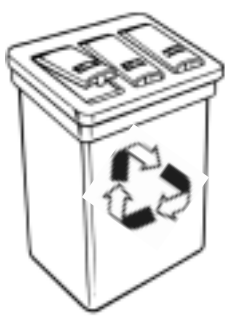
"It's a serious project, a great franchise," Bartholomay said. "Hopefully it can be done in accordance with the target dates for the transaction to be completed."

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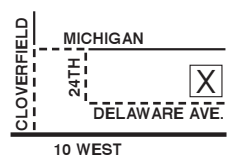


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SURF REPORT



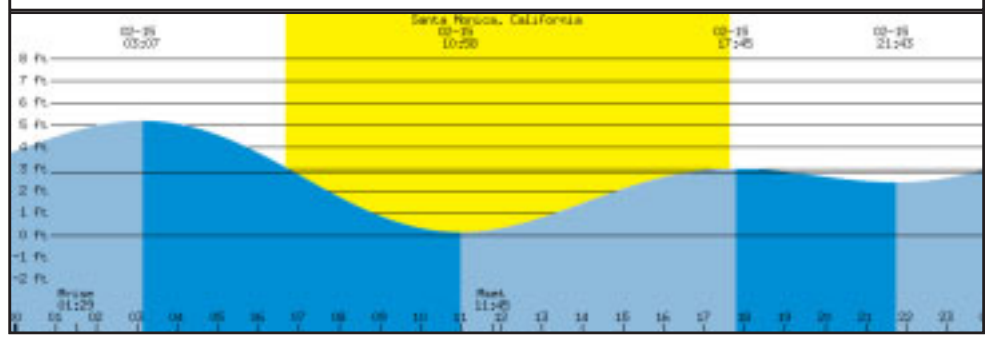
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SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP:** 57.9°

SWELL FORECAST
Should see west facing breaks drop to chest to head high.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS
LOOKS SMALLER, MORE LIKE CHEST MAX AT WEST FACING BREAKS.

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



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 8, 2012**

HEAL THE BAY • 1444 9th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 • www.healthebay.org • brc@healthebay.org • 800 HEAL BAY

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)
- Number of sewage spills -- 3
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 3
- Number of wet days -- 6
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 24 / 19
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Goodbrook Family Foundation, simplehuman, LazerGUY, SIMA

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 Sequit Creek mouth.	A	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechuza and Los Alisos creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A	A+
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	F	B
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A	C
Solstice Canyon at Ben Blocker County Beach.	F	A+
Pearce State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	B
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pearce Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	C	A+
Surfrider Beach (beach location) - daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	C	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	A+
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19648 PCH stairs.	A+	B
Pena Creek at Los Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	F	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	B	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	D	F
Will Rogers State Beach at 17208 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	D
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	F
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A	F
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	B	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	F
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	F
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	F
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	F
Venice Beach at Westward Ave. drain.	A+	D
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	A+
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	A+
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	A	A
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	B	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A	B
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	B
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of CIWW jetty).	A+	B
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	C	A+
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A	D

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

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

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

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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.

MOVIE TIMES

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

Call theater for information.

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

Safe House (R) 1hr 57min
1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:50pm

Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace 3D (PG) 2hrs 11min
1:05pm, 4:05pm, 7:20pm, 10:20pm

Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (R) 2hrs 40min
12:30pm, 3:45pm, 7:10pm, 10:00pm

My Week with Marilyn (R) 1hr 36min
2:00pm, 4:50pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm

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

Big Miracle (PG) 2hrs 03min
11:40am, 2:20pm, 4:50pm, 7:25pm, 10:10pm

Safe House (R) 1hr 57min
11:50am, 2:30pm, 5:10pm, 7:50pm, 10:30pm

Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG) 1hr 34min
11:20am, 1:45pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:40pm

Star Wars: Episode I - The Phantom Menace 3D (PG) 2hrs 11min
12:20pm, 3:25pm, 6:40pm, 9:50pm

Grey (R) 1hr 57min
11:15am, 2:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:20pm

Chronicle (2012/ I) (PG-13) 1hr 23min
11:30am, 1:40pm, 3:55pm, 6:10pm, 8:30pm, 10:40pm

Journey 2: The Mysterious Island 3D (PG) 1hr 34min
12:05pm, 2:45pm, 5:25pm, 8:05pm, 10:35pm

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

Margin Call (R) 1hr 49min
4:30pm

Kill List (NR) 1hr 30min
10:00pm

Descendants (R) 1hr 55min
1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Artist (PG-13) 1hr 40min
1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:45pm

We Need to Talk About Kevin (R) 1hr 50min
1:40pm, 7:20pm

Return (NR) 1hr 38min
1:50pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 9:55pm

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

Hugo 3D (PG) 2hrs 07min
12:30pm, 3:50pm, 7:15pm, 10:20pm

Vow (PG-13) 1hr 44min
11:30am, 12:15pm, 2:00pm, 2:50pm, 4:30pm, 5:25pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm, 9:50pm, 10:40pm

Man on a Ledge (PG-13) 1hr 42min
11:45am, 2:40pm, 5:15pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Woman in Black (PG-13) 1hr 35min
11:35am, 2:25pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:10pm

Extremely Loud & Incredibly Close (PG-13) 2hrs 09min
11:55am, 3:20pm, 6:45pm, 10:00pm

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

Go with your instincts tonight, Sag

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Your willingness to forge a new path surprises everyone, including you. The status quo has many appealing elements. Power plays and games have no business in working with a project. Stay as clear as possible. Tonight: Detach from your day with a favorite pastime.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Work with an individual on a one-on-one level. You gain insight and see life from a very different perspective. This person responds in a meaningful manner. Finally you can get a project moving. New information puts a new slant on a seemingly reachable goal. Tonight: Chat over a quiet dinner.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Deferring to others is smarter than getting into a situation where others make demands. Allow this freedom, and give and take. People who can be contrary suddenly can identify with a problem, having experienced it firsthand. Tonight: Be where crowds can be found.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Stay even and mellow with an unpredictable person who does have impact over your life. Your gentle nature comes out at the same time. Steer away from a person who would use this special quality in you. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ When surprise heads in your direction, you suddenly feel vibrant. Though the news could toss plans out of kilter, that very change reminds you that you are alive. Be open to someone very different. Tonight: Paint the town red.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Be clear as to what you want and why. Tap into your ability to move past an issue. You might need to revise your thinking. A gamble might not be worth it, when you weigh the pros and cons. Tonight: Happily head home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Communications flow with a little help from you! Someone you trust could exhibit erratic behavior. You could see this change as exciting or troublesome, depending on your life perspective. Remember, you cannot change this person. Tonight: Listen to a friend's recent adventures!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ You might want to be aware of both the emotional and financial pros and cons of an offer or situation. You might not expect some of the obligations surrounding a key person. Detach and really look at this individual with new eyes, especially when interacting with others. Tonight: Your treat!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Greet excitement with a smile, even if it is coming from left field. Your charisma and spontaneity can turn a difficult situation into a dynamic experience. Use caution with finances, whether it is getting involved with a friend or an investment. Tonight: Go with your instincts.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★ You could feel off. An event or surprise could drain you or give you an adrenaline rush, depending on your makeup. Keep news and information to yourself. Tonight: At home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Enjoy what is on your plate, and do not long for what is not. Meetings, though sometimes difficult, draw excellent results. A friendship could be developing into more. Be aware of this person's feelings. Tonight: Where the gang is.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Stay on top of work, and finish off as much as you can. A friend or co-worker could push very hard to get more of his or her desires. You might need and want to say "no." Do what is best for you. This person wants what is best for him or her. Tonight: Burning the candle at both ends.

Happy birthday

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

This year keep your eye on long-term objectives. Many friends surround you, causing distraction. Juggling different elements and maintaining a high level of organization evolves in importance. In love, spontaneously you could mimic the great Gothic novel. If you are single, make conscious choices as to the tone of a romance. The person or persons you choose after June reflect your natural inclinations. If you are attached, you might choose to polish your living skills together. Romance will thrive in this milieu. Count on SAGITTARIUS.



MYSTERY PHOTO

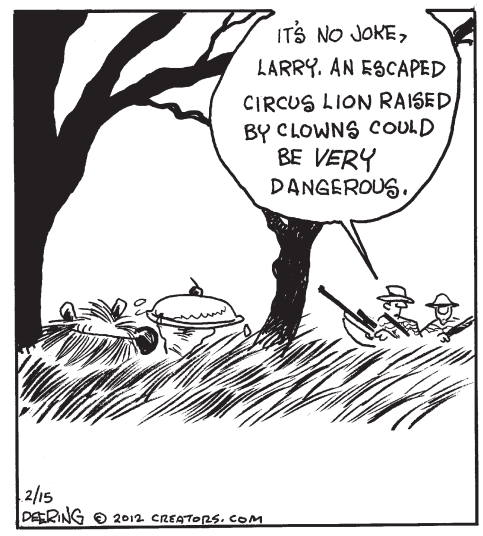
Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*. Send your mystery photos to *editor@smdp.com* to be used in future issues.

Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



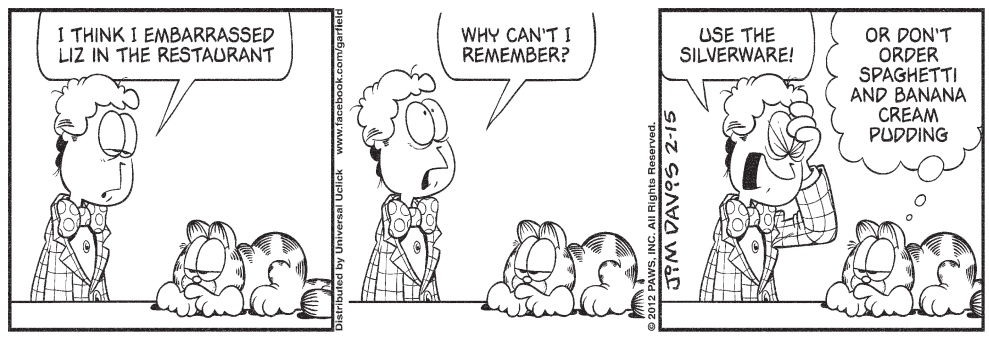
Strange Brew
By John Deering



Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Fancy dance
5 Took on, as work
11 Lotion ingredient
12 Maine park
13 Small amphibian
14 Email field
15 Boxer Norton
16 Ailing
17 City on the Mohawk River
19 Fireplace sight
22 High points
24 Inquiry
26 Lounge attire
27 Tiny bit
28 Coat of arms
30 De Mille of dance
31 That woman
32 Parting word
34 Stratum
35 Spoil
38 Folder type
41 Skilled
42 Arthurian island
43 Rose of baseball
44 Official documents
45 Walked over

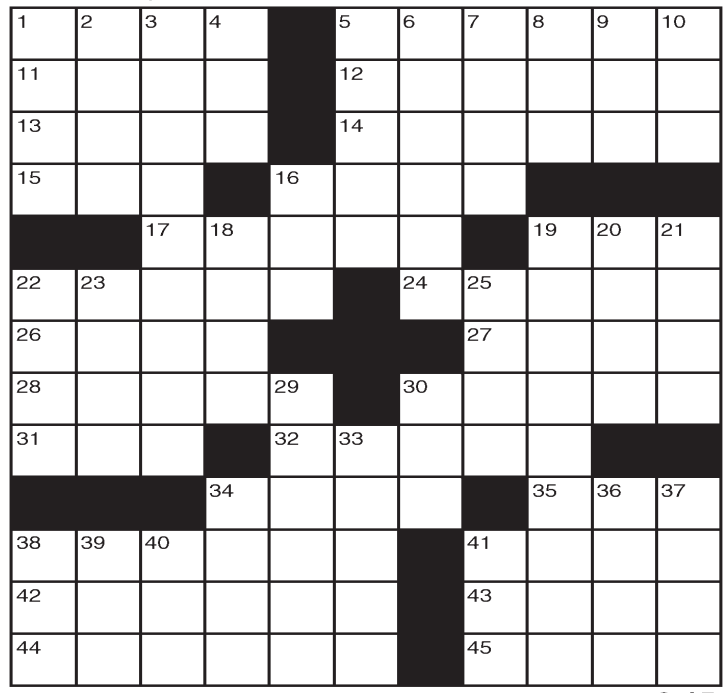
DOWN

1 Vault setting
2 Out of the wind
3 One or two
4 Charter
5 Elementary
6 Pole feature
7 Refinery sight
8 Unmatched
9 "For shame!"
10 Way off
16 Bro's sib
18 Casual tops
19 Auction catalog identifier
20 Soprano instrument
21 Tiara adorners
22 Vault part
23 Center
25 Latest fad
29 Suit expert
30 Melody
33 College heads
34 Floor piece
36 Choir member
37 Bassoon part
38 Guidebook feature
39 Gardner of movies
40 Siesta
41 Gifted

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

Yesterday's answer

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2-15

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• Insert the given numbers in the empty squares so when they are calculated in threes from left to right and top to bottom they satisfy the demands in the shaded boxes both horizontally and vertically.

• Each empty square dictates the math operation that must be performed to meet the demands.

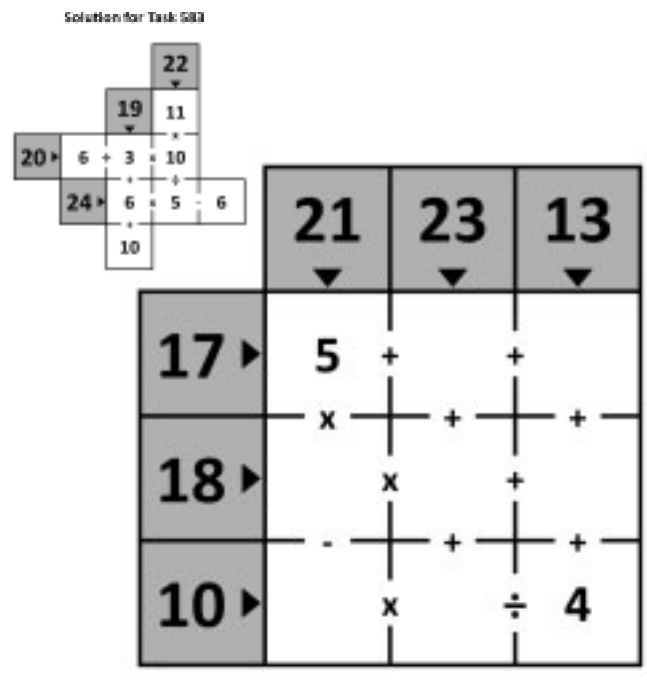
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1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11

Solution for Task 583



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Fantasy 5: 7 13 18 24 27

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 4 6 5 EVENING: 4 3 5

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 04 Big Ben 2nd: 02 Lucky Star 3rd: 05 California Classic RACE TIME: 1:49.15

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ David Belniak, now serving 12 years in prison after pleading guilty to DUI manslaughter for killing a woman and her adult daughter and her husband in a Christmas Day 2007 car crash, filed a lawsuit from prison in January against the victims' family, demanding justice from them in the form of compensation for medical expenses and his "pain" and "anguish." Police records show Belniak was driving between 75 and 85 mph when he rear-ended the victims' stopped car (and that he had alcohol, Xanax and cocaine in his system). Attorney Debra Tuomey, Belniak's sister, represents him and called her brother's imprisonment "government sanctioned assassination."

■ Not One Second Longer With That Wench: A man identified as Antonio C., 99, filed for divorce in December against his wife of 77 years, Rosa C., age 96, in Rome, Italy. According to an ANSA news agency report, Antonio became upset when he discovered 50-year-old letters from an affair Rosa once had.

■ Christopher Bolt pleaded guilty in September to felony destruction of property in Loudoun County, Va., for spray-painting more than 50 vehicles. Some were marked with the number "68," which a sheriff's detective explained was probably because Bolt had initially sprayed "69" but realized it "didn't look right."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1906 – The British Labour Party is organised.

1909 – The Flores Theater fire in Acapulco, Mexico kills 250.

1933 – In Miami, Florida, Giuseppe Zangara attempts to assassinate President-elect Franklin D. Roosevelt, but instead shoots Chicago mayor Anton J. Cermak, who dies of his wounds on March 6, 1933.

1944 – World War II: The assault on Monte Cassino, Italy, begins.

WORD UP!

cordate
\ KAWR-deyt \ , adjective;
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2. (Of leaves) heart-shaped, with the attachment at the notched end.

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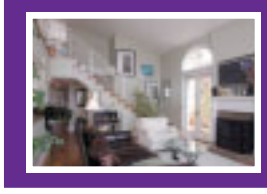
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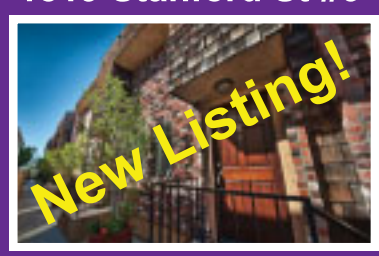
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