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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2014

Volume 13 Issue 81



Santa Monica Daily Press

NO. 1 FAN
SEE PAGE 4

We have you covered

THE AND ON IT GOES ISSUE



Daniel Archuleta daniela@smdp.com

THE SPOT: People walk across the lobby of Santa Monica City Hall on Tuesday. City officials warn that budget shortfalls may be on the horizon.

City Hall sees budget deficit in future

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Property, sales, and business tax revenues are higher than expected but City Hall is projecting a \$3.2 million deficit by fiscal year 2017-18.

The increased revenues will be offset by the debt from a \$32 million bond used to cover the cost of a new fire station.

Finance Department Director Gigi Decavalles-Hughes updated City Council on the mid-year budget report at their last meeting.

"The properties that were assessed at a lower value during the recession have regained their value and are now being reassessed at a higher value," she said. "This and very strong property sales over the past

year have contributed to a 7 percent increase in assessed value for the city and this translates to increased property taxes."

Hotel tax revenues are up by 6 percent as the occupancy rates remain over 85 percent, she said.

Sales tax revenues are up.

Business taxes are stronger than expected.

"This is both due to the success of Santa Monica's strong business sector and also due to enhanced collection efforts on the part of our staff," Decavalles-Hughes said.

All of the boosted revenues are good news for the city by the sea but the deficit could still reach \$9.2 million by 2017.

The worst case scenario would result in the event of a future recession, more costly healthcare coverage for employees and additional state takeaways. City Hall has

already been hit hard by the dissolution of the redevelopment agency but more losses could be coming. The State Controller's Office is auditing City Hall over the next few weeks to determine if more cash is owed. Last year, City Hall settled a lawsuit with the California Department of Finance over RDA money for \$56.78 million.

In the best case scenario, if revenues are higher than projected, City Hall would have a \$700,000 deficit by 2017.

"As we find ourselves now on firmer financial footing, I think it's important to note that this is the time that we built into our budget some strategies that will minimize both our financial and our physical risk in the future," Decavalles-Hughes said.

SEE BUDGET PAGE 7

Passengers, cabbies say 'cookies' still a problem

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON

Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE Andrea Sennett just wanted to ride in a cab.

An employee of a local technology company, she was paying for a trip to the Los Angeles International Airport but it still bothered her that the town cars were, by her estimate, 25 percent more expensive than taxis.

Visiting the city by the sea from Europe on business, Sennett was staying at the Huntley Hotel and, she said, the concierge kept putting her in a town car.

Sick of paying extra, she called a cab company on her own. When the driver arrived, the Huntley employees questioned him, she said.

"They came outside asking him why he'd pulled up and what business he had there," she said. "It's unacceptable that as a visitor I

SEE COOKIES PAGE 8

Traffic flows again on I-405 as 'Jamzilla' ends

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Traffic was flowing again early Tuesday on a stretch of Interstate 405 in Los Angeles County that was shut down for construction, raising the threat of a holiday weekend "Jamzilla" that never materialized.

The freeway and on-ramps were reopened at about 5:10 a.m. Tuesday, in time for the workday rush, Metropolitan Transportation Authority spokesman Mark Littman said.

SEE 405 PAGE 7

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2014

Press send

Main Library

601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 p.m.

Learn how to use e-mail and create your own free e-mail account. Seating is first come, first served. Beginner level. For more information or questions, visit the reference desk or call (310) 434-2608.

It's a mystery

Montana Library

1704 Montana Ave., 7 p.m.

In Hilary Mantel's award-winning, best-selling "Bring Up the Bodies," Henry VIII and Thomas Cromwell scheme to get rid of Anne Boleyn, who will not go down without a ferocious struggle. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Grind out

M.i.'s Westside Comedy Theater

1323-A Third Street Promenade

10 p.m.

The owners of M.i.'s Westside Comedy Theater take their long running improv show and turn it into sketchy goodness. You like comedy? Music? Giant characters being hilarious? Guys playing girls? Good, then you'll like this show. For more information, call (310) 451-0850.

Thursday, Feb. 20, 2014

Death on vacation

Montana Library

1704 Montana Ave., 2 p.m.

In "Death Takes a Holiday," Death (played by Frederic March) goes on vacation to learn about mortal life — and love. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Homework help

Fairview Library

2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,

3:30 p.m. — 5 p.m.

Drop-in homework help, focused on math and reading. Provided by trained volunteers. For grades 1-5. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Up all night

Hotel Casa del Mar

1910 Ocean Way, 5:30 p.m.

Join modern conjuror Derek Hughes in a private suite for the debut of his mind blowing new work: INSOMNIA. Loosely inspired by the short fiction of Jorge

Luis Borges, the show is a unique experience combining humor, audience participation, and magic to explore the line between waking and dreaming. Ticket includes show admission, parking and one drink. Cost: \$55. For more information, call (310) 581-5533.

Friday, Feb. 21, 2014

Free Fridays

Santa Monica Pier Aquarium

1600 Ocean Front Walk,

2 p.m. — 5 p.m.

Enjoy a free trip to the aquarium courtesy of Cirque du Soleil, which kicks off a multi-layered, community partnership between the aquarium and the world-renowned entertainment company, as it sets up its blue-and-yellow big top in the beach lot adjacent to the pier for a run of their show, "Totem." For more information, call (310) 393-6149.

Live on stage

Ann and Jerry Moss Theater, New Roads School

3131 Olympic Blvd., 7:30 p.m.

Join New Roads for a performance by Chantal Kreviazuk with a VIP reception catered by Melisse restaurant. All proceeds benefit the school. Kreviazuk is a Canadian born and classically trained recording artist, songwriter and musician who has recorded five studio albums, one live album and has collaborated with and for artists including Pink, Carrie Underwood, Avril Lavigne, Kelly Clarkson, Josh Groban, Pitbull featuring Christina Aguilera and Grammy award-winning collaboration with Drake.

For more information, call (310) 828-5582 ext. 336.

Feel the warmth

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.

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

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to **smdp.com/communitylistings**

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY

Missing woman found

The Santa Monica Police Department has officially closed the missing person's case of 20-year Ocean Park resident, Cynthia Smith, known simple as C. They did so after locating Smith at an undisclosed location where she was interviewed and determined to be well and has satisfactory living arrangements, the Daily Press learned this week.

Family and friends of Smith, a disabled stroke survivor with a brain injury, were concerned that she might have been a victim of foul play or had gotten ill and could be in a hospital unable to identify herself. She had not been seen in the area since a sudden and uncharacteristic disappearance on Nov. 26, 2013.

Smith told police that she did not want her whereabouts communicated to her family and friends at this time, a request the police are honoring. Smith's older sister, Sherry Boyd of Colorado, had been spearheading the volunteer networking and search for C.

"As a family we will respect C's wishes for privacy and time to herself. And we do not know C's whereabouts," Boyd said. "Thank you to all who connected here and expressed your concerns for C. Thank you to the churches that prayed for C and distributed flyers about C's disappearance. Thank you to those who phoned, shared their stories of C — and laughed, cried and prayed. Your support helped us through this troubling time."

Boyd added, "The family wishes to thank Detective Karen Thompson of the SMPD for the diligent, persistent and very professional way she pursued the investigation with the greatest sensitivity to both C's interests and our concerns for C's safety and well being. Our fears have been alleviated by the outcome."

— JACK NEWORTH

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Calif. reps call for hearing on climate change, drought

Energy and Commerce Committee ranking member Henry A. Waxman (D-Santa Monica), Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, and 35 Democratic members of the California congressional delegation sent a letter Tuesday to Chairmen Fred Upton and Ed Whitfield strongly urging them to hold a hearing on the connection between climate change and the severe drought in the West.

Current conditions in California and across the West track scientific predictions that climate change would increase the intensity and duration of droughts, they wrote.

The drought is threatening drinking water supplies, agricultural production, and endangered aquatic species, and it increases the risk of catastrophic wild fires. There are also economic costs: lost agriculture revenues could reach \$5 billion in 2014; ranchers are reporting triple the normal cost to raise cattle; and unemployment is increasing as fewer farming jobs are available, the elected officials said.

— KEVIN HERRERA

OCEAN PARK

Post office to reopen following asbestos scare

The Ocean Park post office is scheduled to reopen today after asbestos tests came back clean.

The post office has been closed since Saturday at 5 p.m. after an asbestos scare.

Air and surfaces were tested for the cancer-causing substance but none was found. The post office was deemed safe.

Ceiling tiles, thought to contain asbestos, were damaged from a water leak on the floor above the office.

"The bathroom floor and ceiling tile replacement is the landlord's responsibility and we are working with the landlord to ensure code compliance," said U.S. Postal Service spokesperson Richard Maher.

— DAVE SIMPSON



Daniel Archuleta daniela@smdp.com

STOKING THE CROWD: Local hotel workers and union organizers staged a protest outside of the DoubleTree Suites on Tuesday afternoon claiming that hotel management didn't provide them with adequate break times.

Hotel workers say 'give me a break'

DoubleTree employees file labor complaints, protest

BY KEVIN HERRERA

Editor-in-Chief

DOWNTOWN Housekeepers and servers employed by the DoubleTree Suites in Santa Monica said during a protest Tuesday outside of the hotel that their bosses pile on so much work that they miss their breaks and they want state and city officials to investigate.

The rally comes as calls for better working conditions and higher wages gather steam nationally at major employers like McDonald's and Wal-Mart. Debate rages in Washington, D.C. over whether to hike the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour to \$10.10. President Barack Obama and his fellow Democrats have called for the pay hike, saying it would make workers more productive and help lift them out of poverty, while opponents point to a recent report by the Congressional Budget Office that said the raise would lead to the loss of about half a million jobs by late 2016.

At Tuesday's rally, which was attended by roughly 50 hotel

employees, union organizers and clergy said workers are entitled to two 10-minute breaks during a regular shift. At least three filed formal complaints with hotel management and were said to have alerted the California Division of Labor Standards and Enforcement.

For every day that a break is missed, the worker is entitled to one hour of back pay from their employer, according to Unite Here Local 11, which represents hospitality workers.

"I almost never take my rest breaks," said Carlos Tavares, a banquet server at the DoubleTree Suites hotel. "When I miss my breaks, I do not get paid extra."

JD Smith, general manager at the hotel, said the allegations will be investigated. He said the hotel received complaints from just three employees, one of whom works for a temp agency.

"We take this very seriously and we are looking into it," he said. "We just found out about this today. ... It's up to each

SEE PROTEST PAGE 8

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Local teams well represented in playoffs

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA

Managing Editor

CITYWIDE An impressive four Santa Monica-based teams will vie for girls' basketball glory during this year's CIF-Southern Section playoffs.

Three even find themselves seeded as the postseason begins on Thursday.

Pacifica Christian enjoys the best seeding of the bunch. The Seawolves are No. 4 in Division 5A.

Pacifica Christian finished the regular season as the second place team from the Liberty League. The first test for the Seawolves comes against Connelly, a team that enters the playoffs as an at-large bid from the San Joaquin League.

SEE PLAYOFFS PAGE 9

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Solution revisited

Editor:

I read with interest Anne Eggebroten’s piece about her angst with a ficus tree (“Not feeling the ficus trees,” Your Column Here, Feb. 15-16).

In 1980, I attended a League of California Cities conference as a representative of Santa Monica. At that conference, I attended a workshop on the problem of tree roots and rising sidewalks. One presentation that really caught my eye was a simple mitigating solution for the problem. After the sidewalk is dug up to be replaced (for the 40th time), you place heavy plastic sliders that go down into the ground a foot or more around the circumference of the sidewalk. This causes the tree roots to grow under them and head in different directions other than the sidewalk. I know I shared that information with the Santa Monica powers that be at the time.

Perhaps it may be time to revisit that concept. Ficus and cottonwoods are notorious for invading sidewalks and water pipes. I also suggest that Anne not wish for a jacaranda. They’re pretty when they bloom, but her rugs will be purple instead of fig-berry stained when they drop their blooms.

Cheryl D. Rhoden
Pinon Hills, Calif.

Keep fighting

Editor:

We at Airport2Park.org, like nearly everyone else in Santa Monica and neighboring cities, regret that federal Judge John Walter has granted the Federal Aviation Administration’s motion to dismiss Santa Monica’s lawsuit for clarification of its rights to the Santa Monica Airport land, but we have full confidence that ultimately the city will succeed in closing the airport. The decision only delays that determination.

“This isn’t going to stop Santa Monica getting its park,” A2P spokesman Frank Gruber said in response to the ruling. “The decision was on narrow procedural grounds, and doesn’t alter the fact that the people of Santa Monica bought this land through a park bond a century ago. We are confident that when the dust has settled, it will be the wonderful green space residents are hoping for.”

It is important to note that Judge Walter’s decision was based solely on narrow procedural grounds and that Judge Walter stated numerous times that the decision did not have anything to do with whether the city’s claims themselves were valid.

Sooner or later, in one court or another, Airport2Park fully expects that the city of Santa Monica will have its rights to control the destiny of the airport land confirmed, either on the basis of claims made in this lawsuit or on other grounds. Unfortunately, the FAA was able to use delaying tactics to postpone this decision.

Airport2Park wants to thank the Santa Monica City Council, Santa Monica City Attorney Marsha Moutrie and her colleagues, and the city’s outside counsel at Morrison & Foerster, for their hard work and fine efforts to gain control of the airport land and return it to uses that benefit everyone rather than a few. We have full confidence that ultimately they will succeed.

Airport2Park.org is a coalition of residents that includes Community Against Santa Monica Airport Traffic (www.casmat.org), Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution (www.jetairpollution.com), and Sunset Park Anti-Airport, Inc. (www.spaaresidents.org)

For more information, visit www.airport2park.org.

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Curious City

Charles Andrews

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Hollywood royalty comes to videos by the seaside

PEOPLE KEEP RECOMMENDING THINGS

on Netflix to me, then they’re shocked when I say I don’t have it, and probably won’t get it. Why?

Well, I explain a little tentatively (I don’t want to come off as naïve or Neolithic), it’s because I support Vidiots. Always have, always will.

I say that to people who I’m pretty sure are familiar with Vidiots, which I assume (probably incorrectly) is most everyone in Santa Monica. If I get a blank stare I explain to them that Vidiots is my local video store and it’s one of the best in the universe.

If I have Netflix, how often will I make the call to Vidiots (it’s truly rare when they don’t have what I’m looking for), trudge over to pick it up, be compelled to watch it within two days (no matter how else my schedule explodes), then worry about getting it back in time? It’s a lot easier to press a couple of buttons and have that obscure object of my desire pop up in my living room, 24/7.

There are things Netflix can do that Vidiots can’t, like indulge binge watching. I’m a “Breaking Bad” and “House of Cards” virgin, and friends recommend taking a weekend to revel through the whole enchilada, which does sound like fun. And since I’m often still up at 3 a.m., I could spontaneously watch something I’ve always wanted to see, any time.

So I may weaken at some point. But I’ve decided to keep my money and my membership where my sentiments are, and continue to be Vidiots bound.

Vidiots and I arrived in Santa Monica nearly together and within blocks of each other, almost 30 years ago. It was the dream of two women, who loved movies and had been friends since they were 3, to open a video store that has all the weird stuff they liked but couldn’t find anywhere else.

Hip, entertainment-oriented Santa Monica took it to its bosom. Everyone loved Vidiots. But the times changed and people’s film-watching patterns changed drastically, and video stores fell on very hard times. Even the chains like Blockbuster fell to big screens and digital downloads.

But somehow Patty and Cathy held on, sometimes just barely, and they’re still here, in the original location, and thriving, artistically if not always financially. I like to think it’s partly because of loyal customers like my family.

Three weeks ago, I took advantage of a Vidiots benefit I’ve too often ignored. I attended one of their Annex Series Conversations on Film and Culture. Sounds a little dry, sitting in a plain room on rows of chairs listening to two people talk, but it’s the people they book, and the interviewers are just as marquee as the film people.

This Friday they’re having Santa Monica-born actress Anjelica Huston, interviewed by Pulitzer Prize-winning KCRW and Wall Street Journal film critic Joe Morgenstern. Not only is he an outstanding critic, he’s got a mesmerizing radio/speaking voice.

Huston, the only third-generation Oscar winner ever (director father John, actor grandfather Walter), is promoting her new book, “A Story Lately Told: Coming of Age in Ireland, London and New York.” It should be

a fascinating evening, but unfortunately as of now it’s sold out. It’s probably worth a phone call to see if there’s a cancellation. Next time, reserve early.

The one I went to three weeks ago featured distinguished documentarian Davis Guggenheim, and NPR’s outstanding Renee Montagne. Guggenheim is probably best known for “An Inconvenient Truth,” then “Waiting for Superman,” but I was there to hear him talk about his doc on the electric guitar, “It Might Get Loud,” which I consider the best rock doc ever made.

He decided to tell that story by corralling arguably the three best axe slingers of their generations, Jimmy Page, The Edge and Jack White, letting them tell their individual tales in their home locales, then bringing them together, meeting for the first time, in an L.A. sound studio. Fantastic idea, on so many levels. I was delighted when he answered my question about my favorite scene by saying it was one of his favorite moments, too.

Guggenheim was constantly fidgeting with his sleeves and twisting his wrists like a nervous schoolboy, but his manner otherwise was professional and enthusiastic, open, guy-next-door likable and full of insights. Here’s one: when you shoot a documentary, the first time you see the complete script is on the last day of editing. Hadn’t thought of that.

He told the story of having worked for years to get backing for his pet project “Training Day,” always being stymied because he insisted Denzel Washington had to play the lead, and execs kept telling him that movies with black lead actors never make any money. He finally succeeded on a Friday, danced the jig all weekend, contacted Denzel for the first time ever on Monday, which he immediately accepted, but by Monday night he fired Guggenheim from the project, probably unaware of the back story. Denzel won the Oscar. Davis was so upset he grabbed a camera and said through gritted teeth, Screw ‘em, I’ll just shoot my own films. And thus a career ...

All were delighted when Guggenheim led off the evening with, “You come into Vidiots and there’s something sacred about this place.” His current project: a doc on Malala Yousafzai, the fearless young Afghan girl shot in the head by the Taliban for pushing for education for girls in her country.

IMPORTANT LOCAL ISSUES

Don’t forget the City Council takes up the issue of the “Chain Reaction” sculpture next Tuesday. I hope a huge crowd shows up to support preserving this important work of art so much identified with Santa Monica.

And I hope everyone is working hard to get signatures on the petition to put the Hines development up for a vote by the citizens who will be affected by it, for decades to come. Go to residocracy.org for details. The deadline is fast approaching, and this is perhaps the most important issue we’ve faced here since the 1970s.

CHARLES ANDREWS has lived in Santa Monica for 28 years and wouldn’t live anywhere else in the world. Really. You can reach him at therealmusic@gmail.com

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Your column here

By Kathleen Rogers, Greg Moore and Antonio Gonzales

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Building a pro-environment voting bloc

THIS MONTH MARKS THE 10TH anniversary of Campaign for Communities, which created a coalition of Latino, African American, low-income and environmental organizations working to educate, register and turn out voters using environmental issues as motivation. During the 2004 and 2008 election cycles, we registered hundreds of thousands of voters and turned out more — all of whom were educated as to how their health was at risk from environmental issues and how to analyze candidates' records. Most recently, we conducted an on-the-ground Latino voter education/registration/turnout on California's Prop. 39, which passed handily and with no small credit going to Latinos, African Americans and other minorities who voted in higher numbers than whites.

Our initial effort was a breakthrough. Before then, no coalition of national black, brown and environmental groups had ever been formed to work on voter education. At the time, few Latino or African-American organizations were singularly focused on environmental issues. While minority-led environmental justice groups had long existed, most were focused on environmental health issues.

When we began, we suffered no illusions. We knew that jobs, education, immigration and other issues would initially trump environment, an issue never fully translated to minority populations. Our initial attempts to create environmental educational materials that would resonate with minority voters produced limited results. But we found common ground and our coalition produced long-term friendships and shared history.

At first, there wasn't much polling on how Latinos or African Americans would vote on environmental issues or whether they would vote for candidates based on environmental records.

For 10 years, minorities have repeatedly proved themselves reliable voters for health, environment and infrastructure investment initiatives and for candidates who support them. Across the spectrum of issues, Latinos and African Americans vote in higher percentages than their white counterparts for environmental initiatives and for green candidates.

Beyond consistent pro-environment voting, African American, Latino and other organizations now include environment and environmental health-related issues. Some polls indicate that minority voters' concern about climate change is almost double that of whites. Minority-rights-focused organizations now invest in environmental staff; training young environmental scientists; conducting their own research on climate issues; fighting for their fair share of the green jobs market; and playing an important role in solar energy investments in their communities.

Despite these pro-environment voter statistics and community environmental pro-

grams, year-round investment in educating and turning minority voters into permanent climate/environment voters still lags behind investments in other demographics. While large-scale voter registration efforts always materialize during major election cycles, few leave a permanent infrastructure behind. And with few exceptions, none are focused on creating permanent active environment voters.

While there have been advancements in strengthening relationships between environmental and civil rights organizations, creating a vibrant, diversified climate or environmental voter constituency requires continual investment in voter registration and education.

Beyond this voter engagement investment, building a permanent minority-owned and environment-focused infrastructure in communities of color will embolden community leaders and officials to take more leadership in the climate change movement. Certainly, communities of color have been and will continue to be more adversely affected by climate disasters than other demographics, so building a constituency that can respond to climate disasters is a key to building resilient communities.

Low-income communities are anxious to invest in efficiency and renewable energy programs, but are stymied for a number of reasons, including financing, access and other factors. For example, while solar rooftops have grown exponentially in southern California, FICO credit score requirements exclude many low-income families, and even if they qualify, their smaller homes are not given priority by private sector installers. These types of issues exist nationwide and need to be solved.

Finally, building a permanent integrated environmental/climate movement requires investment in the next generation of green voters, including supporting minority and low-income students to enter the green technology and STEM fields. Finally, investment in low-income schools through greening and efficiency projects, and requiring core curriculum compatible environmental and civic education will keep the movement growing.

Investment in minority and low-income voters has produced stunning environmental voter conversion rates despite low investment in voter education and infrastructure development. With 2014 environmental initiatives on the horizon, building an environmental voting bloc should be our highest priority.

KATHLEEN ROGERS, president, Earth Day Network; **GREG MOORE**, executive director of the NAACP National Voter Fund; **ANTONIO GONZALES**, president of Southwest Voter Registration Education Project.

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The Q-Line

Supporting the schools

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education recently voted to spend \$800,000 to help make up for the Education Foundation's failure to raise \$4 million as part of the districtwide fundraising campaign to support the new Vision for Student Success, which is supposed to give each student equal opportunity to learn. It's a controversial program, one that limits parents' ability to give directly to their child's school.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:

Do you think it was wise for the board to give the money, 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 310-573-8354.



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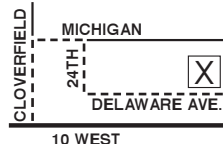
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Should busy, stressed-out
kids have to do chores?**LISA A. FLAM**

Associated Press

It's the dirty work of home life: dusting the shelves, mopping the floors and doing the laundry, load after load. Yet asking kids to help has gotten harder for some parents, caught up in the blur of today's competitive, time-pressed, child-focused world.

"Parents feel very conflicted about getting their kids involved in housework," says child psychologist Eileen Kennedy-Moore, who sees a wide range of what kids are asked to do and how strongly the completion of chores is enforced.

Parents feel resentful if their kids don't help, she says, yet many worry about adding housework to their children's burden, already so heavy with school, sports and other activities that many don't get enough sleep.

"It's another thing on the to-do list, and it seems less important than making sure they did their homework or get to soccer practice," said Kennedy-Moore, a co-author of "Smart Parenting for Smart Kids" (Jossey-Bass, 2011).

Miriam Arond, director of the Good Housekeeping Research Institute, notes a change over the last two decades, with parents now feeling "tremendous pressure" to enrich their children, hiring tutors before they fall behind, just for a leg up. And with many parents working, and kids busy after school, family time is more precious.

Yet kids should still be expected to pitch in, experts say. Through chores, children gain a feeling of competence as they learn skills that will carry into adulthood, and they benefit by making a contribution to their family.

"It's very important to counter a sense of entitlement," says Arond.

"It's important emotionally because it gives children the sense that they can do something, that they're part of the family, that we're all in this together," she says. "Emotionally, parents don't realize that it is very strengthening for a child. It helps them feel secure, they have a role, they feel rooted. Sometimes parents feel apologetic about giving children chores."

Not first lady Michelle Obama, who has talked about her daughters having to make their own White House beds.

And not Andrea Cherry of Kingwood, Texas, who has passed on her childhood practice of doing chores to her own children. As toddlers, they began with the game of sock sorting, and now, at ages 8 and 6, have graduated to "extensive" daily chores. Lily makes her bed and prepares breakfast for herself and her little brother. She cleans bathroom sinks with cleaning wipes, tidies the floors with a Swiffer and is learning to vacuum. Aiden feeds the dog and delivers toilet paper to the bathrooms. Both help with laundry and the dishes.

For Cherry, 38, who works full time, having the kids help makes it possible for her and her husband to have enough time to take the kids to soccer practices and games. Equally important, it fills them with the same idea of family responsibility that

Cherry was raised with.

"They make a substantial contribution to the family, and it's important because it teaches them about taking care of the family, family is first, and they are responsible members of the family," said Cherry. "I'm proud of them."

While Cherry feels that she requires more of her kids than most parents in her area, Andrea Cameron, a San Diego mother of girls ages 2 and 8 who works occasionally, believes that she asks less than most. Her third-grader, Siobhan, has been dancing since age 2, aspires to be a ballerina or own a dance studio, and dances every day after school — weekends too, during performance season. The family is always pressed for time, driving back and forth to school and dance class.

"We try to throw in a few (chores) here and there, mainly her room, whatever we can squeeze in," says Cameron, 33. "I'd rather let her do what she loves and what she looks at as her future career than take it away from her and make her stay home and clean the house."

Cameron, who grew up having "very consistent" chores, believes that Siobhan is learning responsibility through the discipline of her dance classes, getting there on time with her bag packed with the right gear.

No matter how busy a family is, Kennedy-Moore advises parents to ask kids for at least the minimum effort. "You don't want to set it up where the kid is the honored guest and the parents are the servants," she said.

The best way to start is to enlist kids when they are young, about 2?, so it becomes a regular part of their lives, Arond says. A toddler can clean up toys and sort socks; make it fun with songs or by making it a game. By elementary school, kids can hang up wet towels and can dust. They can load the dishwasher by 8 or 9. Teens can do their own laundry and take care of sports equipment.

And if parents haven't required that their kids do chores, it's never too late to start.

For kids who are new to chores or resistant to the idea, Kennedy-Moore recommends that they be given some say over how they do them. Parents should consider: Will the jobs be assigned or rotate through the family? When is the best time to do them? And perhaps most important, is the workload fair for all siblings?

Parents need to invest time teaching kids how to do the household jobs.

"You have to give up a sense of perfectionism," Arond says. And be patient: "This is going to have a long-term payoff for them and you'll have a really good helper."

Whether kids' household labor should be rewarded is a disputed point, with one camp believing that kids should get an allowance as payment for chores, and another saying the work is for the good of the family and should be done without financial reward.

Either way, experts say giving kids a pass on chores is a disservice.

"A child who is spoiled, it's going to work against them when they're adults," Arond says. Employers can't afford to hire divas, she said. "Don't raise divas at home."

TELL SANTA MONICA WHAT YOU THINK!
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405 FROM PAGE 1

While there were some delays Monday, motorists mostly avoided the area where repaving continued as part of a project to add carpool lanes to the notoriously choked freeway.

Transportation planners practically begged drivers to avoid the area while the work was underway, fearing what was nicknamed a "Jamzilla" tie-up of traffic.

California Department of Transportation manager John Yang said by staying away again, drivers "defeated the traffic monster that threatened our city."

Workers keeping to a tight schedule repaved nearly six miles of northbound lanes over the Sepulveda Pass connecting West Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley.

There was minimal impact on southbound lanes, officials said.

The fears about traffic snarls were reminiscent of several years ago, when gridlock from a closure dubbed "Carmageddon" did not materialize because drivers heeded pleas to stay off the roads.

Carmageddon and Jamzilla were spawned by \$1.1 billion in improvements being made to Interstate 405 that include higher-capacity on- and off-ramps and bridges that meet seismic standards.

BUDGET FROM PAGE 1

Council accepted her recommendation that they adopt policy to set aside \$1 million every year, if available, to reduce unfunded retirement liability of city employees. As baby boomers reach retirement age, their benefits will be a major cost to City Hall.

An increase of the hourly living wage for city employees and contract workers from \$14.08 to \$15.37 would go into effect in July if the City Council approves it, and cost an extra \$1.5 million per year. A majority of the increase would go to contract workers, as only around 200 workers currently make less than \$15.37. The council hasn't officially voted for the increase, however, it seems likely and city officials factored it in as part of

their budget forecasting.

There were several belated costs added to this fiscal year's budget.

Council recently agreed to set aside \$200,000 for the Pier Restoration Corporation to cover the projected loss of revenue from advertising in the Twilight Concert Series. Council voted to downsize the concerts fearing that the large crowds pose a public safety threat.

An additional \$105,000 was allocated to cover the first phase of a seismic retrofit program. Building officials and contractors will compile a list of all structures that will need seismic upgrades. If needed, building owners will be required to make the necessary improvements to fortify buildings in case of a future earthquake.

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Daniel Archuleta daniela@smdp.com

STANDING UP: Hotel workers protest what they call unfair labor conditions on Tuesday.

PROTEST

FROM PAGE 3

individual employee to take their breaks.”

The protest is the first to hit tourism-dependent Santa Monica in recent years. Back in 2001, hotel workers and residents joined hands in fighting for a living wage law that the City Council approved. It impacted only business in Downtown and along the coast who grossed millions annually.

Opponents gathered enough signatures to put a referendum on the ballot roughly a year later and after a contentious campaign

the law was ultimately defeated. The council instead voted to require city contractors to pay a living wage and has recently, in the form of development agreements, required those wishing to build new hotels to pay a much higher hourly-wage — around \$15.

City officials are considering raising the hourly wage for city employees to the same level required by hotel developers.

Tourism is big business in Santa Monica, generating roughly \$1 billion in city revenue and supporting over 10,000 jobs, according to the Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau.

kevinh@smdp.com

COOKIES

FROM PAGE 1

can't choose.”

Manju Raman, the general manager at the Huntley, said that employees show no preference to town cars and that no kick-backs are being paid by companies to employees.

“Sometimes the guests have a preference and we always let them choose,” she said. “The guests are happy and the taxis are happy. We really haven't had any complaints.”

The loading zone in front of the hotel is small, she said, so the only reason a cabbie might have been hassled is if he was blocking the thoroughfare.

In 2011, City Council banned drivers from paying bribes, called “cookies,” to doormen for favoring their service. The council later amended the law to include doormen. Bribes ceased for a while but new services like Uber and Lyft, which allow passengers to summon drivers with their smartphones, are causing the problem to flare up again, said a cabbie who's been working in Santa Monica for five years.

City Code Compliance officials did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

The cab driver, who asked to remain anonymous, described a situation strikingly similar to Sennett's.

“If you pull up to the Huntley and they didn't call you, they'll give you the third degree,” he said. “These guys are getting paid by the drivers. Our guys don't even want to take a call from the Huntley because it

means they're only going a few blocks. If you're going to Long Beach, a nice long ride, they'll call a town car.”

Like Sennett, he described similar problems at the JW Marriott Santa Monica Le Merigot and Le Meridien Delfina.

The Marriott did not respond to calls for comment but Pedro Escobar, a concierge at the Delfina, said the claims are bunk.

“Taxi drivers have a misconception,” he said. “The guests can set up the service with apps on their phones. We give them options but 60 percent use Uber on their own. It's just what the people want.”

Uber, the cabbie said, is already benefiting from a lack of regulation. They were not included under the system created in 2010 that allowed five companies — Taxi! Taxi!, Metro Cab, Bell Cab, Independent Cab and Yellow Cab — to operate within the city limits. Drivers and their vehicles are vetted regularly under the system but Uber is not, he said.

“So you have these untested drivers charging more for rides in unregulated cars,” he said. “And these guys at the hotel are taking a cut of that extra cost.”

Uber did not respond to request for comment by press time.

Sennett said that the costs add up for businesses.

“I wasted an extra \$70 in fares over the course of the week,” she said. “And 40 of my colleagues were staying at the Huntley, Marriott, or Delfina. That's 40 people coming, 40 people going. Think about how much extra money that is.”

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Betty Smith Mueller

December 21, 1925 – February 1, 2014

Betty Smith Mueller passed away peacefully on February 1, 2014 at the age of 88 in Santa Monica, California.

She was born in Chicago, Illinois on December 21, 1925.

She worked at the Veteran's Administration in Chicago and in Brentwood, California as a supervising nurse. She later moved to Santa Monica, California.

Betty, an ardent life-long Democrat, was beloved for her activism, her joyous spirit and her boundless energy. She tirelessly volunteered in Tom Hayden's office and staffed the tenant hotline for Santa Monicans for Renter's Rights for ten years. Betty was twice elected to the City's Rent Control Board. She served on the Personnel and Housing Commissions, was a docent at the Getty Center, a board member of her condominium association, and a participant in many other organizations.

She was named Woman of the Year for the 41st Assembly District.

Betty's life was filled with warm friendships. She was a great believer in life-long learning, which helped to keep her young. She attended Emeritus College where she was encouraged as a watercolorist and photographer, and she never missed a concert of the Emeritus band.

Betty is survived by her brother, James Mueller, Peru, Illinois, nieces Lisa Sarver, Schaunberg, Illinois, and Cynthia Hunter, Arlington, Illinois and several grand nieces and nephews.



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Morgan Genser editor@smdp.com

THERE SHE GOES: St. Monica's Molly Tomlin makes a move earlier this season.

PLAYOFFS
FROM PAGE 3

The game is scheduled for Thursday at 6 p.m. at Milken Community High School.

St. Monica, a year removed from winning the Division 4A championship, earned the No. 6 seed in the field of 32 despite entering the playoffs as an at-large team from the Camino Real League.

The Mariners travel to St. Genevieve on Thursday at 7 p.m.

St. Genevieve finished the regular season

second in the Santa Cruz League.

Also in Division 4A, Crossroads, the No. 12 seed, will host Ontario Christian, also on Thursday at 7 p.m.

Crossroads won the Delphic League title this season. Ontario Christian came in third in the Ambassador League.

After a season that saw New Roads finish third in the Coastal League, the Jaguars will host Holy Martyrs in a Division 5A matchup on Thursday at 7 p.m.

New Roads is unseeded. Holy Martyrs are the No. 6 seed.

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Children with seizures use pot as treatment

NICHOLAS RICCARDI

Associated Press

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. The doctors were out of ideas to help 5-year-old Charlotte Figi.

Suffering from a rare genetic disorder, she had as many as 300 grand mal seizures a week, used a wheelchair, went into repeated cardiac arrest and could barely speak. As a last resort, her mother began calling medical marijuana shops.

Two years later, Charlotte is largely seizure-free and able to walk, talk and feed herself after taking oil infused with a special pot strain. Her recovery has inspired both a name for the strain of marijuana she takes that is bred not to make users high — Charlotte's Web — and an influx of families with seizure-stricken children to Colorado from states that ban the drug.

"She can walk, talk; she ate chili in the car," her mother, Paige Figi, said as her dark-haired daughter strolled through a cavernous greenhouse full of marijuana plants that will later be broken down into their anti-seizure components and mixed with olive oil so patients can consume them. "So I'll fight for whomever wants this."

Doctors warn there is no proof that Charlotte's Web is effective, or even safe.

In the frenzy to find the drug, there have been reports of non-authorized suppliers offering bogus strains of Charlotte's Web. In one case, a doctor said, parents were told they could replicate the strain by cooking marijuana in butter. Their child went into heavy seizures.

"We don't have any peer-reviewed, published literature to support it," Dr. Larry Wolk, the state health department's chief

medical officer, said of Charlotte's Web.

Still, more than 100 families have relocated since Charlotte's story first began spreading last summer, according to Figi and her husband. The relocated families have formed a close-knit group in Colorado Springs, the law-and-order town where the dispensary selling the drug is located. They meet for lunch, support sessions and hikes.

"It's the most hope lots of us have ever had," said Holli Brown, whose 9-year-old daughter, Sydni, began speaking in sentences and laughing since moving to Colorado from Kansas City and taking the marijuana strain.

Amy Brooks-Kayal, vice president of the American Epilepsy Society, warned that a few miraculous stories may not mean anything — epileptic seizures come and go for no apparent reason — and scientists do not know what sort of damage Charlotte's Web could be doing to young brains.

"Until we have that information, as physicians, we can't follow our first creed, which is do no harm," she said, suggesting that parents relocate so their children can get treated at one of the nation's 28 top-tier pediatric epilepsy centers rather than move to Colorado.

However, the society urges more study of pot's possibilities. The families using Charlotte's Web, as well as the brothers who grow it, say they want the drug rigorously tested, and their efforts to ensure its purity have won them praise from skeptics like Wolk.

For many, Charlotte's story was something they couldn't ignore.

Charlotte is a twin, but her sister, Chase, doesn't have Dravet's syndrome, which kills kids before they reach adulthood.

In early 2012, it seemed Charlotte would

be added to that grim roster. Her vital signs flat-lined three times, leading her parents to begin preparing for her death. They even signed an order for doctors not to take heroic measures to save her life again should she go into cardiac arrest.

Her father, Matt, a former Green Beret who took a job as a contractor working in Afghanistan, started looking online for ways to help his daughter and thought they should give pot a try. But there was a danger: Marijuana's psychoactive ingredient, THC, can trigger seizures.

The drug also contains another chemical known as CBD that may have seizure-fighting properties. In October, the Food and Drug Administration approved testing a British pharmaceutical firm's marijuana-derived drug that is CBD-based and has all its THC removed.

Few dispensaries stock CBD-heavy weed that doesn't get you high. Then Paige Figi found Joel Stanley.

One of 11 siblings raised by a single mother and their grandmother in Oklahoma, Stanley and four of his brothers had found themselves in the medical marijuana business after moving to Colorado. Almost as an experiment, they bred a low-THC, high-CBD plant after hearing it could fight tumors.

Stanley went to the Figis' house with reservations about giving pot to a child.

"But she had done her homework," Stanley said of Paige Figi. "She wasn't a pot activist or a hippy, just a conservative mom."

Now, Stanley and his brothers provide the marijuana to nearly 300 patients and have a waitlist of 2,000.

The CBD is extracted by a chemist who once worked for drug giant Pfizer, mixed with olive oil so it can be ingested through the mouth or the feeding tube

that many sufferers from childhood epilepsy use, then sent to a third-party lab to test its purity.

Charlotte takes the medication twice a day. "A year ago, she could only say one word," her father said. "Now she says complete sentences."

The recovery of Charlotte and other kids has inspired the Figis and others to travel the country, pushing for medical marijuana laws or statutes that would allow high-CBD, low-THC pot strains.

Donald Burger recently urged a New York state legislative panel to legalize medical marijuana while his wife, Aileen, was in the family's new rental house in Colorado Springs, giving Charlotte's Web to their daughter Elizabeth, 4. The family only relocated to Colorado after neurologists told them Elizabeth's best hope — brain surgery — could only stop some of her seizures.

"It's a very big strain being away from the rest of our family," Aileen Burger said recently while waiting for her husband to return from a trip to sell their Long Island house. "But she doesn't have to have pieces of her brain removed."

Ray Mirazabegian, an optician in Glendale, Calif., brought Charlotte's Web to his state, where medical marijuana is legal. He convinced the Stanley brothers to give him some seeds he could use to treat his 9-year-old daughter Emily, who spent her days slumped on the couch. Now, she's running, jumping and talking. Mirazabegian is cloning the Charlotte's Web seeds and has opened the California branch of the Stanleys' foundation.

Mirazabegian has begun to distribute the strain to 25 families and has a waitlist of 400. It includes, he said, families willing to move from Japan and the Philippines.

Online MD reviews lag in popularity

LINDSEY TANNER

AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO Doctor ratings are less popular than those of toasters, cars and movies when it comes to online consumer sites. That's according to a survey that found most adults hadn't checked online physician reviews — and most said a conveniently located office and accepting patients' health insurance was more important.

Still, the sites do appear to be swaying opinions. About a third of patients who viewed online sites sought out or avoided physicians based on their ratings.

The findings come from a nationally representative Internet-based survey of 2,137 adults. Results were published online Tuesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

The 2012 survey may overestimate awareness among the general population, since about 1 in 5 Americans don't have Internet access. But the researchers attempted to compensate for that by providing free Internet-connected computers for consumers without access.

The results suggest that online doctor ratings have gained popularity since earlier surveys. That's a concern since there's no way to know if a review is real or fake, or what might have motivated the reviewer, said lead author Dr. David Hanauer, a pediatrician and associate professor at the University of Michigan.

More than one-third of those surveyed

had checked out online reviews for movies, restaurants, appliances or electronics, and more than 1 in 4 viewed online car ratings. But less than 1 in 5 said they had viewed online physician ratings.

Consumer reviews of doctors' can be found on dozens of online sites, including some that only rate doctors and others like yelp.com that cover a panoply of goods and services. Most reviewers don't include their full names or remain anonymous.

Some doctors who oppose the idea make their patients sign "gag orders" agreeing not to post comments about them online. Hanauer said he doesn't do that. He added that he hasn't found any reviews of himself online.

The American Medical Association — the nation's largest physicians' group — is wary of the sites.

"Anonymous online opinions of physicians should be taken with a grain of salt, and should certainly not be a patient's sole source of information when looking for a new physician," Dr. Ardis Dee Hoven, AMA's president, said in a statement.

Hanauer questioned whether doctors should be subject to "crowdsourced" reviews like other commodities. He said doctors risk getting bad reviews for sound medical advice simply because patients don't agree with it. For example, antibiotics only fight bacteria but parents often want pediatricians to prescribe them for kids' colds or other viruses. Doctors' refusals

might result in a bad review, but that would be misleading, he said.

Roberta Clarke, a Boston University health care marketing specialist, said there's no reason that doctors shouldn't be the focus of consumer reviews, but that online sites need to do a better job of providing meaningful information.

There are no standards, some sites charge a fee to look at doctor reviews, and sites that use stars or checkmarks don't always explain what's being rated, Clarke said.

Oliver Kharraz, founder of ZocDoc.com said his New York-based site avoids the pitfalls of many by offering more than just reviews. Patients can schedule appointments on the site with doctors who pay to be listed, and only patients who make appointments are allowed to give reviews. Patients also get suggested topics for review including bedside manner and waiting times.

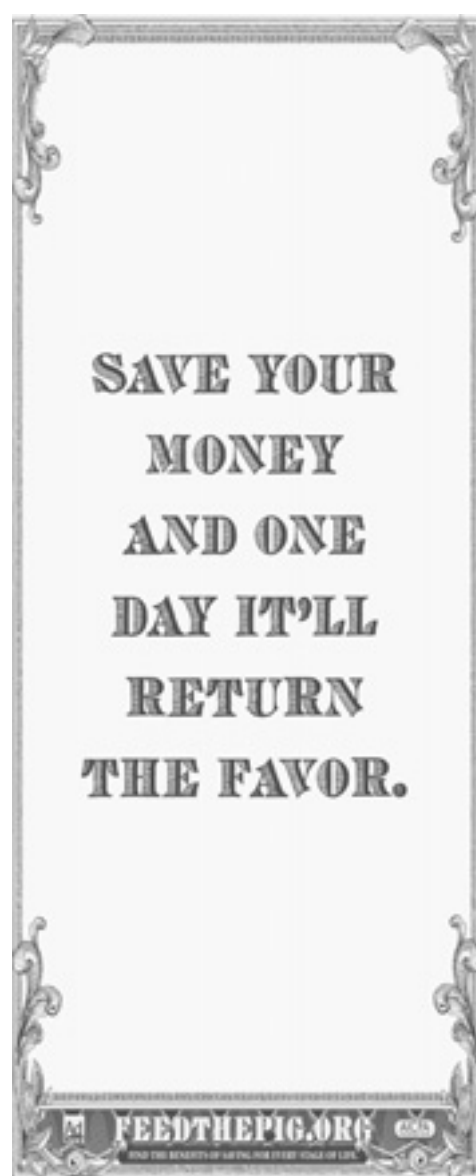
"The review needs to be done right in order for it to make sense," he said.

Lori Goldstein, a beauty salon owner in Chicago's suburbs, said she has used online ratings sites to help find doctors for her mother and herself, and has written bad online reviews for her fathers' doctors because she thinks they give him too many prescriptions.

"I wanted to warn people," she said.

But Goldstein said consumers have to be smart about using online doctor reviews.

"You have to be careful because you can't believe everything," she said.



Stocks edge higher in quiet, post-holiday trading

KEN SWEET

AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK U.S. stocks closed mostly higher Tuesday as traders got back to work after a long holiday weekend.

It was a fairly quiet day for investors, who had relatively little news to react to.

Health care stocks rose more than the rest of the market after pharmaceutical company Actavis said it was buying rival Forest Laboratories for \$25 billion in cash and stock.

Investors liked the deal, which is intended to make the companies more competitive in a rapidly changing industry and allow them to command higher prices from insurance companies. Actavis makes the generic versions of hyperactivity disorder medication Concerta and the cholesterol drug Lipitor, while Forest Labs makes the Alzheimer's treatment Namenda.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost 23.99 points, or 0.2 percent, to 16,130.40. The Dow was dragged lower by Coca-Cola, which fell \$1.46, or 4 percent, to \$37.47.

Coke reported that its income and sales fell in the fourth quarter compared with the same period a year ago. The company said sales volume declined 1 percent in North America, its largest market.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 2.13 points, or 0.1 percent, to 1,840.76. The Nasdaq composite rose 28.76 points, or 0.7 percent, to 4,272.78.

Forest Labs and Actavis were among the biggest gainers in the S&P 500 index. Forest Labs soared \$19.65, or 28 percent, to \$91.04 and Actavis rose \$9.59, or 5 percent, to \$201.47.

Other drug makers also rose sharply. Gilead Sciences rose \$2.60, or 3 percent, to \$83.81 and Eli Lilly rose \$1.05, or 2 percent, to \$55.25.

The Forest Labs-Actavis deal is the latest in big-name, big-budget deals to be announced so far this year. Last week cable giant Comcast announced a deal to buy Time Warner Cable for \$45 billion and Japan's Suntory Holdings announced last month it was buying Beam, the maker of Jim Beam and Maker's Mark whiskey, for \$13.9 billion.

Investors should expect more large deals this year, said Mike Serio, regional chief investment officer at Wells Fargo Private Bank.

"This has been building up for three or four years now," he said. "Companies have so much money on their balance sheets and there's only so much you can do with it. You could increase your dividend. You could buy back stock. You could spend it on (business investments), or you can do deals."

The stock market is extending its gain from last week, when the S&P 500 increased 2.3 percent. Investors liked what they heard from Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen, who said she planned to continue her predecessor's market-friendly policies for the time being.

The market's turnaround last week was especially notable given the rough start to the year. The S&P 500 has risen seven out of the last eight days.

"I would be very surprised if we don't see the market move back to its highs very soon," said Randy Frederick, a managing director at Charles Schwab.

Even with the market's recent rise, both the Dow and the S&P 500 are still down slightly for 2014. The Dow has lost 2.7 percent, the S&P 500 just 0.4 percent.

Investors had two minor economic reports on Tuesday to work through. Both suggested that the bitter winter weather that has enveloped much of the nation the last two months has been holding back the U.S. economy.

The New York Federal Reserve's Empire State survey showed that manufacturing slowed in the region in February far more than economists expected. Meanwhile, a survey of the housing market showed homebuilder confidence fell sharply in February, due to the severe weather.

Bond prices rose. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.71 percent from 2.75 percent on Friday.

Gold rose \$5.80, or 0.4 percent, to \$1,324.40, continuing a weeklong rally. A report from the World Gold Council showed that Chinese demand for gold rose 32 percent in 2013 from 2012, a sign that overseas demand may not be as weak as originally thought.



Want better health care? Start asking more questions. To your doctor. To your pharmacist. To your nurse. What are the test results? What about side effects? Don't fully understand your prescriptions? Don't leave confused, because the most important question is the one you should have asked: go to www.ahrq.gov/questionsandanswers or call 1-800-858-4HRQ (2475) for the 10 questions every patient should ask. Questions are the answer.



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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: 61.0°

WEDNESDAY – POOR TO FAIR – SURF: 2-3 ft Knee to chest high
NW swell continues, down a notch; morning winds looking favorable

THURSDAY – POOR TO FAIR – SURF: 2-3 ft knee to waist high
Old NW swell eases, new NW swell due to show;
Small SSW swell forerunners creeping in; watching for offshore morning winds

FRIDAY – POOR TO FAIR – SURF: 2-3 ft thigh to waist high
Small, steep-angled NW swell; modest SSW joining in; conditions looking favorable

SATURDAY – POOR TO FAIR – SURF: 2-3 ft Knee to chest high
New SSW swell tops out; modest WNW swell mix fades

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 -- 38/5
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	LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Canillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	ns
(I) Pescadero State Beach, between Lachasa and Las Alas creeks.			Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	ns
Escorial Canyon at (I) Maradero State Beach.	A+	ns	Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chastanaut).	A	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	D	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (privately).	A	ns	Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	F	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Rancho Canyon Creek mouth.	A	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Xanter storm drain.	A	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A	ns	Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurants).	C	ns
Ledger Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns	Ocean Park Beach at Adeline Ave. drain.	A	A+
Solstice Canyon at San Blasco County Beach.	A	ns	Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A	ns
Puerto State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	ns	Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A+	ns	Venice Beach at Winward Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Surfside Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	ns	Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	ns
Surfside Beach (beach location) - daily.	D	D	Venice Beach--projection of Topical St.	A	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	B	ns	Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach--lifeguard tower.	F	F
Carbone Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Ballena Creek mouth.	A	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (quiet river).	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Calver Blvd. drain.	A	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19548 PCH stairs.	D	ns	North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A	ns
Pena Creek at Las Flores County Beach.	A+	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of GWN jetty).	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	A+	A+	Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	A	Dockweiler Beach--opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A	ns
Carderock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	ns	ns	Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	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			

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

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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 these areas surveyed. Our swimmers are happy.

Under Armour stumbles in Olympic sponsorship

MAE ANDERSON
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK The 2014 Sochi Olympics were expected to be a triumphant moment for the U.S. speedskating team — and the squad’s sponsor, Under Armour.

It’s been anything but that.

After a strong showing on the World Cup circuit, the team headed to the games in skinsuits that Under Armour developed and called the fastest speedskating suits in the world.

Not only has no U.S. skater won any medals yet with seven speedskating events to go, but the sportswear company that made their high-tech Mach 39 suits is being blamed in part for the downfall.

While no one is saying the suits are definitely the cause for the disappointing performance, the team ditched them midway through the Olympics and went back to an older Under Armour one.

The debacle has put Under Armour in a position no advertiser wants to be in: on the defense.

The Baltimore-based company, which also is sponsoring the U.S. bobsled and skeleton teams as well as the Canadian snowboard team, said in a statement that it is dedicated to providing “state-of-the art technology.”

The issue underscores the risks advertisers take when sponsoring huge events. Olympic sponsors often spend millions of dollars to have their logos plastered everywhere, including on the bodies of some of the most athletic bodies in the world. They hope to capture the huge audience; about 20 to 25 million viewers tune in to NBC’s U.S. broadcasts each night, for instance.

Because of the growth of social media and other technology, sometimes the publicity can pay off: Even though Nike was not an official sponsor, for instance, the company’s neon-yellow Volt shoes became the talk of the 2012 Olympics after about 400 Nike athletes sported the brightly colored footwear. But bad publicity can spread quickly, too.

Under Armour, which worked with Lockheed Martin to develop the speedskating suits to have less resistance than other suits, already is becoming the center of a lot

of debate over the disappointing speedskating team’s performance.

The brand was the most buzzed about Olympic sponsor online on Tuesday, according to Kontera, which monitors how much brands are mentioned in online conversations. In fact, the amount of social chatter about the brand increased 300 percent from Feb. 9 through last Wednesday, before the news broke, compared with after the speedskating problems on Thursday through Sunday. Many of the conversations over social media sites like Twitter revolve around whether Under Armour’s suits are to blame for the speedskating team’s woes.

Paul Swangard, managing director at Warsaw Sports Marketing Center at the University of Oregon, said Under Armour could have long-lasting headaches if the debacle puts questions of product quality into consumers’ minds.

But some experts say Under Armour might be boosted by the added public relations, or PR. Robert Passikoff, president of Brand Keys Inc., a New York customer research firm, said that Under Armour’s approximate 81 percent brand awareness could have gone up a point or so.

But awareness about the fact that the company was a supplier of suits for an American Olympic team probably “leapt enormously,” he said. While Passikoff said it’s never good for a company to have the perception that a product doesn’t measure up, Under Armour’s brand is strong enough to weather the issue.

To be sure, other Olympic sponsors have had misfires that have since been forgotten by the masses. For example, few people may remember the outcry Ralph Lauren faced in 2012 when people learned that the opening ceremony outfits the designer provided to U.S. Olympians were made in China. And Speedo got into trouble in 2009 when its swimsuits helped swimmers too much — leading to a ban of high tech fabrics. But the Speedo brand was not damaged long term, experts say.

“I don’t think this is going to prove to be long term catastrophe. It’s a short-term headache,” said Atlanta-based branding consultant Laura Ries. “Not everyone goes home from the Olympics a winner.”

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Brasserie Romantique (NR) 1hr 44min
7:30pm
Belgian beer reception to follow.

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

Frozen (PG) 1hr 25min
2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm

About Last Night (NR)
1:30pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

Vampire Academy (NR)
5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:40pm

That Awkward Moment (R)
2:15pm, 10:45pm

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

RoboCop (NR)
11:20am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:45pm

Lego Movie in 3D (PG)
1:55pm, 6:55pm

Ride Along (PG-13)
11:30am, 1:45pm, 4:50pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm

Monuments Men (NR)
11:00am, 2:00pm, 4:15pm, 7:25pm, 10:15pm

Wolf of Wall Street (R) 2hrs 45min
11:15am, 3:00pm, 6:45pm, 9:50pm

American Hustle (R) 2hrs 09min
12:30pm, 4:00pm, 7:05pm, 10:25pm

Endless Love (NR)
11:10am, 2:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:35pm, 10:10pm

Lego Movie (PG)
11:05am, 4:25pm, 9:45pm

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

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

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
1:30pm, 7:10pm

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

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

TAKE A MIDWEEK BREAK, ARIES

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★ You already have seen a variety of different reactions from people this week, and the trend continues. Your mind might wander to a person who has displayed a new dynamic characteristic, or at least it seems new to you. Tonight: You need a midweek break!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★★ You will have a sense that you are heading in the right direction. Focus on what you want, and finish up any errands you might have. Tonight: Where you want to be.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★ Deal with a dear friend directly. Often this person amuses you, gives you food for thought and serves as a muse. You could be surprised by what he or she has to say. A child demands high energy, but before you know it, you will be playing alongside him or her. Tonight: Go have fun.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★★ Understanding that everyone has limits will be easy, but the issue will be that your limits can be different from the majority of people. Your values come into play here, as your family, home and loved ones rank on the top of your priorities. Tonight: Do what makes you happy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ You could be greeted by a mass of paperwork as you start your day. You might need to adjust plans because of what you hear. Though doing work is important, nothing takes priority over the key relationships of your life. Tonight: Make it an early night.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★ Be aware of impending expenses before you go shopping; this will allow you to have a more realistic budget. Most of you easily could overspend. Keep your receipts, and count your change. Tonight: Hang out.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★★ You'll move through your day with high energy. If someone trips you up, you are likely to be less than diplomatic. You can apologize for what you say, and the other party might accept your apology. Tonight: Make it your treat.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Listen to news more openly than you have in the past. Your ability to bypass problems and get past an issue could emerge later in the day. You don't need to say much, but you will need to interfere with a negative course of events. Tonight: Nap, then decide.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★ Touch base with friends. Note how many of your associates have assumed a bigger role in your life. Look around in a meeting. Someone will take the ball and run with it. Rather than get competitive, enjoy that it is not you who is assuming more responsibility. Tonight: Out late.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★ Reconsider a decision involving an older person or a higher-up. First, realize that it probably was an emotional choice. You could be overly passionate about an issue that ultimately could cause you a problem. Tonight: A talk is likely to lead to a good time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Take an opportunity to detach from a problem before pushing for your desired outcome. By gaining a more complete perspective, you will be able to come up with an appropriate response or solution. Tonight: In the limelight.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Reach out to someone with whom you often share ideas. The two of you brainstorm well together, which creates a greater sense of give-and-take. Tonight: Follow the music.

Wednesday, February 19, 2014

This year you often decide to defer to others in order to gain a broader perspective. How you see a situation could change radically as a result. Your wisdom in seeking diverse opinions adds to your strength. If you are single, you could meet someone at any time. You also might not see the person as he or she is. If your friends keep repeating the same observation, stop and look again. If you are attached, your sweetie will love being put on a pedestal for a while. Eventually, though, he or she will fall off. LIBRA looks beyond the obvious.

JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS

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

If your friends keep repeating the same observation, stop and look again. If you are attached, your sweetie will love being put on a pedestal for a while. Eventually, though, he or she will fall off. LIBRA looks beyond the obvious.

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
Check out the HOROSCOPES above!

Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



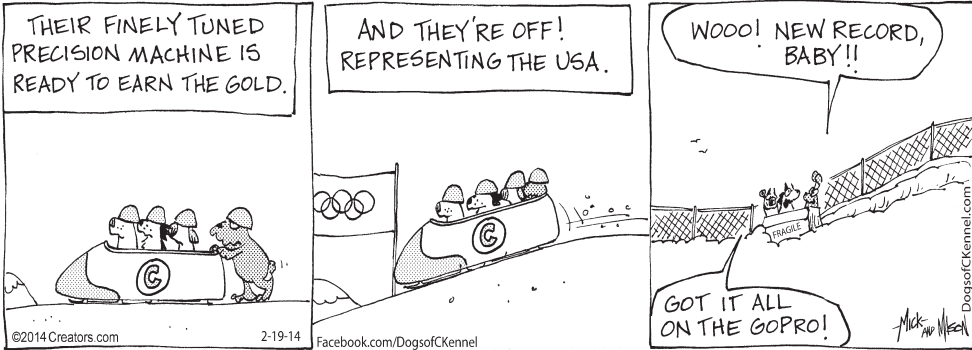
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Dogs of C-Kennel

By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



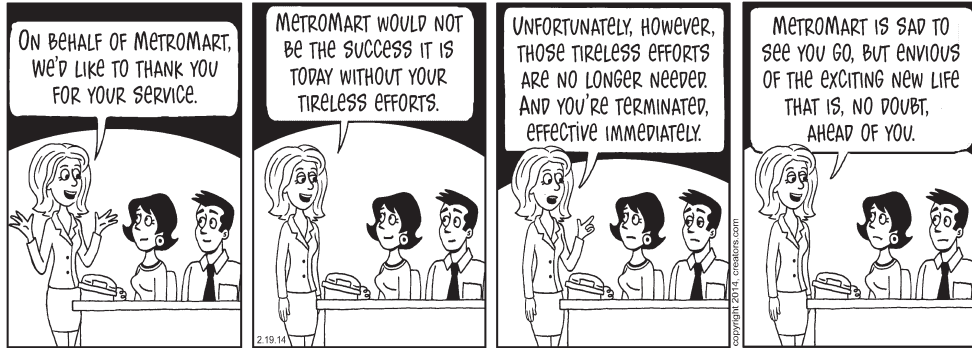
Garfield

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 ★★★

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

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

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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 Out-cropping
- 5 Nuisance
- 9 Wanders
- 11 Potential raisin
- 12 2012 candidate
- 13 Enter a password, say
- 14 Drenched
- 15 Joined a melee
- 17 Talked like a Texan
- 19 Overhead trains
- 20 Kilmer poem
- 21 Dray puller
- 22 Showy flower
- 24 Butter unit
- 26 Egg-shaped
- 29 Church talk: Abbr.
- 30 Proceeded slowly
- 32 Fished, in a way
- 34 Put down
- 35 Skylit lobbies
- 36 Omit phonetically
- 38 Deep ravine
- 39 Casual eatery
- 40 Hudson or Winslet

41 Alley targets

DOWN

- 1 Throng
- 2 Frost or Fulton
- 3 James Cameron movie
- 4 Ring feature
- 5 Ship's front
- 6 Philadelphia team
- 7 Sales pitches
- 8 Looks after
- 10 Dark-furred martens
- 11 Delighted

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

Yesterday's answer

- 16 Make good as new
- 18 Deterioration
- 21 In — (aligned)
- 23 Steered clear of
- 24 One of the Krupps
- 25 Turkish peak
- 27 Big Ten's Fighting —
- 28 Make numb
- 29 Pile up
- 30 Chowder bit
- 31 Fabric workers
- 33 Prudent
- 37 Gloss spot

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

1	2	3	4			5	6	7	8
9				10		11			
12						13			
14				15	16				
17			18					19	
	20						21		
			22			23			
	24	25			26			27	28
29				30					31
32			33					34	
35						36	37		
38						39			
40							41		

DAILY LOTTERY



Draw Date: 2/15
2 9 14 21 23
Power#: 3
Jackpot: \$400M



Draw Date: 2/14
20 28 35 71 72
Mega#: 7
Jackpot: \$154M



Draw Date: 2/15
8 21 24 28 38
Mega#: 1
Jackpot: \$20M



Draw Date: 2/18
1 17 26 33 37



Draw Date: 2/18
MIDDAY: 5 4 4
EVENING: 9 2 1



Draw Date: 2/18
1st: 09 Winning Spirit
2nd: 07 Eureka
3rd: 12 Lucky Charms
RACE TIME: 1:49.14

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at <http://www.calottery.com>

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ The makers of a product called Poo-Pourri garnered a "coveted" advertising award from USA Today in December as one of the five worst ads of the year. Toilet users concerned about smell are encouraged to spray Poo-Pourri on the commode, pre-use, and in the television ad, a British-accented female sits on the throne, extolling the product. Opening line: "You would not believe the mother lode I just dropped." (Nonetheless, USA Today still found two other ads that upset its editors more.)

■ The Power of Prayer: Nelson Thabo Modupe threatened a lawsuit in January against South Africa's Eskom electric utility unless the company paid him the equivalent of about \$22.3 million for "saving" the firm that amount during the weeks of the 2010 Soccer World Cup. Modupe reasoned that he had joined the Zion Christian Church just before the event and had prayed ("successfully") to God to spare the utility from blackouts and power reductions during that period (which would have cost Eskom millions more). Modupe, open to negotiation, said he would accept a partnership in the company as a compromise.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1878- Thomas Edison patents the phonograph.

1884- More than sixty tornadoes strike the Southern United States, one of the largest tornado outbreaks in U.S. history.

1915- World War I: The first naval attack on the Dardanelles begins when a strong Anglo-French task force bombards Ottoman artillery along the coast of Gallipoli.

WORD UP!
bestiary
\\BES-chee-er-ee, BEES-\\ , noun;
1. a collection of moralized fables, especially as written in the Middle Ages, about actual or mythical animals.

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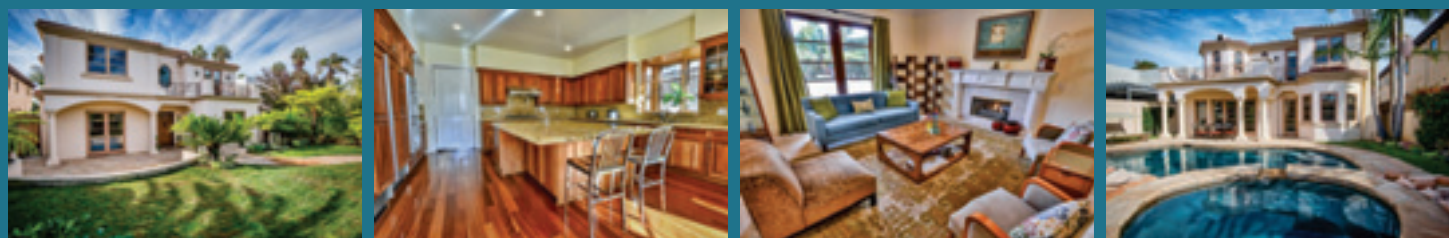
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