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FEBRUARY 15-16, 2014 Volume 13 Issue 78

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

MEET YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD BUTCHER
SEE PAGE 9

THE LOVERS WEEKEND ISSUE

Planning Commission OK with pot shops

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Medical marijuana dispensaries had wide approval from the Planning Commission Wednesday night.

Despite recommendations against the pot shops made by Police Chief Jacqueline Seabrooks and city planners, five of the six present commissioners supported allowing two within a district near the city's two hospitals. Chair Jennifer Kennedy opposed the pot shops. Vice Chair Jason Parry was not present.

Medical marijuana dispensaries were not permitted in Santa Monica under the old zoning code, which regulates the types of businesses allowed in different parts of the city. City Hall is in the process of updating the zoning code and the commission has been giving its input for the past few months. Marijuana dispensaries are one of many uses being considered for the new zoning ordinance, which dictates how land is used and what can be built where.

The commission's decision is not binding

SEE MARIJUANA PAGE 10

Public school enrollment expected to rise 3 to 11%

BY MELISSA CASKEY
Special to The Daily Press

SMMUSD HDQTRS Enrollment in Santa Monica public schools should climb over the next decade but not in Malibu, where enrollment will decline by 15.7 percent, according to a study from the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District.

The district as a whole should see an overall rise in enrollment of 3 to 11 percent, said officials at the last Board of Education meeting.

Santa Monica schools will see a 12.4 percent uptick. In 2013 enrollment was 7,904 but officials expect it to hit 8,882 by 2023.

Malibu schools had a population of 1,667 students. By 2023, that number is expected to dwindle by 15.7 percent to 1,406.

The school's consultant factored in the development and construction of new family housing units in the next 10 years.

Santa Monica's residential development market is on the rise, but Malibu is not expected to add many new residential units in coming years. Researchers also looked at private school enrollment, the housing market outlook and inter-district transfers to prepare the forecast.

editor@smdp.com

This story first appeared in The Malibu Times.



HANDS ON Paul Alvarez Jr. *editor@smdp.com*

Kids interact with starfish at Heal the Bay's Santa Monica Pier Aquarium. Cirque du Soleil is covering admission to the aquarium every Friday for the month of February. The aquarium is celebrating whales all weekend. Check out Page 2's What's Up Westside for more information.

Major bike path approved for Pico Neighborhood

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

MICHIGAN AVE A large vein of bike paths on and around Michigan Avenue were approved this week.

The Michigan Avenue Neighborhood Greenway or MANGO, which is meant to ease pedestrian travel from the easternmost station of the incoming Exposition Light Rail Line to the Santa Monica Pier, got unanimous support from City Council.

The bike route is an extension and will be built in chunks over the next decade but one section, connecting to Santa Monica High School, got the go-ahead this week.

SEE MANGO PAGE 11


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, Feb. 15, 2014

Dance, dance, dance
Athleta
1318 Third Street Promenade,
9 a.m. — 10 a.m.
Moore Dancing and Athleta are teaming up to provide free dance cardio classes through the month of February. Every Saturday, Athleta will transform their store into a dance floor. For more information, call (310) 500-8375.

Hot in here
Santa Monica Place
Third Street and Broadway
10 a.m.
Lorna Jane leads a hot yoga lesson designed to tighten, tone and strengthen your body. Cost: Free. For more information, visit santamonicaplace.com.

Rock the schoolhouse
Morgan-Wixson Theatre
2627 Pico Blvd., 11 a.m.
"Schoolhouse Rock Live!" comes to life. The Emmy Award-winning 1970s Saturday morning cartoon series that taught history, grammar, math, and more through clever, tuneful songs is lighting up the stage. The story follows Tom, a nerve-wracked school teacher who is nervous about his first day of teaching. He tries to relax by watching TV when various characters representing facets of his personality emerge from the set and show him how to win his students over with imagination and music. For more information, call (310) 828-7519.

Shape the land
1450 Ocean
1450 Ocean Ave., 11:30 p.m.
If you're interested in learning how to create your own California-friendly garden, join other residents for a free three-hour training session led by local landscaping experts. For more information, call (310) 458-8459.

Paint the town
Paint:Lab
1453 14th St., 2 p.m. & 6 p.m.
Celebrate Valentine's Day at Paint:Lab! The couple that paints together stays together. Instructed sessions include paints, brushes, set-up and clean-up, complimentary champagne, strawberries, chocolate, wine and cheese. For more information, call (310) 450-9200.

Daddy's little girl
YWCA Santa Monica
2019 14th St., 5 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Fathers and their daughters will be able to share a special moment at the YWCA Santa Monica/Westside's Valentine's Day Father & Daughter Dance. The tradition began in 2011, when the YWCA team saw a need in the community for an event that encourages fathers (and father figures) to spend quality time with their daughters. Tickets will be available at the door and for purchase online at www.smywca.org.

Have a heart
Jeanie Madsen Gallery
1431 Ocean Ave., 7 p.m. — 11 p.m.
The work of more than 40 local artists will be featured in a silent auction to benefit youth services for local youth who receive support and essential programming at the Pico Youth & Family Center in Santa Monica. Tickets: $35 per person, $60 per couple. Purchase tickets online at www.picoyouth.org

By the fire
Miles Memorial Playhouse
1130 Lincoln Blvd., 8 p.m.
Fireside at the Miles is back. Santa Monica Cultural Affairs presents intimate events at the historic playhouse. Every concert features a different mix of contemporary music, opera, jazz, storytelling, dance, poetry, beat boxing, a cappella singing and more. Performances take place beside the large vintage fireplace. Fireside at the Miles runs through March 1. For more information, call (310) 458-8634.

Sunday, Feb. 16, 2014

Love in the raw
Matthew Kenney Academy
395 Santa Monica Place, 10 a.m. — 4 p.m.
Ditch the box of chocolates routine for a night in the raw with your Valentine. The culinary team of Scott Winegard, Sean Murray and Rosmery Menendez will guide you in creating three culinary masterpieces using raw ingredients. For more information call (310) 394-7046.

Whale of a weekend
Heal the Bay's Santa Monica Pier Aquarium
1600 Ocean Front Walk,
12:30 p.m. — 5 p.m.
With record-breaking numbers of whale sightings along the Southern California coast this year, celebrate the annual migration of the Pacific gray whale at Heal the Bay's Santa Monica Pier Aquarium. All weekend long visitors can feel the heft of a whale rib, check out bristly baleen and try on a layer of (simulated) whale blubber for warmth. Kids of all ages can have their faces painted and make a whale visor to take home. Aquarium admission is free for children 12 and under when accompanied by an adult. For those 13 and older, admission is $5. Call (310) 393-6149 for more information or visit www.healthebay.org/smpa.

Night at the circus
Santa Monica Pier
Times vary
Cirque du Soleil returns to Santa Monica. This time around, the world famous troupe presents "Totem," an artistic look at mankind's evolution. For more information, visit cirquedusoleil.com.

For help with submitting a listing, contact Daniel Archuleta at **310-458-7737** or submit to editor@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SACRAMENTO

Lieu pens bill to boost arts funding

A state program aimed at supporting the arts will see its budget multiplied by five if State Sen. Ted Lieu (D-Santa Monica) gets his newest bill passed.

The California Arts Council was thriving fiscally until the early aughts when its budget was cut steadily from $32 million in 2001 down to $5 million last year.

Lieu's bill would set the budget for the Arts Council at $25 million annually to help sustain the creative economy, which supported one in seven jobs in the Southland in 2012, according to a recent report from Otis College of Art and Design. The reported estimated the impact of those jobs at $140 billion.

"In my west Los Angeles County district of more than 1.3 million residents alone, the creative economy supports one in six jobs," Lieu said in a release.

Despite the economic boon created by the arts, California ranks 48th in the nation in per capita spending on state art agencies, Lieu said. He calls the state's investment "insufficient" and believes his bill will help remedy the problem.

– DAVID MARK SIMPSON

SAINT JOHN'S

Celeb helps raise cash for yoga program

Actress Kate Beckinsale helped Saint John's Health Center raise cash for a new yoga program at the hospital.

On Thursday, Beckinsale, along with celebrity yoga instructor Mandy Ingber and 80 other attendees, did some yoga to support the new program, which is meant to help patients undergoing breast cancer treatment at the Margie Petersen Breast Center.

"Yoga has been shown to reduce treatment-related fatigue and increase blood flow to the body to clear toxins that can accumulate during treatment," said the center's director, Dr. Maggie DiNome. "In addition, yoga successfully reduces stress, which has been linked to increased risks of breast cancer."

The new yoga program will be a complimentary option for Breast Center patients.

Breast cancer survivor Kamla Subramanian will lead the class, which will be held on Mondays from 11 a.m. to noon.

For more information about the new yoga program, e-mail yogaprogram@stjohns.org or call (310) 582-7100.

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Photo by Cynthia Slawter

CLEARING IT: **A member of the Malibu High Equestrian Club team in action during a competition this season.**

No horseplay for Malibu High riders

BY HOMAIRA SHIFA
Special to The Daily Press

MALIBU HIGH SCHOOL Malibu High School's mascot may be the shark, but the public school located just up the street from Zuma Beach also happens to sit right in the middle of some of the finest horseback riding country in Southern California.

So perhaps it's no coincidence that in addition to usual prep sports like basketball and soccer the high school boasts an equestrian team with a stable full of talented young riders.

These girls love horses, and many have grown up riding the scenic trails of Zuma and Trancas canyons since they were children.

"Some of the more competitive riders have been riding for as long as they can remember," team co-captain Edie Denker, 15, said.

Others, Denker said, have a background of one or two years.

Boasting 16 members of varying skill levels, Malibu High's equestrian team competes in the Los Angeles Interscholastic Equestrian League (IEL). Formed in 1983, the IEL is one of only seven nonprofit high school riding leagues in the U.S., three of which are in California.

The riders compete against 50 other private and public high schools in Los Angeles County.

"I have always loved horses," says sophomore Kelsey Holmes, 15, the team's other captain. "Riding is my favorite thing to do. Horseback riding is a team sport with your horse. It's really fun to be on a team with other girls who share the same bond with horses."

The sport tests a wide range of different competitive equestrian activities. Among them are dressage (putting the horse through a predetermined series of movements, almost like ballet), endurance riding, and show jumping (leaping over gates), said Kelsey's mother, Lisa Holmes, the team parent.

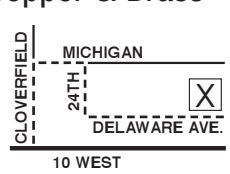
Although Holmes didn't have an equestrian club at her school when she was in high school in Portland, Ore., she has also grown up with horses.

"I wish we'd had (a team)," she said. "It's such a great opportunity that we have for our horseback riders to be part of something. The girls all wear matching shirts. It's very nice to be able to be part of something like that."

The equestrian club does not provide horses. While some girls on the team own horses, others lease their horse or borrow from a friend.

Riders on the team have their own private trainers, Holmes said. They select the coach on their own and train with them on their own. Then they come together as a team at the IEL four times a year.

SEE **HORSES** PAGE 10


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Past mistakes

Editor:

Although I'll be sad to see Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Santa Monica) leave (it's hard to imagine that our district will ever have a member of Congress as great as he's been), I still can't find it in my heart to forgive him for a tragic mistake he made nearly 30 years ago, which for me eclipses all the good things that he's done.

After the methane gas explosion at a Ross store, Waxman buckled under the pressure from the NIMBYs, and pushed through a bill that used the methane leak as a pretext for banning federal funds for subway construction along Wilshire Boulevard, thereby killing the expansion of the subway to Santa Monica.

To his credit, two decades later he said that if a panel of experts found that drilling would be safe, he'd sponsor a bill overturning his own legislation. The panel found that there were no concerns, and Waxman's new bill, overturning the ban, passed.

So now the subway will be built, but sadly there are no plans at present to bring it all the way to the coast; it will stop at the VA. And it will be many, many years before it gets that far.

Had it not been for his bill 30 years ago, the line would have been built, and would probably have been completed (all the way to Santa Monica) long ago.

Why didn't he ask for a "panel of experts" evaluation back in 1985, instead of pushing through the funding ban? If he had, people who now spend their time stuck in barely-moving traffic would have had an alternative. And even those who chose to continue driving would be better off because people who opted for the subway would reduce the number of cars on the road. So everybody would have benefited.

But, sadly, this never came to pass, and the way things are looking now, probably won't. At least as far as Santa Monica is concerned. (Yes, the Exposition Light Rail will be here soon; but it's a rather poor alternative to what the subway line would have offered.)

Mark Bartelt
Santa Monica

MANGO madness

Editor:

I am opposed to the MANGO plan as presently written by staff. I attended the Planning Commission meeting when it was proposed. I made it clear that circles and one way were not acceptable to the community. The commission members were also opposed to any new traffic circles anywhere in the city. Please review the tape of the meeting. It was very clear. No new traffic circles.

Why then has David Martin and staff refused to listen to community input and commission members?

The traffic on 11th Street at 5 p.m. affects the entire city. Parents from the north side of town must pick up their teenagers after sports practice, music rehearsal and club meetings. The Big Blue Bus is no longer an option for the parents in Sunset Park at 5 p.m. Line 8 is stuck in heavy traffic on Ocean Park Boulevard.

Commuters block 11th Street going south at 5 p.m. By turning Michigan Avenue to one way it will add hundreds of cars to the Pico corners at 11th and Lincoln Boulevard. Traffic will dramatically increase on 14th Street in the Sunset Park neighborhood.

Please respect the parents' choice and the educational value of after-school activities. Our Samohi students are outstanding.

Ellen Hannan
Santa Monica

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Your column here

Anne Eggebroten

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Not feeling the ficus trees

IN SOME PARTS OF SANTA MONICA, THE preferred obscenity is "Oh, fig!"

We are cursed with aging ficus trees that City Hall refuses to remove.

Note that a ficus is basically a fig tree. Each tree produces thousands of little figs euphemistically referred to as "berries."

On Grant Street, for example, the sidewalks, pavement, and driveways are covered with the black fruit and their seedy mush. So are my carpets; the gooey red paste sticks to shoes and gets walked into the house.

Two mornings ago the plopping of figlets sounded like rain as I stood on the sidewalk near my neighbor's ficus tree, trying to sweep them off the sidewalk. Another neighbor came to help, and for a few moments the sidewalk was fig-free — but within a day it looked as if it had never been swept.

On our street the ficus were planted in 1941 and many are now afflicted with a mushroom-like fungus that spreads in large brown turds around the foot of a tree. It grows over the flowers I plant like lava moving down a mountainside.

Two trees to the west of our house have been removed because of the fungus disease, but City Hall decided that our ficus can't be removed yet because it still has half its foliage.

Santa Monica has an official community forester, but his philosophy is to protect any tree that is still half alive. He's come out to inspect my tree several times over the last 19 years, but he won't remove it. Save the trees! Screw the residents.

Another problem is that the roots of the ficus lift up the sidewalk so that it has to be replaced every few years. Circumnavigating around the bumps and dips in the sidewalk turns taking a walk into a challenging exercise for all the wrong reasons. It's especially hard for seniors like me.

City Hall has replaced my sidewalk four times since we moved in, trying paving stones, recycled rubber squares, and plain old cement. Doesn't anyone care about the cost of all those replacements, just to save a tree I don't want anyway?

In addition, the roots strangle plumbing lines from the street into our home. When my family moved here in 1995, we had low water pressure at all the faucets and had to replace the line from the street to our system. (In the process we discovered that there were also mysterious bits of blue plastic clogging the line.)

Some people in this city like the ficus trees. Like any fig, they grow enormous trunks and branches that reach together in the middle of the street and from house to house, producing a lot of shade. This is charming except when there's no light from the streetlights at night because the trees block it out.



Photo courtesy Anne Eggebroten

BREAK IT UP: Recycled-rubber sidewalk sections, lifted by ficus roots.

Basically, the ficus is a lovely tree when kept in a pot so its roots can't escape or when planted in a large space surrounded by grass, so its fruit can recycle itself into the dirt and its roots have freedom to expand.

When planted in a 3-feet-wide curbside space, however, the ficus will lift the sidewalk, drop figlets where people need to walk, and interfere with plumbing.

Others have spoken out against the ficus, citing the maintenance costs they incur and the "relentless" growth of their roots. At an Architectural Review Board meeting in 2005, board member Rodolfo Alvarez suggested a cost analysis of maintaining the current ficus trees as opposed to planting new trees without "messy maintenance problems." Vice-chairperson of the board, William Adams, also spoke against the ficus on Second and Fourth streets Downtown, but apparently the treehuggers won.

While others debate the ficus on a citywide level, I appeal to city officials: take out my aging tree. It's had its threescore and 10. Give me a more appropriate tree for that small space — a jacaranda, a liquid amber, anything.

ANNE EGGEBROTEN is a teacher and writer who has lived in Santa Monica since 1992, first on Ashland Avenue (where a small plane crashed into the back yard) and now on Grant Street. Eggebroten blogs at www.marthaymaria.blogspot.com.





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The Q Line

Vote it down?

The City Council last week approved the controversial Bergamot Transit Village despite considerable opposition from a number of local residents. There is now a movement afoot to create a referendum to give the public a chance to vote the project down.

This past week, Q-line asked:
Would you vote to nix the development and why?

Here are your responses:

"I'M CALLING TO SAY I WOULD NIX development at the Bergamot Transit Village for three reasons: overdevelopment, traffic impact and water usage."

"I WANT TO VOTE VERY MUCH against the Bergamot Transit Village and all the traffic it will cause."

"PERHAPS SIX-STORY, UNSIGHTLY parking structures is the new look for Santa Monica, in which case I encourage oversized development to keep on rocking. It takes a lot of money to run a city into the ground."

"EVER SINCE SANTA MONICA WAS christened Silicon Beach, the city has become more and more exploited in the most outrageously venial ways imaginable and becoming more and more unlivable as a result. The Alice in Wonderland thinking behind traffic mitigation behind the Hines project is the city's tipping point. The project must be fully and emphatically rejected. ... If you drop the S I L I from Silicon Beach and add JOB after CON this is now Con Job Beach."

"HUMPTY DUMPTY COULDN'T BE PUT back together again. The same holds true for Santa Monica. The Bergamot Transit Village will put traffic at a complete standstill, asking neighborhoods to absorb more traffic and parking problems. Residents have seen enough of how four individuals on City Council could seal the fate of this city. The referendum is about people caring for and protecting residents first."

"WE WOULD VOTE TO STOP THE development because we are crushed by traffic. The city management over the last 25 years has decreased traffic lanes drastically. Then they allowed development that greatly increased traffic. It is not logical planning, but that is what they have done."

"I AM DISGUSTED BY THE OBSTRUCTIONIST view of these NIMBYs in Santa Monica who are nothing but a bunch of antiquated old-timers who think that they can control the future of this city. Santa Monica does not belong to you. Santa Monica belongs to the residents of the future. Young people like myself are not afraid of the traffic. We know how to deal with it. We aren't stuck in this 1960s view of Los Angeles where the freeways were clear and you could go from Downtown Los Angeles to the beach in 20 minutes. That isn't the reality any longer, mainly because these NIMBYs chose to have children and further overpopulate the world. Deal with your decision to live on the coast, deal with your decision to have children and add to the population, deal with your decision to own two cars instead of one, deal with your decision to never get out of your steal cage and walk, bike or take the bus, deal with the fact that you have voted against measures to create more public transit. Just deal with it or move to the country where you never have to worry about traffic again. Leave the city dwelling to us."

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"NIX IT. ACTUALLY, TOSS THIS ITERATION, come back with one office building, much more green space, larger, fewer rental units, modestly appointed and moderately priced. Much less parking, rely on rail. I understand the company wants to max their return, but this won't happen. Scale it back; traffic is driving us nuts."

"THIS DEVELOPMENT IS TOO TALL, TOO dense, and too ugly! Residents, both present and future, deserve development that includes much more open space, light and air than what is being proposed and in the pipeline. There is no community benefit that will benefit us and future residents more."

"I DREAD THE EXCESSIVE INCREASE IN noise, dust, traffic, pollution and overall chaos that will be caused by the project if it goes through. And where is the water going to come from in this time of drought? It'll be an ongoing man-made disaster! Obviously I say nix it please!"

"I THINK THE BERGAMOT TRANSIT Village is a step in the right direction for the future of Santa Monica. It combines housing for various income levels with the office space and retail to provide future residents with much-needed jobs. Sure, not all who live there will work there, but over time I would bet most will. Traffic will never get better, no matter what measures are put in place. Future generations realize this and have adapted. They take buses, ride bikes or walk. They choose to live near their workplace and do not live in this fantasy world of having a resource-sucking green lawn with a pool in the backyard. That dream is not theirs. They would rather live in modern buildings with shared community space, activity right outside their front door and jobs and restaurants within walking distance. More young people are not getting their driver's license at 16. Why? Because it just doesn't matter to them like it did for their parents. This is the new reality and Bergamot is a representation of the future. I applaud the City Council for taking the bold step forward."

SEE **QLINE** PAGE 12

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Thomas Donald Leisen

May 19, 1930 – February 11, 2014



"Tim" A long time Santa Monica resident and community volunteer passed away at the age of 83. Tim was born on May 19, 1930 in Chicago, Illinois and at the age of 15 left home to sign up in U.S. Navy but his Father and Uncle pulled him back. He later enlisted serving active duty in Vietnam and Japan from 1947-1969 and was discharged from the US. Navy Reserves in 1978. After returning to Santa Monica he became actively involved in the B.P.O.E #906, Navy League, American Legion Palisades Post 283 and Saint John's Health Center and Foundation. Tim loved his squirrels. He was passionate about the POW/ MIA military cause.

A viewing will be held on Sunday from 2:00PM-4:00PM with a recitation of the rosary at 3:30PM.

Funeral Services will be on Monday, February 17, 2014 at 11:00AM in The Little Chapel of the Dawn at Gates, Kingsley & Gates Moeller Murphy Funeral Directors- Santa Monica. (corner of Arizona & 20th)

A Memorial Mass will be held on Wednesday, February 19 at 12:00 noon in the Sister Marie Madeleine Chapel at Saint John's Health Center.

Interment will be private at Riverside National cemetery in Riverside, California.

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Farmers: Obama's drought relief efforts lacking

BY SCOTT SMITH
Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. Farmers in California's drought-stricken Central Valley said Friday that the financial assistance President Barack Obama is delivering on his visit does not get to the heart of California's long-term water problems.

Amid one of the driest years in the state's recorded history, Obama came to the Fresno area to announce $100 million in livestock-disaster aid, $60 million to support food banks and another $13 million toward things such as conservation and helping rural communities that could soon run out of drinking water.

Sarah Woolf, a partner with Clark Brothers Farming in Fresno County, said anything will help, but the federal government needs to better manage the state's water supplies so farmers have enough during future droughts like the current one.

"Throwing money at it is not going to solve the problem long-term," she said.

In the ever-present tension between farmers and endangered fish, Woolf said she would like Obama to recognize the importance of providing the region with ample water for growers like her. Woolf typically plants 1,200 acres in tomatoes, garlic and onions, but this year 800 acres will remain bare because there's not enough water.

Protecting the environment is important, but endangered fish too often get priority over farming, Woolf said. In wet years, too much water is sent down rivers and out to the Pacific Ocean, supposedly benefiting the fish, that could be stored up for dry years like this, she said.

The Central Valley produces nearly one-third of the nation's fruits and vegetables, and Fresno County leads the nation in agriculture. Ryan Jacobsen, executive director of the Fresno County Farm Bureau, estimates that 25 percent of the county's irrigated land will go unplanted because of the drought.

The drought has caused Democrats and Republicans in Congress to propose dueling emergency bills. Led by Republican Rep. Devin Nunes, the House passed one that would free up water for farmers by rolling back environmental protections and stop the restoration of a dried-up stretch of the San Joaquin River that once had salmon runs.

Democratic Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer proposed their own version that pours $300 million into drought-relief projects without changing environmental laws. The bill would allow more flexibility to move water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to farms in the south and speed up environmental reviews of water projects.

In his visit, Obama is scheduled to meet with a round table of farmers in Firebaugh and Los Banos and see the drought's impact firsthand.

Mark Borba, of Borba Farms, said he hasn't been invited to meet the president and share his story. Borba's farm typically grows 11,000 acres of almonds, tomatoes, garlic, lettuce, onions and much more.

Because of the drought, Borba said one-third of his crops won't be planted. Rather than bringing money, Borba said the president could ease this year's drought hardship on farmers by relaxing federal environmental regulations within the boundaries of the law intended to protect endangered fish.

"We don't want money," Borba said. "We don't want a handout."

Not everybody dismissed Obama's announcement.

Rick Palermo of the Community Food Bank in Fresno said he expects that the drought will lengthen lines in three Central Valley counties he serves. The Fresno food bank expects to receive some of the president's money, but his worry is that the donations they get from farmers may be lacking.

About half of the 30 million pounds of food they distribute each month is grown in the Central Valley, he said.

"If folks aren't growing it, there's a good chance we're not going to get the type of donations we need," Palermo said. "It's a dual impact on us."

Members of least one environmental group plan to converge on Fresno to voice their positions on California's divisive struggles over water.

Members of Restore the Delta, a grassroots environmental organization based in Stockton, hope to show Obama their opposition to Gov. Jerry Brown's multibillion-dollar twin-tunnels proposal for diverting water around the delta for use on farms.

Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla, the group's executive director, said her group won't protest, but rather try to educate the president, if they get anywhere near him.

"President Obama should not be misled," she said. "We implore him not to support this boondoggle."



A changing judicial landscape for gay rights in America

BY MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON The overturning of Virginia's gay marriage ban places the legal fight over same-sex unions increasingly in the hands of federal appeals courts shaped by President Barack Obama's two election victories.

It's no accident that Virginia has become a key testing ground for federal judges' willingness to embrace same-sex marriage after last year's strongly worded pro-gay rights ruling by the Supreme Court. Judges appointed by Democratic presidents have a 10-5 edge over Republicans on the Richmond-based 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, formerly among the nation's most conservative appeals courts.

Nationally, three other federal appeals courts will soon take up the right of same-sex couples to marry, too, in Ohio, Colorado and California. The San Francisco-based 9th circuit is dominated by judges appointed by Democratic presidents. The Denver-based court, home of the 10th circuit, has shifted from a Republican advantage to an even split between the parties, while the 6th circuit, based in Cincinnati, remains relatively unchanged in favor of Republicans during Obama's tenure.

U.S. District Judge Arenda Wright Allen's ruling Thursday, that same-sex couples in Virginia have the same constitutional right to marry as heterosexuals, represented the strongest advance in the South for advocates of gay marriage. She put her own ruling on hold while it is being appealed.

Jon Davidson of the gay rights group Lambda Legal said the "very dramatic" shift in the 4th circuit under Obama was an important reason behind the decision to sue for marriage rights in Virginia, which also twice voted for Obama.

Judges' party affiliation is not a perfect predictor of outcomes, even on charged political issues. Republican-appointed judges in California and Kentucky have written opinions strongly in favor of same-sex marriage. An Obama-appointed judge on the 10th circuit provided the decisive vote in a family-owned company's religious objection challenge to covering contraception under the health care law. And most notably, Chief Justice John Roberts, a GOP appointee, joined with the court's Democrats to uphold the health care law.

Still, one consequence of Obama's two elections has been a change in the composition of the courts. Just over 60 percent of appellate judges were Republican appointees when Obama took office in January 2009, according to Brookings Institution scholar Russell Wheeler. Just over five years later, Democratic appointees hold more than half the seats on appeals courts — a transformation magnified by majority Democrats who changed Senate rules last year to make it harder for the minority party to block the president's nominees.

Legal experts on the left and right agree that who fills court seats matters. "To be fair, academic studies show that political party affiliation doesn't affect the run-of-the-mill cases, but it does affect the cases you're likely to write about," said Curt Levey, who heads the conservative Committee for Justice.

Davidson, Lambda Legal's top lawyer, said, "People frequently don't appreciate the extent to which the president influences the composition of the courts. It is a remarkable thing about how elections have impact and this is one of the very dramatic ways you see it. There is a focus on the Supreme Court, but not on the lower courts."

Five federal district judges have issued pro-gay marriage rulings since the Supreme Court's decision in Windsor v. U.S. in June that struck down part of the federal anti-gay marriage law. Three of those judges are Obama appointees, one was named by Democratic President Bill Clinton and the other by Republican President George H.W. Bush.

Nancy Leong, a University of Denver law professor who is closely following the gay marriage issue at the 10th circuit, said the lineup of judges who have ruled so far conforms to general expectations.

"You don't want to presume that just because someone was nominated by one president they'd vote a particular way, but I think in the aggregate, Republican appointees are more likely to rule against same-sex marriage," Leong said.

But every judge who has decided a same-sex marriage case since last year's Supreme Court ruling has come down on the side of gay marriage and has drawn heavily on the high court's opinions.

Theodore Olson, half of the high-powered legal team representing two Virginia couples in the case decided Thursday, said he is confident about the outcome in the appeals courts "irrespective of the composition of any court. These arguments are so compelling ... and the arguments presented against marriage equality are so weak."

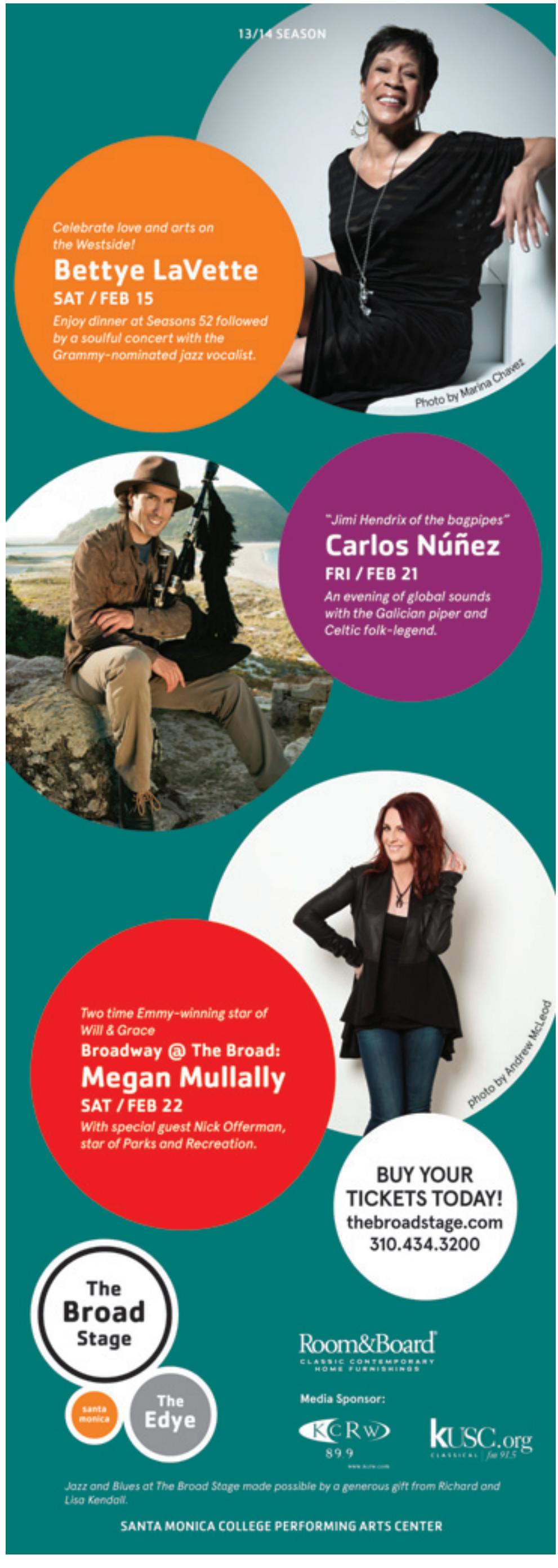
Defenders of the marriage ban are far from conceding that point. "The people of Virginia understand that men and women bring distinct, irreplaceable gifts to family life, especially for children who deserve both a mom and a dad," said Byron Babione, a lawyer for the pro-ban group Alliance Defending Freedom. "Understanding that truth, the voters of Virginia approved a constitutional amendment to affirm marriage as the union of a man and a woman. The court's reasoning, however, would permit nearly every relationship to be a marriage so long as it is grounded in choice and emotion, yet that's not what marriage or true liberty has ever been."

The issue ultimately is headed to the Supreme Court. When and from which state are not clear.

The justices are more likely to step into a case when a federal court has struck down a state constitutional provision, as has happened in Kentucky, Oklahoma, Utah and Virginia. The Kentucky case involves only the state's recognition of legal same-sex weddings from elsewhere.

Yet, on the same day in June that the court said legally married gay couples could not be denied federal benefits, the justices declined to rule on the merits of California's Proposition 8 that defined marriage as between a man and a woman. The effect of the decision was to allow same-sex unions to resume in California, but the high court said nothing about the right to marry.

Some justices have suggested the court should be in no hurry to do so, but the stream of lower court rulings in recent months may improve the odds of a Supreme Court decision on gay marriage in June 2015 or the year after.



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Steven Senne/Associated Press

SAVE ME A SLICE: **A packet containing a slice of prototype pizza for U.S. soldiers.**

Military nears holy grail: Pizza that lasts for years

BY RODRIQUE NGOWI
Associated Press

NATICK, Mass. They call it the holy grail of ready-to-eat meals for soldiers: a pizza that can stay on the shelf for as long as three years and still remain good to eat.

Soldiers have been asking for pizza since lightweight individual field rations — known as meals ready to eat, or MREs — replaced canned food in 1981 for soldiers in combat zones or areas where field kitchens cannot be set up.

Researchers at a U.S. military lab in Massachusetts are closing in on a recipe that doesn't require any refrigeration or freezing.

"You can basically take the pizza, leave it on the counter, packaged, for three years and it'd still be edible," said Michelle Richardson, a food scientist at the U.S. Army Natick Soldier Research, Development and Engineering Center.

Scientists at the Natick labs also are responsible for developing equipment and clothing that improves soldiers' combat effectiveness and their survival, but the quest for good pizza has become known as the holy grail there.

Pizza is one of the most requested items when soldiers are asked every year what they'd like to see in their rations, said Richardson, who has spent nearly two years developing the recipe in a large kitchen full of commercial equipment.

Scientists' efforts were long thwarted because moisture in tomato sauce, cheese and toppings migrated to the dough over time, resulting in soggy pizza that provided the perfect conditions for mold and disease-causing bacteria to grow.

But on-and-off research over the past few years helped them figure out ways to prevent moisture from migrating. That includes using ingredients called humectants — sugar, salt and syrups can do the trick — that bind to water and keep it from getting to the dough.

But that alone would not help the pizza remain fresh for three years at 80 degrees, so scientists tweaked the acidity of the sauce, cheese and dough to make it harder for oxygen and bacteria to thrive. They also added iron filings to the package to absorb any air remaining in the pouch.

How does it taste?

Most soldiers haven't tried it because it's still being developed, but Jill Bates, who runs the taste lab, said she was happy after tasting the latest prototype batch of pepperoni. She describes it as a pan pizza, with a crust that's a little moist and not super-crispy.

"It pretty much tastes just like a typical pan pizza that you would make at home and take out of the oven or the toaster oven," she said. "The only thing missing from that experience would be it's not hot when you eat it. It's room temperature."

Turkey pepperoni pizza also will be available for soldiers who do not eat pork products.

David Accetta, a former Army lieutenant colonel and spokesman for the lab, tried the pizza and also liked it. He said having food soldiers can relate to and enjoy has added benefits.

"In a lot of cases, when you are cold and tired and hungry, having a hot meal that's something that you like and you would get at home, it increases your morale — and we consider that to be a force multiplier," Accetta said.

Spaghetti is the most popular MRE option. It has been on the menu since MREs were introduced, and it is the one thing that soldiers have never recommended be removed from MREs. Vegetarian tortellini is also one of the most popular choices.

The lab brings in food technologists to taste recipes and give feedback.

One of the technologists, Dan Nattress, agreed the pizza deserves a thumbs-up.

"It tastes pretty much what you would get from a pizza parlor," he said.

Wayne John Harman

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Tour De Feast

Michael 'Snacks' Ryan
Send comments to editor@smdp.com



Photo courtesy Jason Wise

YOU CAN'T BEAT THEIR MEAT: There's plenty to choose from at A Cut Above butcher shop, where owner Eddy Shin prides himself on getting only the best sustainably sourced beef.

Bringing back the neighborhood butcher

CHEWING THE FAT IS MULTI-MEANINGFUL if you find yourself at a butcher's counter with the right crowd.

"It's pork belly," says Eddy Shin, owner and butcher at A Cut Above Butcher Shop on Santa Monica Boulevard, as he hands a glistening piece of fat to myself and Jason Wise, a filmmaker who is currently directing a documentary about the lost art of butchery.

We taste. It's like butter and bacon had a baby.

Why are butcher shops so few and far between? It is a question that Jason is trying to answer, and a void that Eddy the butcher is trying to fill.

One significant reason is money. While industrializing meat often means adding hormones and antibiotics, a factory born and slaughtered cow does make that 15 pack of ribeyes at Ralph's so affordable. Sustainably sourced, grass fed, antibiotic free, are all methods that lower yields, and drive up prices. But it has also become a philosophy more consumers are seeking out, even if it means shelling out a few more bucks.

"I know it's a cliché but I can look Eddy in the eye and ask him where this cut of meat came from," Jason said, eyeing a lamb shank.

"And I can tell you that it came from John the farmer," Eddy replied as I'm pretty sure he was eyeing the same shank.

A Cut Above sources their beef from Dey Dey Farms in Santa Rita Hills, chicken from Jidori Farms in the Central Valley, and lamb from Sonoma County.

"People want to know where their meat is coming from. It's a credit to a lot of documentaries, but it's also credit to the Food Network, and food porn where people say to themselves 'I want to braise a pork belly, or I want to try to do a shank' instead of getting a bunch of hamburger patties and calling it a day," Eddy said.

All of a sudden A Cut Above Butcher has become to meat what a Farmers' Market is to produce. Strawberries from Harry's Berries at the Third Street Farmer's Market may cost two or three times more than the pack at a Smart & Final. But a strawberry from Harry's Berries actually tastes like a strawberry too.

"I think a whole generation doesn't know what actual beef tastes like," said Eddy, adding the fact that most commercially processed meats retain around 15 percent water. "Water is money, that's why when you put it in the frying pan it shrinks."

"Water also means salt," Jason added. "That's why lots of bacon just tastes like crispy salt instead of understanding what fat tastes like, which is an unfortunate thing because it tastes so good."



Michael Ryan *michael@smdp.com*

MEET THE MAN: Eddy Shin, owner of A Cut Above Butchers, weighs a piece of grass-fed beef.

If you go

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Santa Monica, Calif.
(310) 998-8500 | www.acabutchershop.com/

For Eddy, the opportunity to open a butcher shop is something most people are not afforded.

"I've been a chef for about 20 years, a lot of them have become high end steak houses; going from executive chef was an easy progression into this," he said.

"From a fiscal standpoint that does not somehow seem like a progression, you gotta love what you do to do this," Jason added, speaking in solidarity as a documentarian.

Jason struck a chord with the wine world and beyond with "Somm" (2013). A movie following four sommeliers and their journey to pass the infamously difficult Master Sommelier examination. Fans of "Somm" are anticipating his next film in production now, "The Art of Butchery."

While the butcher business is not necessarily pretty, the way most of the meat in this country is processed, packaged, and sold on a mass level is downright ugly. The more people who awake from their McRib-induced comas and realize it's not a real cut from the pig, the better chances Eddy Shin and other butchers have of survival.

MICHAEL can be seen riding around town on his bike burning calories so he can eat more food. He can be reached at michael@smdp.com. Follow him on Twitter at https://twitter.com/greaseweek



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Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.



HORSES
FROM PAGE 3

"Kelsey trains with her trainer three times a week," Holmes said. "But she rides six times a week. She gets the information from her trainer and practices on her own. She can't jump without her trainer, but she practices everything else. They have to condition and workout on their own."

Aside from participating in the four shows, the Malibu equestrian team meets five times every school year to discuss how the team is doing, Holmes said.

Last year, the equestrian team participated in an event for Ride On Therapeutic, a nonprofit corporation founded in 1994 that is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life of children and adults with disabilities through a unique combination of equine-related therapy, recreation and fun.

"It was definitely my favorite experience," Holmes said of the event. "The smiles on their faces, the kids and adults. It will be a moment I will never forget."

Shows are held at Hansen Dam Equestrian Center in Lakeview Terrace four times per year. Malibu High's final show of the year is scheduled for Sunday, April 30.

editor@smdp.com

This story first appeared in The Malibu Times.

MARIJUANA
FROM PAGE 1

but its recommendation will go in front of City Council later this year to be considered along with recommendations from city planners and Seabrooks.

Seabrooks, who penned a letter to city planners on the matter last month, spoke at the commission meeting giving a detailed report as to why the dispensaries could pose a threat to public safety.

"We've had a robbery involving the stealing of medicinal marijuana wherein people were injured," she said. "Now, that occurred not associated with a dispensary but the victims indicated that they had been to a nearby dispensary and they were robbed."

Because marijuana remains prohibited at the federal level, banks are hesitant to grant accounts to dispensaries and transactions are often done in cash. This contributes to a higher likelihood for robberies, Seabrooks said.

Many people spoke on both sides of the topic during the public comment portion of the meeting.

Commissioners agreed to cap dispensaries at 2,500 square feet and asked city planners to more closely align regulations with West Hollywood's, which Commissioner Richard McKinnon said seemed the "best regulated and most sensibly organized."

City planners had previously recommended the inclusion of two dispensaries before coming across several previously-unconsidered issues, like the potential for crime and parking problems that could be caused by the shops.

While city planners and Seabrooks recommended against the shops, they did opine on parameters that should be included if the dispensaries are allowed.

Commissioners stuck with many of the recommendations, but were more liberal about others.

They expanded the boundaries to include the area between Wilshire, Santa Monica, and Lincoln boulevards, and Centinela Avenue.

Last year, the U.S. Attorney General's Office announced that federal officials would focus on pot shops located within 1,000 feet of schools. Commissioners dropped Santa Monica's limit to 600 feet.

"Clearly I'm in the minority but I think anything less than 1,000 feet is inappropriate," Kennedy said.

Most commissioners were concerned that the restrictions would make it impossible for a dispensary to be located anywhere within city limits.

Commissioners were in favor of allowing dispensaries to grow their own pot on-site in an area no greater than 15 percent of the business. They debated the sustainability of growing, which would require lots of water and electricity, but ultimately decided that the decision to allow it would cut down on car trips and provide a better product to patients.

"There's not much that's sustainable about marijuana being grown in an office, but it may be that it treats people so that you actually got a fresh supply," McKinnon said.

Bill Leahy, spokesperson for Santa Monicans for Safe Access, a medical marijuana advocacy group, was thrilled with the commission's recommendations.

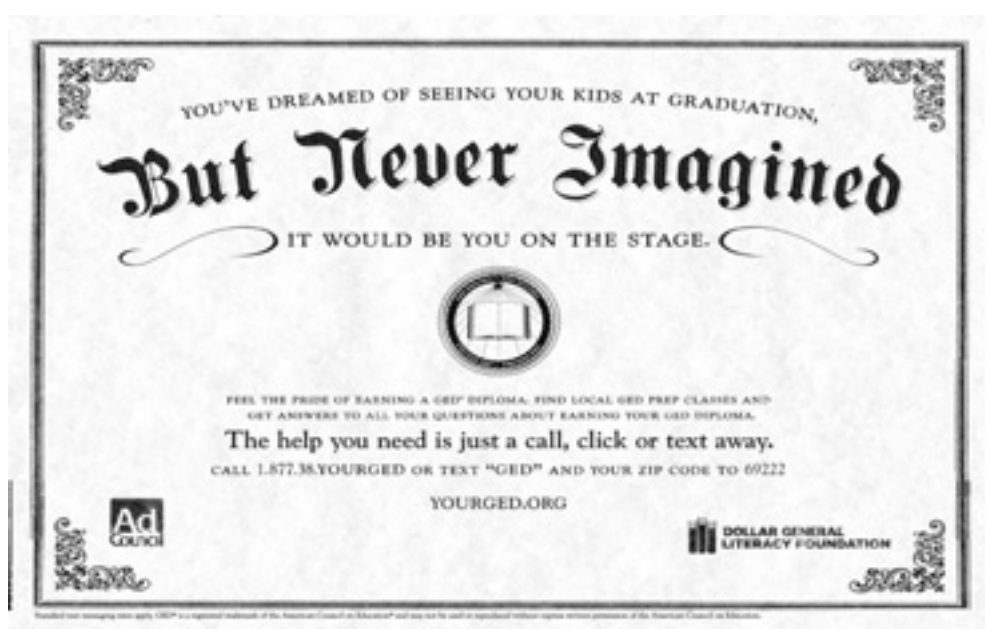
"They addressed everything I'd asked for and more," he said. "Santa Monicans for Safe Access is very pleased with the commission's thoughtful response."

Still, Leahy said, there is a long way to go before dispensaries become a reality.

Several commissioners noted that the dispensaries could act as pilot program.

"I think this is going to be changing," said Commissioner Gerta Newbold. "I think in two years or three years the laws are going to change and this may even be outdated by then. And maybe we will be just selling it at pharmacies just like every other thing, so who knows."

dave@smdp.com



MANGO
FROM PAGE 1

The Samohi connector will be funded through a $880,000 Safe Routes To School grant and a local $100,000 match. Small sections of both Michigan Avenue and Seventh Street will become one-way traffic zones. A traffic signal and crosswalk will be added at the corner of Pico Boulevard and Seventh Street near the campus' main entrance. The changes are expected to happen over the students' summer break later this year.

The school connection received wide support from the public at the council meeting Feb. 11. Only one resident, concerned with the possible traffic congestion caused by the changes, spoke against the plan. A study performed by City Hall found that no significant traffic would be created by the changes but the resident questioned the validity of the study.

About 20 people spoke in favor of the plan, including several students who gave first-hand accounts of the challenges of the morning drop-off at the high school. A handful of students said they'd been knocked off their bikes by car doors opened by unaware passengers.

The school route also creates wider sidewalks and dedicated bike lanes to reduce the conflict between cars and bikes.

Even a student driver, Muhammad Yusuf Tarr, a senior, favored the bike lanes.

"I have to say that driving with bicyclists on the road is the most terrifying thing I've ever done," he said. "I haven't been someone who has been doored, I'm probably someone who has doored someone else. I have to say that bike lanes would definitely be the greatest solution to this."

The overarching MANGO plan also passed unanimously (Mayor Pro Tem Terry O'Day recused himself because he lives in close proximity to the route) but with more public dissent.

The most common complaint was lodged by Pico Neighborhood residents who were concerned that traffic diverters would be added at 11th Street and Michigan. Diverters are raised islands that prevent drivers from making certain turns or through moves, usually on residential streets plagued with cut-through traffic.

Planning officials had initially floated the idea of diverting traffic in the area to make way for cyclists, but came up against vocal public backlash.

Two resident groups with differing views of the diverters surveyed Pico Neighborhood residents and the results matched their beliefs: The surveyors who favored diverters found that residents favored diverters and the surveyors who opposed them found the opposite.

As a compromise, city planners suggested pulling the diverters but using signs to restrict turns in the area during rush hour.

Still, about a dozen residents came to speak out against the diverters, which they said would cause more traffic congestion. Most of those who opposed diverters favored the MANGO on the whole.

Another dozen speakers came out to voice strong support for the plan. Councilmembers agreed with the planners' recommendations but noted that they would keep diverters on the table for future discussion. If planners want to add diverters they will have to come before council again.

Gloria Garvin, a Pico Neighborhood resident who led the charge against the diverters, said she will keep fighting.

"We will continue gathering signatures on our petition in order to fortify our position in case there is any attempt to amend the resolution that was passed," she said in a letter to the Daily Press.

Councilmember Gleam Davis praised the project, pointing out that it wasn't an issue of favoring bikes over cars.

"Nobody is suggesting that when we adopt these bike and pedestrian-friendly measures that it means that people need to give up their cars," she said. "What we are trying to do is give people options."

The route will protect pedestrians with traffic circles, chicanes, sharrows, crosswalks, landscaping, and slow-moving intersections. Early phases of the project included a pedestrian-only cycle track but many residents rejected the idea because it would eat up parking spots on Michigan Avenue.

The Samohi section will be implemented first. Funding hasn't been allocated for the other sections and City Hall hopes to pull in grants to pay for future phases of the route.

The central part of the route, from Lincoln Boulevard to 20th Street, would be added in the next five years. In five to eight years the easternmost sections would be developed, connecting the route to the Bergamot neighborhood and its incoming train station. A final section, connecting to the beach, is not scheduled to be installed for at least another eight years.

dave@smdp.com





SURF REPORT



O'NEILL

O'NEILL CARRIES APPAREL, FOOTWEAR, ACCESSORIES, WETSUITS AND ROBERT'S SURFBOARDS.

131 BROADWAY SANTA MONICA, CA 90401 | (657) 859-3721
FACEBOOK.COM/ONEILLSANTAMONICA

Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **61.2°**

SATURDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high
Small NW swell mix eases; deep morning high tide;
watching for a slightly better NW swell to move in overnight

SUNDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high
Small new NW swell mix possible - larger sets out west in the region; deep morning high tide

MONDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **3-4 ft** waist to chest high
Watching for potential new NW swell - larger sets out west in the region...stay tuned,
STILL STORM DEPENDENT

TUESDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** Knee to chest high
Watching for potential NW swell to ease...stay tuned, STILL STORM DEPENDENT

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 12, 2014**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 4
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 28 / 5
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 6 / 4

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

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

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

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

LEGEND

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

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

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

The Beach Report Card is an indication of past water quality and is not a warranty of the current safety of those areas surveyed. Our lawyers are happy.

The Q Line

QLINE
FROM PAGE 5

"THE BERGAMOT TRANSIT VILLAGE represents the power and influence large developers have over our current City Council. This project is not in accordance with LUCE, which specifically outlines land use and urban design requirements. If the Bergamot Transit Village is allowed to be developed, as is currently proposed, it will set a precedent for what is and what will be possible for future developments in Santa Monica. Bottom line: projects like this will have a net negative impact on the city and all of its residents. More importantly, it will allow for future developments that will negatively impact how the city operates moving forward."

"I WOULD DEFINITELY VOTE TO NIX the Bergamot Transit Village Center development agreement. Why? The Environmental Impact Report predicted 7,000 new daily car trips (which is probably a gross under-estimation), with 22 percent coming through my neighborhood. We are already gridlocked during the afternoon-evening rush hours. The four City Council members who voted to approve this project apparently have a different definition of protecting neighborhoods and ensuring a high quality of life for all Santa Monicans (goals of the 2010 Land Use and Circulation Element of the city's General Plan) than the rest of the residents do."

"I DO NOT WANT TO GIVE THE PUBLIC, AND especially the special interests, a right to vote to destroy our local economy. Google, Riot Games, Sony; if we continue to lose all of these companies to neighboring cities, who is going to pick up the tab for all of the services Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights members want? Unfortunately, our traffic will not decrease as a result, but our local employment will. It is irresponsible for some council members to vote for such unrealistic and unsustainable schemes as all housing. Time to get real. We are going to have traffic regardless. I would prefer traffic with tax revenue instead of traffic with no income. We need additional office space to accommodate businesses who want to employ residents."

"THIS WILL ADD TOO MANY CARS, PEOPLE, congestion to an already congested area. The residential areas are already getting crowded with cars from non-residents. Safety is a concern by bringing in more crowding."

"I WOULD VOTE AGAINST THE BERGAMOT development in an instant. It is all wrong for the site for so many reasons: high increased density, too much traffic and it's across the street from yet another traffic magnet. It's all wrong but the City Council is so deep in the pockets of the developers that it doesn't matter to them. They'll do whatever will please the developers so as to keep the developer money coming to their re-election coffers! They have no shame. We need to vote them out (and get rid of the Planning Department and the Architectural Review Board while we're at it)."

"THE BEST AVAILABLE OPTION FOR Santa Monica is to approve and build the project approved by the City Council. If that project is not built, connections to Expo will be far more difficult. Also, the developer can legally build a project on that site with more than twice the traffic impact of the approved project. Because this would be a LUCE Tier 1 project, it cannot be prevented except by building this project."

"I'M SIGNING THE REFERENDUM petition and I would vote no. The City Council thinks it can impose one huge project upon another on this city, and it just isn't possible. Too many projects will destroy the very character that makes this such a desirable place to live and work. Stop the building. Defeat Councilmembers O'Connor, O'Day, Davis and Holbrook."

"LIVING IN THE PICO NEIGHBORHOOD, I'd never vote for it. Traffic is already untenable, and there are tons of projects pending both on Pico as well as Olympic, in Santa Monica or just over the border in west L.A.."

"BERGAMOT VILLAGE? THIS ISN'T A village, it's the Titanic! 7,000 new car trips will sink our city in a morass of traffic and smog."

"THIS PLACE WOULD BE MORE OF A disaster if we allowed the special interest to vote on everything they disagreed with. People in this city seem to forget we have a concept of private property in this country. The public doesn't own this land, a private party does and they have a right to develop it. However, we do not need more housing in this city and need more jobs so I'm opposed to requiring housing. Despite being against growth, why does Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights and their puppets on the council always try and expand the population of our city through pushing more and more housing, which creates more and more traffic?"

Editor's note: There was an overwhelming number of responses to this question, which is great. We are thankful for the input. Unfortunately we are unable to print them all, but we will point out that the vast majority were opposed to the Bergamot Transit Village because of the traffic generated by the project.



MOVIE TIMES

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

Saturday, Feb. 15
At Berkeley (NR) 4hrs 4min
7:30pm

Sunday, Feb. 16
Sunrise: A Song of Two Humans (NR) 1hr 35min
7:30pm
With live musical accompaniment by Cliff Retallick.

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

Frozen (PG) 1hr 48min
11:40am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm

That Awkward Moment (R) 1hr 34min
2:15pm, 10:45pm

Winter's Tale (PG-13) 1hr 58min
11:00am, 1:45 pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm

About Last Night (R) 1hr 40min
11:00am, 1:30pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

Vampire Academy (PG-13) 1hr 45min
11:20am, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:40pm

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

RoboCop (PG-13)
11:10am, 2:00pm, 4:55pm, 7:45pm, 10:50pm

Lego Movie in 3D (PG)
1:20pm, 6:50pm

Ride Along (PG-13)
11:00am, 2:10pm, 4:40pm, 8:00pm, 11:00pm

Monuments Men (PG-13)
11:15am, 1:40pm, 4:25pm, 7:30pm, 10:35pm

Wolf of Wall Street (R) 2hrs 45min
11:30am, 3:15pm, 7:00pm, 10:15pm

American Hustle (R) 2hrs 09min
10:35am, 1:30pm, 4:45pm, 7:15pm, 10:25pm

Endless Love (PG-13)
11:05am, 1:50pm, 4:35pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

Lego Movie (PG)
10:45am, 4:00pm, 9:30pm

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

Cutie and the Boxer (R) 1hr 21min
11:00am

20 Feet from Stardom (PG-13) 1hr 30min
11:10am

Gloria (R) 1hr 40min
1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 10:00pm

In Bloom (Grzeli nateli dgeebi) (NR) 1hr 42min
11:15am

Past (Le passe) (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
4:00pm, 9:40pm

Dallas Buyers Club (R) 1hr 57min
4:10pm, 9:55pm

Great Beauty (La Grande Bellezza) (NR) 2hrs 30min
1:20pm, 4:40pm, 8:00pm

Philomena (R) 1hr 34min
11:00am, 1:30pm, 7:10pm

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

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

SILENT NIGHT, LIBRA

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Someone finally might express his or her idea in a way that is clear and direct. You likely will respond with a sense of delight and relief. Listen to your inner voice about a personal matter or a situation that is pivotal to you. Tonight: Make it an early night.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Someone you look up to will let you know exactly what he or she is thinking. You are likely to go along for the ride, as you understand this person's important role in your life. Make plans that keep you close to home. Tonight: Love the moment with favorite friends.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You might opt to stay close to home, which really is not your style. Whether you are deep into a book or something else, you will feel quite content. A special invitation could sound reasonable financially, but you might be surprised by the fringe costs. Tonight: Dinner for two.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You will be far more verbal than you typically are. You also will be so precise with your words that you could rule out a suggestion from someone else. Is that what you really want to do? Tonight: Join friends at a favorite haunt.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Take a stronger stance in dealing with your finances. You might get some important feedback from a loved one. You are likely to toss caution to the wayside. Some of you actually might decide to book a weekend getaway in the very near future. Tonight: All smiles.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Finally you'll get to call the shots and make the plans. For the most part, everyone will be pleased. A loved one could surprise you with his or her reaction. Tonight: Hang with your friends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★ You could be overtired and withdrawn. You'll want a situation to move in the direction you desire, but the person you are dealing with has not one predictable bone in his or her body. Tonight: Opt for quieter plans.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Your ability to move a personal matter along, while still being able to kick back and enjoy your friends, will emerge. Those around you would not even guess that you have your share of problems. Reach out for news from a loved one. Tonight: Where the action is.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You might want to come to an understanding with an older friend or relative. You sometimes rub each other the wrong way. Recognize that you are in a position where it might be easier for you to make the first move. Tonight: Bring others together for a celebration.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ You might experience an urge to explore a different setting. You would get bored if you were not always expanding and having new experiences. A loved one will be simply delighted to join you and experience today's twists and turns. Tonight: Opt for a different type of cuisine.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You finally will level off and relax; however, someone in your immediate circle could pop in and perhaps share some shocking news. Still, you'll remain mellow and actually find the situation humorous. Tonight: Just don't overdo it.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Defer to others. Understand that you are likely to partake in something that you normally would not choose to do. The nature of your companions will convince you that fun can be had as long as you hang out by them. You might enjoy yourself. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme.

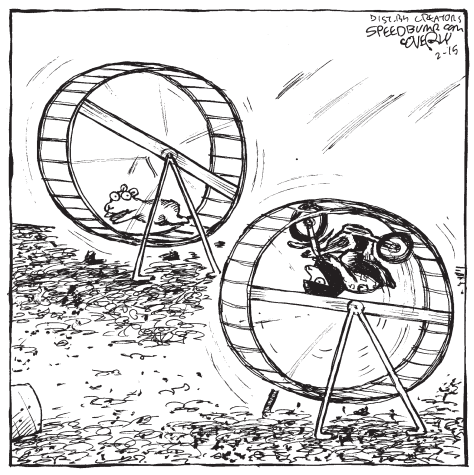
Weekend Edition, February 15-16, 2014

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

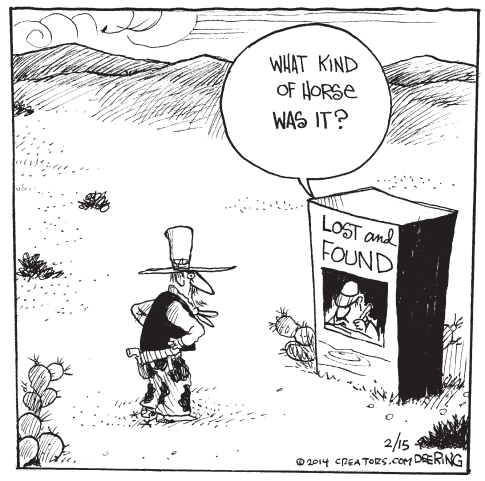
This year you are able to verbalize some of your more creative ideas. Others will see ways to practically apply some of those ideas. A friend or partner could become both a muse and an adviser. If you are single, you could meet a potential suitor sometime after June, and find that there is more of a romantic dynamic than you initially had thought. This relationship could become quite intense. If you are attached, the two of you might opt to take up a new hobby or pastime together that demands imagination. The two of you will enjoy your time together even more than you have in the recent past. VIRGO can be very nurturing.

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

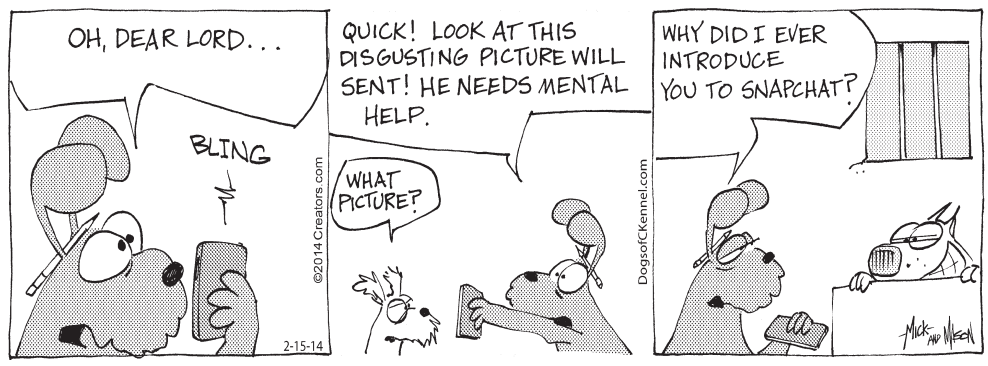
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



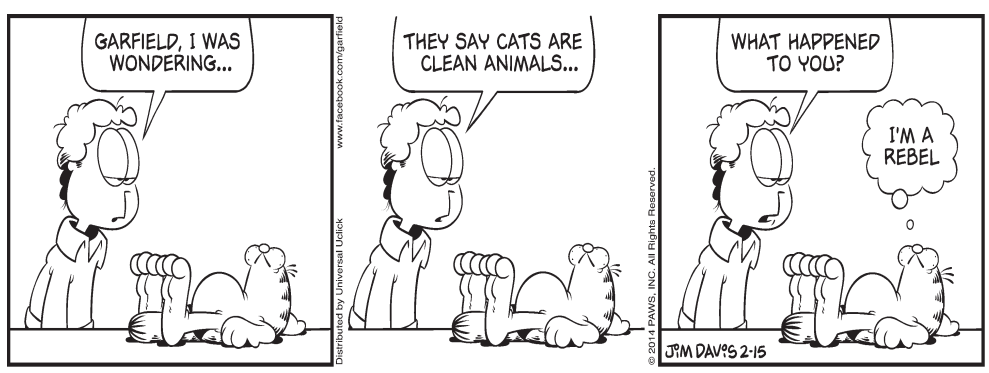
Strange Brew
By John Deering



Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Hills
6 — firma
11 Start of a Caesar quote
12 Winter of "Modern Family"
13 Jeans material
14 Low singer
15 Ready for print
17 Relatives
18 Dull life
19 Weary act
22 Mole, for one
23 Characteristics
24 Appears
25 Strong-arm
27 Dine late
30 Meals
31 Santa —, California
32 Common verb
33 Lenin's successor
35 Nairobi's nation
38 Select group
39 Accept without question
40 Whoop it up
41 Skiing site
42 A lot

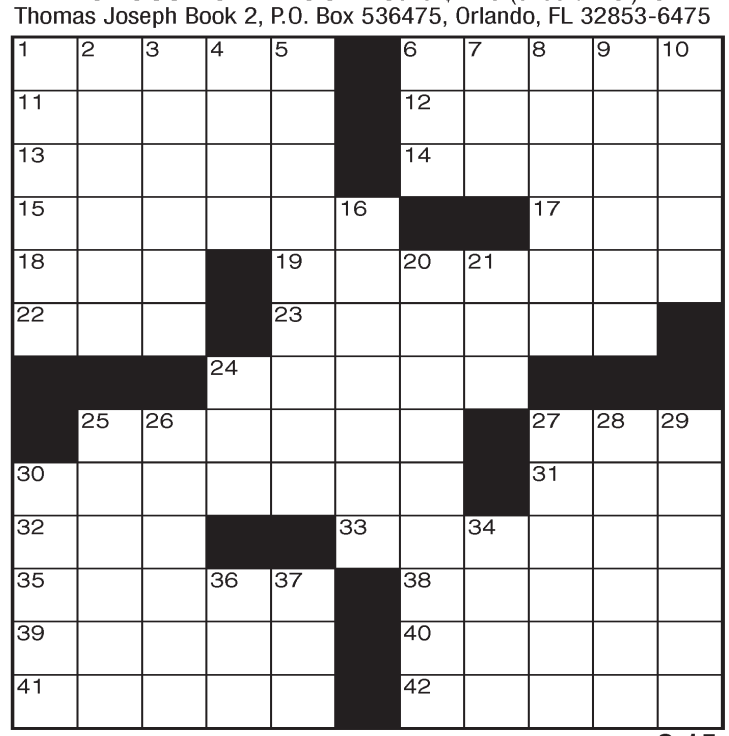
DOWN

1 Pony Express workers
2 Became frosted
3 Marbles, so to speak
4 Throw off
5 Academic periods
6 Bar bill
7 Memorable time
8 Take the chance
9 Pine products
10 On the way
16 Runs
20 Play fans
21 Towel word
24 Poseidon's realm
25 Breakfast choice
26 Willing to consider
27 Digestion aid
28 One
29 Comic strip makeup
30 Croupiers' tools
34 One of the Baldwins
36 "Nope!" opposite
37 Clumsy person

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

Yesterday's answer

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



2-15



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ The Joy of Researching: A team of Czech Republic researchers led by Vlastimil Hart, writing in Frontiers in Zoology in December, reported that dogs (among a few mammals), dealing with a nature's call, spontaneously align their body axis with the Earth's magnetic field. To reach that conclusion, the researchers said they observed 70 dogs of 37 breeds during defecation (1,893 observations) and urination (5,582) over a two-year period.

■ Mumbai, India, has its share of Western-style financial advisers using computer programs familiar to Wall Street -- but with the additional layering of "financial astrologers," who forecast successes and failures based on the alignment of the planets, among other indicators. According to a Business Week report in September, the GaneshaSpeaks service (with inspiration by the elephant-headed Lord Ganesha, god of wisdom) claims 1,200 subscribers at the equivalent of about $80 a year. Said one astrologer, "Fund managers used to laugh at me." During crises, he said, "I'm constantly crunching market and planetary data."

■ A group of (legal) prostitutes in the Netherlands began a campaign in December to have their occupation officially termed so dangerous and physically challenging that they should be allowed (as soccer players are) to save in tax-free pension funds. They carry out "difficult physical work," their lawyer said, and their careers are likewise short-lived -- much better-suited for the young. Furthermore, he pointed out, prostitutes are not able, post-career, to earn money coaching or by endorsements.

■ American health-care reformers routinely decry the inability of consumer-patients to compare prices of services to help drive down the costs. Two doctors, writing for the Journal of the American Medical Association in December, illuminated the problem by surveying 20 hospitals in the Philadelphia area. Nineteen fully disclosed the prices for parking in the hospital garage (and potential discounts were shown), but only three of the 20 would disclose their prices for routine electrocardiograms ($137, $600, $1,200).

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Jewelry
Wanted
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Apartments/Condos
Rent
Houses for Rent
Roomates
Commerical Lease
Real Estate
Real Estate Loans
Storage Space
Vehicles for Sale
Massage
Services
Computer Services
Attorney Services
Business Opportunities
Yard Sales
Health and Beauty
Fitness
Wealth and Success
Lost and Found
Personals
Psychic
Obituaries
Tutoring

All classified liner ads are placed on our website for **FREE!** Check out ***www.smdp.com*** for more info.

Employment

Employment Wanted

Dining Room Server Assisted living community is looking for a FT Server to provide great customer service to seniors. Schedule to include holidays and weekends. Pre-employment drug test and criminal background check required. If interested, please come to fill out an application at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM 90405. EOE.

Help Wanted

Dishwasher Assisted Living community is looking for a dishwasher to help in the kitchen. Schedule to include weekends and holidays. Pre-employment drug test and criminal background check required. If interested, please apply at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM 90405. EOE.

For Sale

For Sale

AMAZING YARD SALE!! HUGE, HUGE, HUGE All Weekend Yard Sale!!! - Saturday 2/15 & Sunday 2/16 - Lots of Furniture & Household Items @ 948 Rose Ave. Venice, Ca 90291

Real Estate

Commercial

Attractive meeting rooms for rent West LA. Holds 45 people classroom style, whiteboards, projectors, climate control. (310) 820-6322

Services

Business Services

Computer Programer MS reqd. Send resume to Lotus Interworks, 400 Pico Blvd Santa Monica, CA 90405

Personal Services

BLISSFUL RELAXATION! Experience Tranquility & Freedom from Stress through Nurturing & Caring touch in a total healing environment. Lynda, LMT: 310-749-0621

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

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

Statistics updated every Friday

Buyers' Needs

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

~ ~

Single Family Home
Santa Monica, Brentwood, Pacific Palisades
Minimum 3 + 1.75
$1,200,000 - $3,500,000

~ ~

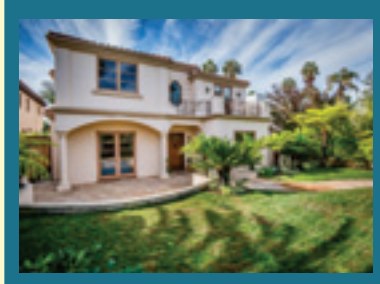
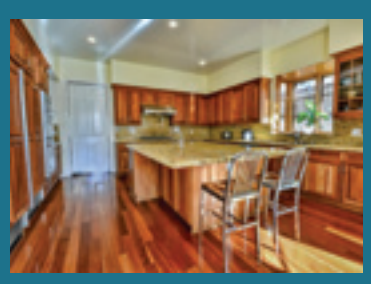
Income Property
Santa Monica, Brentwood, West LA, Mar Vista, Venice, Marina Del Rey, Playa del Rey, Culver City
3 or More Units
$1,000,000 - $3,000,000

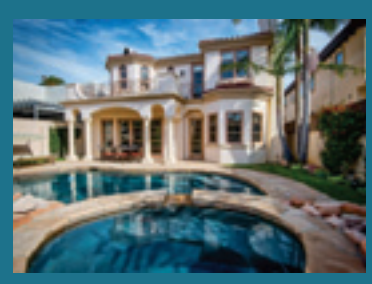
North of Montana Mediterranean Home!

632 16th Street

$3,999,000

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



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WESTSIDE SCHOOL of BALLET
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