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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2014 Volume 13 Issue 83

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

THE RUBBING ELBOWS ISSUE

ST. MONICA ENDS PLAYOFFS FOR NEW ROADS
SEE PAGE 3

City Hall considers tax hike for low-income housing

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Funding for affordable housing might be left up to those who already own homes.

City Hall wants to study a ballot measure that would let voters decide whether or not to raise taxes on property sales to build more low-income apartments.

The city's redevelopment agency (RDA), which was dissolved in 2012 by the state in an attempt by Gov. Jerry Brown to plug a budget shortfall, was the primary local funding source for building and preserving affordable housing projects in the city by the sea.

Federal funding of affordable housing appears "bleak," city officials said, and while state lawmakers have twice proposed a bill that would provide an estimated $500 million in support, it's failed both times.

City Council will consider funding a voter survey to determine if there would be enough support to put the tax-raising item on the ballot in November.

The last RDA-funded projects were recently completed or are currently under construction. More than 250 income-restricted apartments will open in the beginning of this year and another 32 will open early next year.

"Staff anticipates that two or three additional housing rehabilitation opportunities

SEE TAX PAGE 10

Tommy's burgers may get booted for Starbucks

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

LINCOLN BLVD Quick, pack your freezer full of chili burgers.

Tommy's Original World Famous Hamburgers on Lincoln Boulevard, which opened 20 years ago next month, may be on its way out. The landlord, Felfam, is interested in bringing in a Starbucks.

Tommy's is currently on a month-to-month lease and they could get word that they have to leave any day, said Brent Maire, the general manager of the local, family-owned chain.

"You know how that is when you go up against a national chain," he said.

A total redesign is planned for the space, which sits alone on the edge of a strip mall parking lot at the corner of Pico Boulevard. The designs, which include rebuilding two walls, are scheduled go before the Architectural Review Board (ARB) on Monday.

City planners are recommending that the ARB approve the design.

Calls to Felfam and the architects, Architects Orange, were not returned by press time.

Maire said they love the location and they are

SEE TOMMY'S PAGE 8

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

READY: Tommy's manager Salvador Gomez serves up a cheeseburger to go on Thursday.

School surf teams battle for supremacy

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SANTA MONICA BEACH It would seem a natural fit that local schools would have surf teams considering Santa Monica's enviable spot on the Southern California coast.

But, until 2010, there were no formal teams at any of Santa Monica's campuses.

That's when Marion Clark, who knew a number of local kids from the area's public schools through her affiliation with the Surf Academy where she's a managing partner and beach programs director, decided to organize.

Considering that many of her students from the Surf Academy surf camps attended local middle schools, she decided to start there.

So, with just a few kids from John Adams and Lincoln middle schools, they set out to hit the waves for a little competition.

"There were loosely informal clubs before our teams," Clark said just minutes after stepping out of the waves. "My hope is long after I'm gone the program is sustainable."

As her team graduated to Santa Monica High School she decided to create a team there as well.

Now, all three teams combine for over 150 members and Clark expects that number to continue to grow.

This weekend, all three teams will get a chance to show what they've learned as they

SEE SURF PAGE 9

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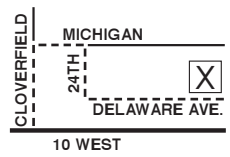

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

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 and Grammy Award-winner 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.

Saturday, Feb. 22, 2014

Hit the waves
Santa Monica Beach
7 a.m. — 5 p.m.
Surfers from Santa Monica and Malibu's public schools will face kids from San Diego to Santa Barbara during the Scholastic Surf Series. Ages vary from middle to high school students. The contest takes place near lifeguard tower No. 22, south of the Santa Monica Pier. The competition also takes place Sunday at the same times. For more information, call (760) 518-2727.

Yoga on the go
Santa Monica Pier
Roga, the pier's mix of running and yoga, returns to get your heart pumping and put your mind at ease. Meet under the pier sign on Ocean Avenue for the run. The yoga portion begins at 9 a.m. at the west end of the pier. For more information, visit santamonicapier.org.

Do as chefs do
Downtown Farmers' Market
Third Street and Arizona Avenue, 9 a.m. — 11 a.m.
Have you ever wondered what all those chefs are going to make with all that fresh produce they buy at the Farmers' Market? Now is your chance to follow a chef back to the kitchen and learn how they put all of the ingredients together to create a special menu. The Follow That Chef classes are free of charge and require RSVP. Visit thegourmandis-eschool.com for more information.

Tax help
Ocean Park Library
2601 Main St., 12 p.m.
VITA from UCLA provides free tax assistance for filing both federal and state income taxes. All the volunteers are IRS certified and can assist with both e-filing and paper filing. The primary aim of the program is to provide income tax return assistance to seniors and those needing assistance. For more information, call (310) 458-8683.

All about Broadway
The Broad Stage
1310 11th St., 5 p.m. & 8 p.m.
Megan Mullally teams up with Grammy- and Emmy-nominated radio star Seth Rudetsky for one night only. Mullally is famous for her iconic role as Karen Walker on the hit TV series "Will & Grace." Mullally has also starred on Broadway in "Grease," "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" and "Young Frankenstein." For more information, visit thebroadstage.com/foster.

Music in bloom
First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica
1220 Second St., 5 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
Jacaranda's 10th anniversary season continues with a dinner break — a break that separates the performances of two 20-movement mid-20th century masterworks by John Cage and Olivier Messiaen. Each cycle is played by an American pianist with whom the music has become synonymous: Adam Tendler and Christopher Taylor, respectively. For more information, call (213) 483-0216.

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

CORRECTION

In the photo caption accompanying the column Culture Watch, which appeared in the Feb. 20 edition of the Daily Press, it should have identified Megan Mullally and Seth Rudetsky.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

AIRPORT COURTHOUSE

A year in jail for running down Santa Monican

A 38-year-old man plead no contest Wednesday to charges stemming from the hit-and-run death of a Santa Monica woman who had just placed her toddler cousin into a car seat in Inglewood.

Just before a hearing was set to begin to determine if there was enough evidence to require him to stand trial, Jesus Cazares of Inglewood pleaded no contest to a felony count of leaving the scene of an accident and a misdemeanor count of vehicular manslaughter stemming from the Oct. 19 crash that killed Elisa Alvarez, according to Santa Monica Patch.

Superior Court Judge Dudley Gray immediately sentenced Cazares to one year in county jail, followed by three years of formal probation, along with a six-month alcohol program.

The judge suspended a three-year state prison term that Cazares will not have to serve if he complies with the terms of his probation, Patch reported.

– KEVIN HERRERA

CITYWIDE

Who do you love, Santa Monica?

Santa Monica businesses are vying for your affection.

Folks are being encouraged to log on and vote for their most loved local business as part of the Buy Local Campaign, which encourages people to shop in town instead of traveling to neighboring cities, which wastes gas and does not funnel tax dollars back into the community.

The online survey can be accessed at buylocalsm.com through Feb. 28.

"This is a fun contest we launched ... for the first time ever ... and we hope it takes off," said Jennifer Taylor, economic development administrator for City Hall. "It's a short online survey with 21 categories including Most Loved Main Street Business, Most Loved Happy Hour and Most Loved SM Farmers Market Vendor.

"Whether you live, work, play, shop, eat or are just visiting, you are likely have your favorite 'locals' that you like to support," Taylor said.

Once people vote, they will be entered to win prizes including gift certificates from Bar Pinxto, Fedora Primo, Huckleberry, Gioia, Moxie Beads, Salon Tru SM and Shaka Shack Burgers, free dance lessons at Arthur Murray Dance Center Santa Monica, an electric bike experience with Pedal...or Not!, a five-class pass to Santa Monica Yoga and Buy Local SM T-shirts.

The winning businesses will be featured in the Santa Monica Daily Press' "Most Loved SM" guide and will also receive formal recognition from City Hall at an awards ceremony where the mayor will present framed certificates to the "Most Loved Santa Monica" Businesses of 2014.

The Daily Press is a Buy Local partner, along with business improvement organizations for Main Street, Montana Avenue, Pico Boulevard and Downtown Santa Monica.

– KH

SMC

New commissioner

The Santa Monica Community College District Personnel Commission has recently appointed Lawrence Leone to fill the seat, vacated by the recent retirement of Dolores Press.

Leone will be serving a three-year term through Dec. 1, 2016, college officials said. Press had served since 1998.

The Personnel Commission selected Leone from among six applicants to fill the seat.

The five-member commission is the public body responsible for the administration of the college's Merit System, a civil service system for classified employees and for fostering the advancement of a career service for such employees. To execute these responsibilities, the State Education Code provides that the commissioners shall classify positions; hear appeals of disciplinary and dismissal matters, and protests involving examinations, selection and appointment procedures; and prescribe rules related to a variety of personnel practices.

Leone has been a practicing attorney in family law since 1977, and a resident of Santa Monica since 1973. He has served as a board member and trustee with the Los Angeles County Bar Association, a member of the Los Angeles County Bar Foundation Board and is a former chair of the Family Law Section.

He has served as a judge pro tem on over 100 occasions and is chief counsel for Island Outpost, an educational nonprofit organization.

He is a graduate of Loyola Marymount University Law School and the UCLA, with high honors.

– DAILY PRESS

EXCITING FINISH

Morgan Genser *editor@smdp.com*

St. Monica's boys' soccer team celebrates after knocking off New Roads on Thursday at Airport Park. The Mariners won the first round playoff game, 2-1, after penalty kicks.

Wealth gap is widest in some affluent U.S. cities

JOSH BOAK
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON The gap between the wealthy and the poor is most extreme in several of the United States' most prosperous and largest cities.

The economic divides in Atlanta, San Francisco, Washington, New York, Chicago and Los Angeles are significantly greater than the national average, according to a study released Thursday by the Brookings Institution, the Washington-based think tank. It suggests that many sources of both economic growth and income inequality have co-existed near each other for the past 35 years.

These cities may struggle in the future to provide adequate public schooling, basic municipal services because of a narrow tax base and "may fail to produce housing and neighborhoods accessible to middle-class workers and families," the study said.

"There's something of a relationship between economic success and inequality," said Alan Berube, a senior fellow at Brookings. "These cities are home to some of the highest paying industries and jobs in the country."

At the same time, Berube noted, many of these cities may inadvertently widen the gap between rich and poor because they have public housing and basic services that make them attractive to low-wage workers.

The findings come at a delicate moment for the country, still slogging through a weak recovery from the Great Recession. Much of the nation's job growth has been concentrated in lower-wage careers. Few Americans have enjoyed pay raises. President Barack Obama is pushing for a higher minimum wage. Protesters in San Francisco have tried to block a private bus that shuttles Google employees from gentrifying neighborhoods to their offices in Silicon Valley.

Many wealthy Americans, from venture capitalist Tom Perkins to real estate billionaire Sam Zell, argue that the nation has tipped toward class warfare.

Incomes for the top 5 percent of earners in Atlanta averaged $279,827 in 2012. That's almost 19 times more than what the bottom 20 percent of that city's population earned. This ratio is more than double the nationwide average for this measure of income inequality. The top 5 percent of earners across the country have incomes 9.1 times greater than the bottom quintile.

Major chasms also appeared in the tech hub of San Francisco, the financial center of New York, the seat of the federal government in Washington and the home of the entertainment industry in Los Angeles.

"In San Francisco, skyrocketing housing costs may increasingly preclude low-income residents from living in the city altogether," the study said.

San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee said in an editorial published Thursday that "working families cannot support themselves on the (city's) current minimum wage of $10.74 per hour" — already $3.49 above the federal minimum and

SEE GAP PAGE 9

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Airport closure means more development

Editor:

I was delighted to see that Santa Monica once again lost a court case against the Federal Aviation Administration. It seems like I remember an article a year or so ago that said that Santa Monica has spent over $7 million fighting against the airport. By now the cost must be higher. With the recent article about a forthcoming budget deficit in Santa Monica, this seems like a good time to stop throwing away city money (our taxes) in this vain effort. And, in this time of drought, stop spending money for unnecessary things like flowers in the medians and watering city grass.

Regarding the airport, it has been shown in various surveys that the vast majority of Santa Monicans do not see the airport as a problem. The few hundred airport closers are loud, however, louder than the majority who support the airport. I must admit that the airport-closers are clever. They are now touting the Airport2Park proposal, which makes it seem that the choice is between the airport and a park. My goodness, how naive! The choice has never been between the airport vs. a park but between the airport vs. another horrible development project.

The City Council is so deeply in the pockets of the developers that if the acreage became available the City Council members would be falling over themselves delivering that acreage to their masters, the developers. To believe that that valuable space would be given over to a park is ludicrous. One has only to look at the history of the City Council regarding development – members don't care about traffic, density, increased trips to an area, or overbuilding. In a time of drought they are not limiting more water-using developments, just increasing them. As an example, look at what happened to the Hines development! The council will approve condos, apartments, a shopping mall or anything else that will please the developers. Keeping the airport would stop another development disaster – just think Hines times 20.

Support the airport and keep us free from more development in the future.

Reynold Dacon
Santa Monica

Guess which one

Editor:

City Hall predicts a budget deficit. To address this problem, our rulers have two options. One is to cut their spending and the other is to raise our taxes.

Anyone want to wager what it will be?

Don Wagner
Santa Monica

Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Rain, rain come back another day ASAP

MARK TWAIN ONCE OBSERVED, "Everybody talks about the weather but nobody does anything about it." I'm writing a column about it, which, I suppose, is just about the same.

How bad is the current drought in California? Nothing special, just the worst in our state's 164-year history. Even worse, many scientists fear we may be entering an era of "megadroughts," which sounds like a bad horror movie. All of this to say, if you were thinking of getting your car washed maybe consider waiting until 2016.

Actually, climatologists report that the 2013-14 rainfall season is well on its way to becoming California's driest period in more than 400 years. Speaking of which, I wonder who reported on the weather back then. It probably was the town crier ringing a bell who, four centuries later, would be known as a "climatologist." (Minus the bell, of course.)

The drought is so bad a state emergency has been declared by Gov. Jerry Brown. (Who in 1975 was the sixth youngest governor in our history, in 2011 the oldest and in 2013 the longest serving; enough Jerry Brown trivia for 10 columns.)

On Wednesday, Brown unveiled a sweeping proposal aimed at water conservation and cleaning up drinking water supplies while increasing penalties for those illegally diverting water, all to the tune of $687 million. (And yet not a dime for rain dancers.)

The drought is even more unsettling given that much of the country has been buried in snow most of the winter. I have friends back east who are barely thawed out and counting the days until spring, but who worry that I'm walking around carrying a canteen living in a desert soon to be a dust bowl, or vice versa.

In the 1940s film noir days the hard-boiled reporter often carried a flask of whiskey. Being slightly soft-boiled, I'm more likely to carry vitamin water than booze. But given that the drought could extend for years, a canteen over my shoulder may be as commonplace as a laptop.

The only precipitation we've had this year was basically nothing more than heavy dew. With all the talk of the Keystone Pipeline, how about one for water? Maybe it could run from NYC and Boston to Santa Monica so that we could have the luxury of flushing our toilets without guilt. (Sparing you the second half of the new bathroom mantra, the first half is, "If it's yellow let it mellow.")

What an eerie winter. Frankly, day after day of sunshine is depressing as our reservoirs slowly dry up. That and the extreme cold in much of the country, and the whole thing is like watching Al Gore's "Inconvenient Truth," right before our eyes. And yet nobody seems to care. They're more interested in seeing Kate Upton in a bikini twirling weightless in space. (Actually, bad example because I liked that video clip myself, but you get my point.)

Personally, I'm convinced the drought is part of climate change; 97 percent of the world's scientists agree but don't say that to Sarah Palin, the former half- term governor of Alaska.

On Facebook, Palin questions global warming because it's snowing in Alaska. Then again she has questioned that man descended from apes because there are still apes.

Keep in mind that Palin believes the world is 6,000 years old and claims to have seen photos of a dinosaur track that includes human footprints. To Palin this is incontrovertible proof that man and the dinosaur co-existed which, if true, would make "The Flintstones" a documentary.

Yes, gang, "experts" like Rush Limbaugh, and many on the right, consider climate change a hoax concocted by those who want one world government. (Or worse, Obamacare.)

This reminded me of when Republican Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, in January 2013 and employing tough love, told members of the GOP "We've got to stop being the stupid party." Apparently some weren't listening. Oh well.

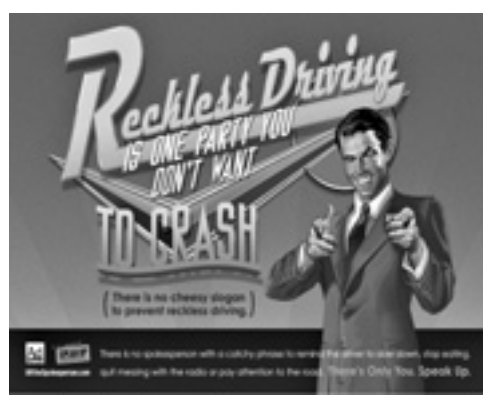
But back to the drought and Santa Monica, I wondered what we as citizens could do to help alleviate the problem. I e-mailed Councilmember Kevin McKeown to get his take because, frankly, he's seemingly up on everything.

Jokingly, Kevin e-mailed back referring to his days as a rock 'n' roll radio station general manager. "I was running KROQ back in the late '70s during that drought, and we urged listeners to shower with a consenting adult friend."

"If you are writing in a more serious vein," McKeown added, "for city dwellers it's often landscaping. Going from hose water to drip irrigation, and choosing water-thrifty plants, can make a big difference."

All of Kevin's suggestions were informative but, inasmuch as I live in a high-rise apartment building, my preferred water savings tip of his was "showering with a friend." Especially if the friend is Kate Upton.

Water conservation tips are at www.saveourh2o.org. **JACK** is at facebook.com/jackneworth, twitter.com/jackneworth or jnsmdp@aol.com.



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Your column here

By Dr. E. Kirsten Peters

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Designing better asphalt

DR. HAIFANG WEN GREW UP IN A rural area of Shandong province, in eastern China. In his youth there were not many paved highways in the Chinese countryside.

"Lots of the roads were gravel," he told me recently. "They were muddy when it rained. I remember riding a cow on them, or going along in a wagon pulled by a donkey."

Living in those conditions, Wen could see quite a bit of room for improvement in road materials.

"I thought, we can do better," he said with a smile.

Thus was born Wen's interest in asphalt, the cheapest material that can be used to pave highways. That interest propelled him through a university education and a Ph.D. Now a professor in civil and environmental engineering at Washington State University, Wen researches new ways of making asphalt better and cheaper.

Asphalt has traditionally been made from aggregate — small particles of rock — and products of crude oil.

"But the price of asphalt made from crude oil is pretty high, about $700 to $800 per ton," Wen told me. "That really adds up. One lane of a highway, paved for 1 mile, costs about $1 million. Now you know where your taxes go!"

One alternative to traditional asphalt that Wen and the people in his lab are looking into is bioasphalt. Instead of using petroleum, waste cooking oil can be processed into asphalt.

Bioasphalt is gray, rather than black, and after sticking my nose into a little jar of it, I can testify that it smells better than asphalt made from crude oil.

"Sometimes you can even smell what the restaurant was frying in the oil," Wen said with a laugh.

The name of the game when it comes to designing asphalt is to balance the properties of the material so that it's not too stiff (or rigid) but also not too soft (or ductile). If it's too stiff, the material will crack in the cold of winter. If it's too soft, a truck driving over the asphalt on a hot summer day will make ruts in the pavement.

Another part of Wen's research involves the temperature to which asphalt must be heated to be used in paving roads. Traditionally, the material has been heated to 300 degrees. That's very hot, and accounts for the blue smoke you can see wafting up from paving operations along a road in the summertime.

BIOASPHALT IS GRAY, RATHER THAN BLACK, AND AFTER STICKING MY NOSE INTO A LITTLE JAR OF IT, I CAN TESTIFY THAT IT SMELLS BETTER THAN ASPHALT MADE FROM CRUDE OIL.

"That means a lot of energy is required for major paving operations. And the smoke is not good for the environment or the workers," Wen told me.

Using different mixtures, Wen's group is researching materials that need only be heated to 200 or 220 degrees. That's a significantly lower temperature that allows for real energy savings and doesn't produce the blue smoke.

Although Wen is glad to be working in this country, he still goes back to China to collaborate with engineers there.

"They are doing a lot of paving in China now," he said. "The economy is booming."

DR. E. KIRSTEN PETERS, a native of the rural Northwest, was trained as a geologist at Princeton and Harvard. This column is a service of the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences at Washington State University.

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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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SANTA MONICA ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING

DATE/TIME: February 24, 2014, 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Multi-Purpose Room, (wheelchair accessible)
Santa Monica Main Library, 601 Santa Monica Boulevard

PROPERTIES:
- ARB 13-045, 1631 Santa Monica Boulevard: Auto Retail
- ARB 13-450, 1912 Lincoln Boulevard: Commercial Retail
- ARB 13-477, 1554 Fifth Street: Hotel
- ARB 13-478, 501 Colorado Avenue: Hotel

DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT CONCEPT REVIEWS:
- None

More information is available on-line at http://santa-monica.org/planning/planningcomm/arbagendas.htm or at (310)458-8341 (en espanol tambien). Plans may be reviewed at City Hall during business hours. Comments are invited at the hearing or in writing (FAX 310-458-3380, e-mail grace.page@smgov.net, or mail Santa Monica Planning Division, 1685 Main St., Rm. 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401). The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact 310-458-8701 or TTY 310-450-8696 a minimum of 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Big Blue Bus line #1 and Metro #4 serve the Santa Monica Main Library.

Does an affair with WhatsApp have to end?

TALI ARBEL
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK When I used WhatsApp to tell my family about Facebook's $19 billion purchase of the company that makes my favorite app, I punctuated the message with a string of crying emojis (cartoon faces).

I'm paranoid that Facebook's massive data-gathering operation will enable advertisers to stalk me based on intimate conversations I have with loved ones on WhatsApp.

I started using the phone messaging service six months ago at the urging of my cousin, who was visiting New York from Israel. Since then, it's become the primary way I connect with friends and family across three continents — cheaper, easier and more fun than calls, texts, videoconferences or email.

What makes WhatsApp so great? Sending photos and videos that you take on your phone is simple and quick, just a few taps, even for my technophobe mother. It lets Android and iPhone users talk in groups, which doesn't work well with standard text messaging. A group chat is easy to set up, and once you create the group, it's always there. Conversations with people overseas are instantaneous and free. You don't need to remember a password or sign in after you've set up an account. It's always on, but the app doesn't bug you unless you have a message. It lets you know your messages have been delivered and seen. Also, there are no annoying ads.

WhatsApp is my respite from Facebook. For me, the world's largest social network has become a junkyard of updates from people I don't really know and ads for products I don't care about. It's all about people jostling for publicity and craving approval, seeking likes and comments from near-strangers.

But WhatsApp is the best stand-in for a conversation you have over dinner with people you love. It's intimate. It's personal. I rely on it.

I grew up eating dinner every night with my parents and two sisters. These days, the five of us live in three different cities. Even so, we have a running conversation, sometimes with dozens of chats, photos and videos a day. We send pictures of food we're eating or cooking. (A lot of those. We like food.) We've traded city views from the tops of mountains, thoughts on TV shows and movies we're watching, information on flights we've booked, and simple messages saying "hi" and "I miss you."

Of course, WhatsApp isn't perfect. To start talking to someone, you have to add him or her as a contact to your phone's address book: That's annoying. Even so, WhatsApp is faster than email, which my mother and sisters don't check that often, and easier to follow than a 5-person phone call.

What's more, my cousin in Israel sends videos of her toddler — who my sisters have never met — to our 10-person family chat. Everyone oohs and aahs in Hebrew and in English. I set up a subgroup that allowed my father and a cousin to discuss details of a family trip to Hungary. I used to keep up with my cousins in Argentina and a Turkish friend on Facebook. But chatting with them on WhatsApp saves me from logging on to Facebook and being inundated by its newsfeed.

And if a group of friends or family is all in the same place, a rare occurrence, arranging a meet-up is a snap. On WhatsApp, everyone has all the information at the same time.

I removed the Facebook app from my phone a few weeks ago. With WhatsApp, I don't need it. I still use Facebook's Messenger app, but WhatsApp is better. Will the two eventually merge, diluting WhatsApp's appeal?

Facebook says it won't run ads on WhatsApp. But I'm afraid they won't be able to help themselves. With all those food pictures, won't Facebook figure I want to see ads for restaurants and cookware? And will Facebook urge my "friends" to connect with me on WhatsApp? Facebook has done something similar with Instagram, the photo-sharing app it has owned since 2012.

After the Facebook deal was announced, I sent a WhatsApp text to a friend in San Francisco:

"Is whatsapp over"

"Ya, time to kill (your) acct," he responded a few hours later.

He was joking. Kind of. We're still chatting (and sending each other strings of emoji) on WhatsApp. For now.

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CRIME WATCH
BY KEVIN HERRERA

Man allegedly cuts woman who refused to show breasts

Crime Watch is a weekly series culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

SUNDAY, FEB. 16, AT 8:40 A.M.,
Santa Monica Police officers responded to a possible stabbing at a home on the 1900 block of Delaware Avenue. When police arrived they found a woman bleeding from both forearms. She told officers that she works as a caretaker at the home and that the person she looks after cut her. She has been his caretaker for about two years. She told officers that the man had a history of making sexual advances toward her. One this particular day he asked to see her breasts. Naturally, she said no. The man was seated with a kitchen knife in his hand and became enraged at the rejection. He stood up and allegedly lunged at her with the knife. She suffered three to four cuts on her forearms. The man then left the kitchen and went to his room. The caretaker told police that she was so mad that she went into the room, picked up his computer printer and threw it into a window, breaking it. She then called police. Officers arrested the elderly man for assault with a deadly weapon. He was identified as James Andrew Meyer, 66, of Santa Monica. His bail was set at $30,000.

SATURDAY, FEB. 15, AT 10:20 P.M.,
Officers responded to a report of someone loitering in an alley east of the 1100 block of 12th Street. When cops arrived they were approached by a person who said someone was yelling and appeared to be under the influence of some drug. Officers located that person in a nearby parking lot. He was definitely drunk and possibly under the influence of a stimulant, police said. One officer searched the man's belongings and allegedly found meth. The suspect was placed under arrest for drug possession. He was identified as Joe Richard Barron, 64, of Santa Fe Springs, Calif. His bail was set at $10,000.

FRIDAY, FEB. 14, AT 2 P.M.,
Officers were conducting business outside the city limits along the 4300 block of Lincoln Boulevard in Marina del Rey when they saw a driver texting who also had a broken windshield. They pulled the guy over to issue him a ticket and found that the license plates on the car were stolen. Furthermore, the car belonged to Enterprise Rent-a-Car and the local branch manager was about to report that stolen as well because it had not been returned. Officers noted that the passenger had needle marks on her arm, indicating that she was a drug user. They searched the car and found syringes and some heroin. Police took the driver into custody for drug possession and the stolen car. He was identified as Scott Alfred Dickinson, 44, of Marina del Rey. His bail was set at $45,000. The passenger, Holly Joelle Lamere, 24, of Santa Monica, was booked for possession of the syringe. Her bail was set at $250.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 24, 2013
An investigator for One West Bank filed a police report in which he alleged someone had stolen $49,000 from a cash drawer during a move from one bank branch to another. The money was found missing during an audit. The investigator believed that a former employee was responsible. On the first day the new branch opened, that employee abruptly quit. He allegedly told his managers that he took the money over the course of several days and spent it on food, clothes, credit card debt and gambling. He said he would pay it back, but he apparently did not. Detectives found out where the suspect lived and with a warrant placed him under arrest some time last week for embezzlement. He was identified as Ryan Joseph Dizon, 33, of Los Angeles. His bail was set at $20,000.

THURSDAY, FEB. 13, AT 12:30 P.M.,
An officer assigned to Downtown saw a man jaywalking and stopped him to talk about the violation. He seemed to be acting as if he was under the influence of drugs, the officer said, so he questioned him further. The officer said the man said he used to do drugs, but that he completed a rehabilitation program and was clean. The officers asked if he could search the man. He agreed to be searched. The officer searched him and his bag and found meth and a pipe used to smoke the drug, according to the police report. The man was placed under arrest for possession and jaywalking. He was identified as Habib Mohamed Drine, 58, of Venice, Calif. His bail was set at $11,500.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12, AT 2:30 A.M.,
Officers responded to an apartment complex located on the 1800 block of Euclid Avenue regarding a burglary. The person who called the police department said she saw someone climb into an apartment window. Officers at the scene found a man inside the apartment. No one else was home. A neighbor said the person who lived there was out of town. The suspect told police that he was only there to get some of his stuff, but he could not prove he lived there. The neighbor said she saw the suspect enter through the window with a hammer in his hand. Officers found a hammer inside the apartment. They arrested the suspect for burglary. He was identified as John Charles Spampinato, 42, a transient. His bail was set at $50,000.

editor@smdp.com

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IT'S A SIGN: A notice on the exterior of Tommy's at Lincoln and Pico boulevards indicates that the popular burger joint may be replaced by a Starbucks coffee location.

TOMMY'S

FROM PAGE 1

actively pursuing a new Santa Monica home.

"We were always anxious to be in the area and we've enjoyed our stay to be honest with you," he said. "(City Hall) has been great to work with. The residents have been great to work with."

The location is perfect for Tommy's, Maire said, because it draws a lot of walk-up traffic in an area where parking is tight. The space has long been a hangout for students from Santa Monica High School, which is located right around the corner.

"I started coming here when I was a freshman five years ago," said Rossana Zokhrabova, now a freshman at Santa Monica College.

She stops by about once a month to get a cheeseburger with fries and chili on the side.

She frowned as she heard news of Tommy's possible demise.

"I would chill here a lot with my friends after school," she said. "I don't know where else I'm going to go for a chili cheeseburger. This is my place."

Tommy's has 34 other locations but the Santa Monica branch is the only one on the Westside.

"I'll have to come back a whole bunch of times because it's closing," she said laughing.

David Liu, also a Samohi graduate, lives on the south side of town and stops by about once a month for the number two: a cheeseburger with french fries and a drink.

"I don't want to see a Starbucks come in," Liu said. "I hate coffee and I love their burgers. Plus, we don't need a Starbucks. There are enough in the area already."

According to Starbucks' website there are currently 18 locations in the city by the sea. There are another eight Coffee Bean & Tea Leafs and two Peet's Coffee & Teas.

Santa Monica lost another local chain last summer when Norms closed its doors. The future of Denny's remains unclear. Its property was purchased by a housing developer but the restaurant remains open.

Maire said they tried to re-up Tommy's lease but didn't have any luck.

"We don't know if it's a matter of pricing," he said. "We gave it our best shot. If anyone knows of a location that would work for us, we're looking."

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Photo courtesy Daniel Pritikin

ALL TOGETHER: A surf team of Santa Monica public school kids will compete this weekend.

SURF
FROM PAGE 1

take on teams from San Diego to Santa Barbara in the Scholastic Surf Series competition at Santa Monica Beach.

Clark's Santa Monica-based teams have been a part of the Scholastic Surf Series since its inception in 2010. The series has added teams from across the state who think they can hang in the breaks.

"Really, the whole thing is the most organized it has ever been," Clark said.

With teams so large, naturally some kids are better than others, but that isn't the point. She wants her surfers to learn life lessons during their time hanging 10, things like making a commitment to the team, facing adversity and sometimes their fears.

In that way, she hopes to make them not only better surfers, but better people.

"Some aren't the best surfers, but they are willing to paddle through anything," Clark said. "They may not be natural competitors, but we use the contests as markers of their improvement."

To further her goal of making better citizens out of her kids, Clark has them thinking about the state of the environment.

"One of the most impressive things that the coaches do is to encourage each surfer to pick up trash and dispose of it properly as they walk to and from the beach," said Tom Flavin, a parent.

Clark's time volunteering with local environmental watchdog Heal the Bay and her experience of surfing alongside debris pushed her to add environmental stewardship to her teachings.

"We have a saying as surfers when your surfing in front of storm drains, it's called 'surfing with floaties,'" she said with a laugh.

Not much beach cleanup will be taking place this weekend for Clark's teams, though, as they get set to see what they're made of during the heat of competition.

Unfortunately, not all team members will compete, just the most accomplished and dedicated.

She said picking surfers for competition doesn't always come down to raw talent. She factors in commitment and the kids' attitude, but the most important factor for picking kids is their "level of stoke."

Clark and the rest of the team will discover their "stoke" level starting Saturday at 7 a.m. near lifeguard tower No. 22.

daniela@smdp.com

GAP
FROM PAGE 3

64 cents more than Obama's proposed increase. Lee has also announced plans to build and restore 10,000 homes for low and moderate-income families by 2020.

Not all tech hubs have witnessed rising inequality.

Seattle, where Amazon and Microsoft are based, saw its income disparity decline since 2007. So did Denver. Austin, Texas, experienced a mild uptick.

"Both the tech boom and energy boom are inequality-reducing," said Michael Mandel, chief economic strategist at the Progressive Policy Institute in Washington. "Tech introduces a path to good jobs."

The Brookings study also found that inequality increased across cities even though incomes often fell for wealthy households between the start of the recession in 2007 and 2012.

During that five-year period, average incomes for the top 5 percent in Jacksonville, Fla., tumbled $18,999 to $152,329. But the bottom 20 percent living in Jacksonville lost a greater share of their incomes over that period, so the level of inequality increased.

Significant gaps also exist in Miami and Baltimore. But that's largely because their poorest residents there earn so little. The lowest quintile of Miami residents earned just $10,348 in 2012, about half the national average for that group.

Of the nation's 50 biggest cities, just 18 experienced greater income inequality since the recession that was statistically significant. That was due primarily to falling incomes for the poorest residents. This occurred in places that suffered from the burst of the housing bubble — such as Tucson, Ariz., and Albuquerque — and Midwestern cities still reeling from the collapse of manufacturing such as Cleveland, Indianapolis and Milwaukee.

Not all the 50 largest cities are bastions of inequality. Some Western and Sun Belt cities with smaller downtowns had a noticeably smaller divide than the national average. These cities such as Mesa, Ariz., and Arlington, Texas, are essentially "overgrown suburbs," the study said. They tend to attract neither the highest-paying jobs nor the extreme poverty of the older cities.

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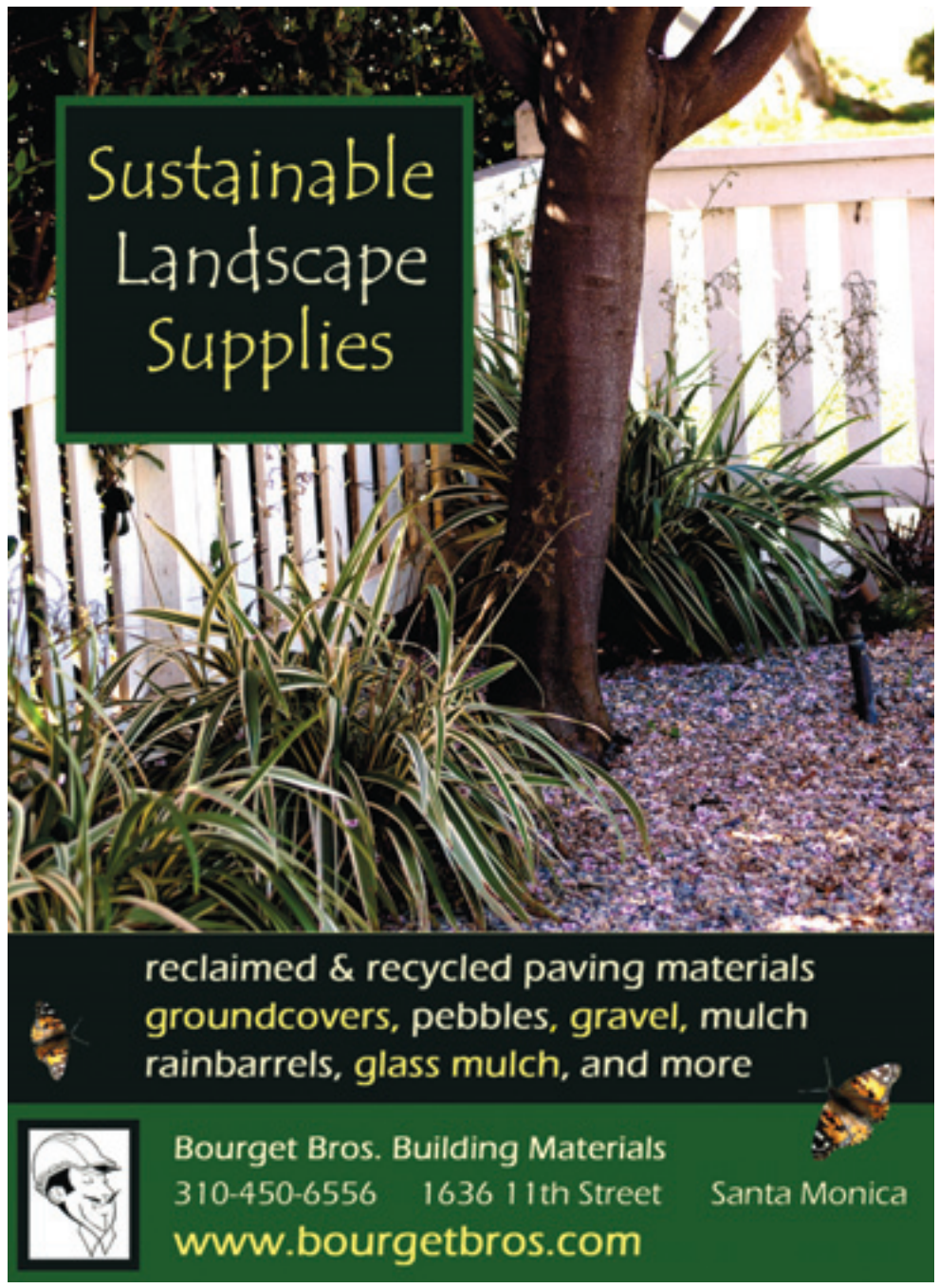

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TAX

FROM PAGE 1

will be funded from recent land sales," said a report prepared by Director of Housing and Economic Development Andy Agle. "Once those opportunities are funded and completed, the (nonprofit) affordable housing pipeline in Santa Monica is expected to run dry."

Previous surveys have shown that 55 percent of residents would favor doubling the current local tax on the sale of all properties worth more than $1 million. To increase a tax and earmark the money for a specific purpose, like funding affordable housing, two-thirds of voters would have to be on board.

But only half the voters are required to approve of a tax increase that is not tied to a specific purpose. Along with a vote for a general increase to the tax on property sales, a companion measure could be added, Agle's report said, that would demonstrate voters' interest in increased revenue being sent to cover affordable housing.

Currently, City Hall takes a $3 cut from every $1,000 worth of property sold (Los Angeles County takes another $1.10). If a $1 million home is sold, City Hall gets $3,000. The buyer and seller can negotiate who pays the tax.

City Hall pulled in more than $5 million from property transfer fees in 2011-12.

In California, property transfer tax rates range from $1.10 all the way up to $25 per $1,000 of transferred value.

San Francisco, whose transfer rates city officials studied, has a graduated tax that takes more depending on how valuable the land is. The pricier the land, the higher the tax rate. The sale of a property at $250,000 requires a $6.80 tax per $1,000 while a property over $10 million nets the city $25 per $1,000 (that's $250,000).

A tax on the sale of property would provide a hard-to-predict funding source, city officials said, but that works for affordable housing projects, which are backed once the money is available. The volatility, Agle's report said, would not be a significant detriment.

At Tuesday's meeting, council will decide whether or not to spend $27,800 for the voter surveys. City officials would return to council with the data and recommendations for a potential ballot in July.

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Stocks rise as American manufacturing expands

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK The pendulum swung again for stocks on Thursday.

After slumping a day earlier as investors digested minutes from the Federal Reserve's January policy meeting, the stock market got a boost on Thursday from a couple of encouraging surveys that suggested the economy may be poised to pick up after a winter slump.

Manufacturing in the U.S. expanded at the fastest pace in almost four years in February, according to a private survey by Markit. In a separate report, the Conference Board said that its index of leading indicators posted a moderate gain in January, suggesting that the economy will continue to expand in the first half of the year.

"Today's market is reflecting the fact that the economy has gone through the doldrums due to the weather and we should now see a substantial pickup," said Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at Rockwell Global Capital.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 11.03 points, or 0.6 percent, to 1,839.78. The Dow Jones industrial average gained 92.67 points, or 0.6 percent, to 16,133.23. The Nasdaq composite climbed 29.59 points, or 0.7 percent, to 4,267.55.

The stock market is now close to erasing all of its losses after a volatile start to the year. Concerns about slowing growth in China and other emerging markets, as well as worries about the health of the U.S. economy, had pushed the S&P 500 down almost six percent for the year by the start of February.

Among individual stocks, Safeway rose after the grocer said it was in talks to put itself up for sale. The grocer's stock climbed 71 cents, or 2.1 percent, to $35.32 after the company said late Wednesday that discussions are ongoing but that it hasn't yet reached an agreement on a transaction.

Tesla Motors was also another winner after posting strong earnings and forecasting a sharp rise in sales this year. Tesla's stock jumped $16.33, or 8.4 percent, to $209.97.

Stocks moved between small gains and losses in the first hour of trading as investors weighed the data from the U.S. against a survey that showed manufacturing in China contracted for a second straight month in February.

Data showing weakness in China's manufacturing sector had pushed stocks lower in January, but on Thursday investors decided to focus on the positive news out of the U.S., and by late morning stocks moved decisively higher. The S&P 500 ended the day nine points short of its record high of 1,848.38 set Jan. 15.

After a surge of almost 30 percent in the S&P 500 in 2013, the market has become more volatile this year. Given those strong gains, the market will struggle to climb much further this year, said Tom Karsten, an investment adviser at Karsten Advisors.

"While we may see continued economic growth, I don't think that it's powerful enough to justify that there would really be much upward possibility for equity prices," said Karsten.

Among the day's losers were Wal-Mart and oil and gas company Denbury.

Wal Mart's stock fell $1.33, or 1.8 percent, to $73.52 after it offered a weak profit outlook, signaling that it expects economic pressures to keep weighing on its low-income shoppers around the world. The world's largest retailer also said Thursday that its fourth-quarter profit, which covers the crucial holiday season, dropped 21 percent.

Energy company Denbury Resources fell 24 cents, or 1.5 percent, to $15.95 after it posted earnings that fell short of the expectations of Wall Street analysts. The company also said that its 2014 production would likely be at the lower end of its expectations.

In government bond trading, the yield on the 10-year note rose to 2.75 percent from 2.74 percent on Wednesday. The price of oil fell 39 cents, or 0.4 percent, to $102.92. The price of gold fell $3.50, or 0.3 percent, to $1,316.90 an ounce.

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NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA PLANNING COMMISSION

City of Santa Monica

SUBJECT: **Draft Zoning Ordinance Update**

This is the eighth hearing on the Draft Zoning Ordinance. This hearing will continue to address all chapters of Division III – General Regulations, except discussion on Community Benefits and Parking, Loading and Circulation which will occur on March 12, 2014. The February 26th hearing may also include discussion of all other divisions of the draft document and amendments to the Land Use and Circulation Element (LUCE) and Districting Map, particularly as these relate to Division III. The Commission may also have further discussion relating to divisions of the draft document that were the subject of prior Commission public hearings – Divisions I, II, IV and V. The Commission will hear public comments and provide comments to staff on all of these topics.

A revised meeting schedule will be published on the City of Santa Monica's Draft Zoning Ordinance Update webpage. For further information, see www.smgov.net/pcd.

WHEN: **Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at 7:00 PM**

WHERE: Council Chambers, City Hall
1685 Main Street
Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the Planning Commission public hearing, or by writing a letter or e-mail. Information received prior to the hearing will be given to the Planning Commission at the meeting.

MORE INFORMATION
If you want additional information about Zoning Ordinance update, please contact the Project Planner Tony Kim at (310) 458-8341 or by e-mail at tony.kim@smgov.net. The Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours or available on the City's web site at www.smgov.net. The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. If you have any disability-related accommodation request, please contact (310) 458-8341, or TYY Number: (310) 458-8696 at least five (5) business days prior to the meeting. Santa Monica "Big Blue" Bus Lines #1, #2, #3, Rapid 3, #7, and #9 service the City Hall and the Civic Center. Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the Public Hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the Public Hearing.

ESPAÑOL: Esto es una noticia de una audiencia pública para revisar applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.

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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **60.1°**

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

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

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

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

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 -- 39 / 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
Pwerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pwerco Beach, at 24572 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
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 DBW 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.

Canada women beat U.S. 3-2 in OT for Olympic gold

JIMMY GOLEN
AP Sports Writer

SOCHI, Russia (AP) The puck skittered the length of the ice on its way toward the empty Canadian net before clanging off the post and coming to rest in front of the crease.

It was, for a few more seconds at least, still a one-goal game.

Marie-Philip Poulin scored with 54.6 seconds left in regulation to complete Canada's comeback from a two-goal deficit, then added the gold medal-winning goal at 8:10 of overtime to beat the United States 3-2 on Thursday — the fourth consecutive Olympic women's hockey title for the country that created the sport.

Shannon Szabados made 27 saves for Canada, which has won 20 straight in the Winter Games since the Nagano final in 1998. That was the only gold medal for the United States, which has lost in the Olympic final to Canada in all three tries times since then.

Meghan Duggan and Alex Carpenter scored for the Americans. Jesse Vetter made 28 saves for the U.S., shutting the powerful Canadians down for 56:34 before Brianne Jenner knocked a seemingly harmless shot off a defender's knee and into the net.

With the goalie pulled for an extra skater, U.S. forward Kelli Stack sent a clearing shot down the ice, missing a potential game-clinching empty-net goal by inches. With Szabados still off, Poulin tied it and sent the game into overtime.

After six tense minutes of the extra period, the U.S. picked up a power play when Catherine Ward was sent off for cross-checking. But five seconds later, Jocelyne Lamoureux was called for slashing for swiping at the goalie's pads after a save. And during a sloppy player change by the Americans, five-time Olympian Hayley Wickenheiser got free on a breakaway before she was bumped from behind by Hilary Knight and sent sprawling.

It could have been called a penalty shot.

It could have been no call.

But Knight was sent to the penalty box for cross-checking. With the 4-on-3 advantage, the Canadians worked the puck around and over to Poulin, who knocked it into the open net and set off the celebration on the bench and among the Maple Leaf-waving fans.

The Canadians also beat their southern neighbors three times in a pre-Olympic tour before coach Dan Church quit unexpectedly in December. Former NHL player and coach Kevin Dineen replaced him, but the Americans won four straight times heading into the Olympics.

Then, in a rare round-robin matchup between the sports' two top powers, Canada won 3-2.

Switzerland beat Sweden earlier Thursday for the bronze medal at the Bolshoy Ice Dome, where the women moved after playing the preliminaries at the smaller Shayba Arena next door. The 10,639 fans included the Canadian men's team that completed a sweep the hockey gold medals in Vancouver four years ago.

Less than 24 hours before the Canadians and Americans meet in the same rink in the men's semifinals, fans wearing Maple Leaf sweaters and Stars and Stripe scarves tried to outshout each other — with a healthy number of locals chanting "Ro-ssi-ya!" for their long-departed hockey teams. The pro-Canada crowd grew louder after the first goal, but the second one quieted them until the flurry at the end of regulation.

The hard-hitting first period featured five penalties and no goals. It was still scoreless when Duggan took a drop pass from Lamoureux at the left circle and wristed the puck into the top corner of the net past a screened Szabados.

The U.S. scored on a power play early in the third when Tara Watchorn was sent off for the third time in the game and, with just seconds left in the tripping penalty, Hilary Knight threaded a pass through Canadian defenseman Laura Fortino's legs to Carpenter at the far side of the crease.

She deflected it past Szabados and off the post to make it 2-0.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
Ordinance Number 2454 (CCS)
(City Council Series)

The following is a summary of Ordinance Number 2454, which was adopted by the Santa Monica City Council at its meeting of February 11, 2014.

Ordinance Number 2454 approves a development agreement with Hines 26th Street LLC to allow a mixed-use project at 1681 26th Street totaling approximately 765,000 square feet. The project will include 473 rental housing units, 25 artist work/live units, about 374,000 square feet of creative office space, restaurant and retail space, as well as public areas and streets.

Ordinance Number 2454 will become effective 30 days after its adoption. The full text of the ordinance is available from the Office of the City Clerk at 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California 90401; phone (310) 458-8211.

Email: jenny@smdp.com
(310) 458-7737 ext. 305
Commission Number: 2055073
Santa Monica Daily Press

MOVIE TIMES

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

Billy Budd (NR) 2hrs 3min
7:30pm
Discussion preceding the film with Maestro James Conlon and actor Michael York. All ticket buyers will have a chance to win a pair of passes to the L.A. Opera production of "Billy Budd."

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

Frozen (PG) 1hr 25min
1:40pm, 4:15pm

About Last Night (R) 1hr 40min
11:00am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm,10:30pm

Vampire Academy (PG-13) 1hr 44min
5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:40pm

Pompeii 3D (PG-13) 1hr 42min
2:00pm, 7:30pm

Pompeii (PG-13) 1hr 42min
11:15am, 4:45pm, 10:15pm

Ride Along (PG-13) 1hr 40min
11:15am, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Winter's Tale (PG-13) 1hr 58min
11:30am, 1:30pm, 4:15pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

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

RoboCop (PG-13) 1hr 48min
11:30am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 8:00pm, 11:00pm

Lego Movie in 3D (PG) 1hr 40 min
1:30pm, 6:45pm

Ride Along (PG-13) 1hr 40min
11:30am, 1:45pm, 4:50pm

Monuments Men (PG-13) 1hr 50min
11:00am, 1:50pm, 4:50pm, 7:45pm, 10:40pm

Wolf of Wall Street (R) 2hrs 45min
11:30am, 3:15pm, 7:00pm, 10:05pm

American Hustle (R) 2hrs 09min
10:40am, 1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm

Endless Love (PG-13) 1hr 43min
11:00am, 1:45pm, 4:35pm, 7:30pm, 10:50pm

Three Days to Kill (PG-13) 1hr 53min
11:15am, 2:00pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

Lego Movie (PG) 1hr 40min
10:50am, 4:05pm, 9:40pm

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

In Secret (Therese) (NR)
1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:10pm, 9:45pm

Gloria (R) 1hr 40min
3:15pm, 8:10pm

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
1:00pm, 5:50pm

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

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

CATCH UP WITH FRIENDS, VIRGO

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Confusion marks your day, but you will manage to avoid someone's contribution to the momentary chaos. Once you do, you might want to minimize the amount of time you spend interacting with this person in your daily life. Tonight: Go along with set plans.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Examine your long-term needs, and have a discussion with those involved in a joint venture. No one says there can't be an adjustment, though one person might decide to say something that sounds more negative than he or she intended. Tonight: TGIF!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Pace yourself, and know full well what you can complete. You won't want to leave work or a project half-done. Complete what you can, but try not to dive into a new project at this point in time. Put it on hold until Monday. Tonight: Time for some extra R and R.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Your mind is on the weekend, so you might have a difficult time settling in at work. Your ability to manage what you must is likely to emerge. You will have a problem if you decide to slack off. Tonight: Paint the town red.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Listen to someone who might not be able to communicate his or her feelings in a way that can be understood. Your ability to help this person speak more clearly could alleviate much of the problem. Tonight: Make it fun.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Emphasize what is important. Try not to initiate any projects; instead, clear out what you can. Be aware of the limitations that have been imposed on you and your schedule. Someone might be more closed off than you realize. Tonight: Join friends, and catch up on news.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Reach out to someone who knows more than you do about a money matter. Tap into this person's knowledge and experience. You also might need to seek an expert opinion. Tonight: Kick up your heels.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You could be overserious and unable to switch into weekend mode. At first, you might feel as if you can't lighten up, but a conversation will make you feel better. Tonight: Out with a favorite person.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Listen to your inner voice, and follow it. Right now, playing it low-key might be best. Take some time to decide what you want to do. Make a point to take some time off from the daily grind. Everyone needs a break. Tonight: Do what feels right, but have no expectations.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ A meeting might cause you to do some serious thinking. Look for a new slant. Find someone neutral who perhaps is unexposed to the issue at hand. You could be surprised by what comes up, even if you opt not to use the information. Tonight: Where the action is.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ You might be left holding the bag. While others start enjoying their weekend, you could find yourself with lots to do. Delegate what you can to others, and join your friends. A breath of fresh air will do more good than you can imagine. Tonight: Till the wee hours.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Try to find an answer that will work for everyone. Some of you might decide to just walk away, if that works for you. Keep your long-term goals in mind when making this decision. Remain focused on what you desire. Tonight: Out late.

Friday, February 21, 2014

This year you often feel as if friends pave your path. Somehow, they seem to have more insight into certain areas of your life than you realize. Travel and interactions with your in-laws and/or foreigners could be difficult. If you are single, you could meet someone much older than you. However, eventually you might become bored with this person. If you are attached, the two of you might decide to spend more time at home, as you are likely to take up a new hobby or interest together. SCORPIO can be hard on you.

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

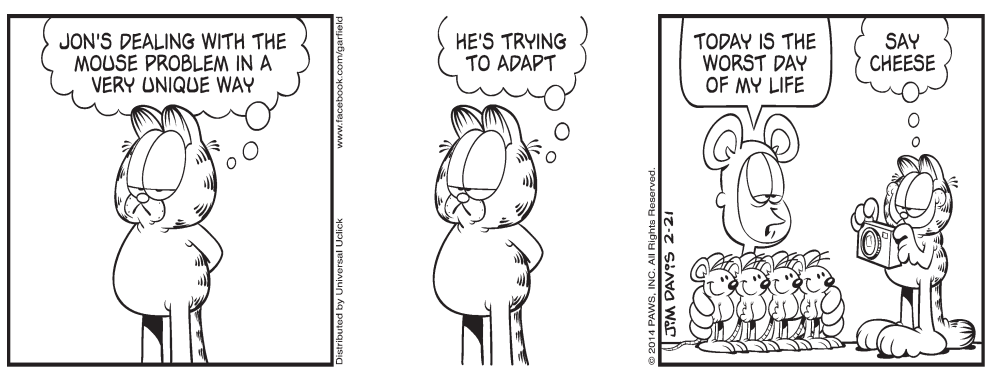
INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
Check out the HOROSCOPES above!
smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly

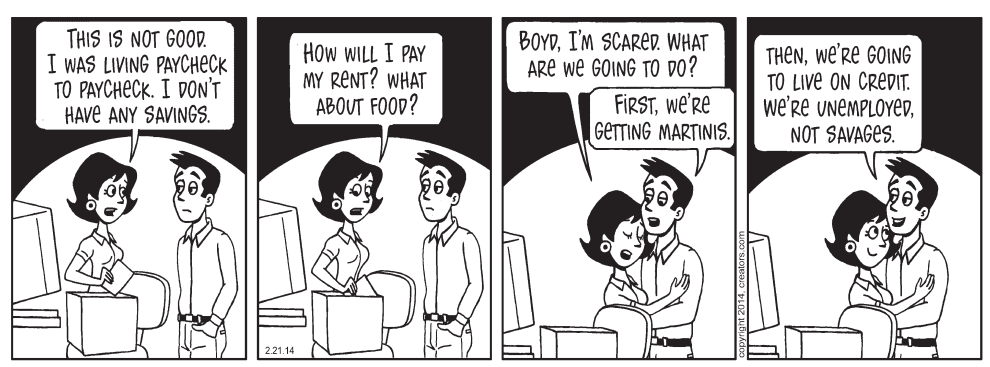
Strange Brew
By John Deering

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 ★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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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 "Stop being a wimp!"
6 Hoisting device
11 Came up
12 Find darling
13 Critic, at times
14 Copter part
15 MLB stat
16 Preakness Stakes setting
18 German article
19 Train stop: Abbr.
20 Habit inhabitant
21 Almanac fill
23 Makes finer
25 Secreted
27 Fan sound
28 Brawl
30 Skilled
33 Bud
34 Flapper wrapper
36 Dove call
37 Kind of hit
39 Place of refuge
40 Deceitful bunch
41 Beetle's boss
43 Cow of commercials
44 Bygone
45 Stuffed
46 Gnats, e.g.

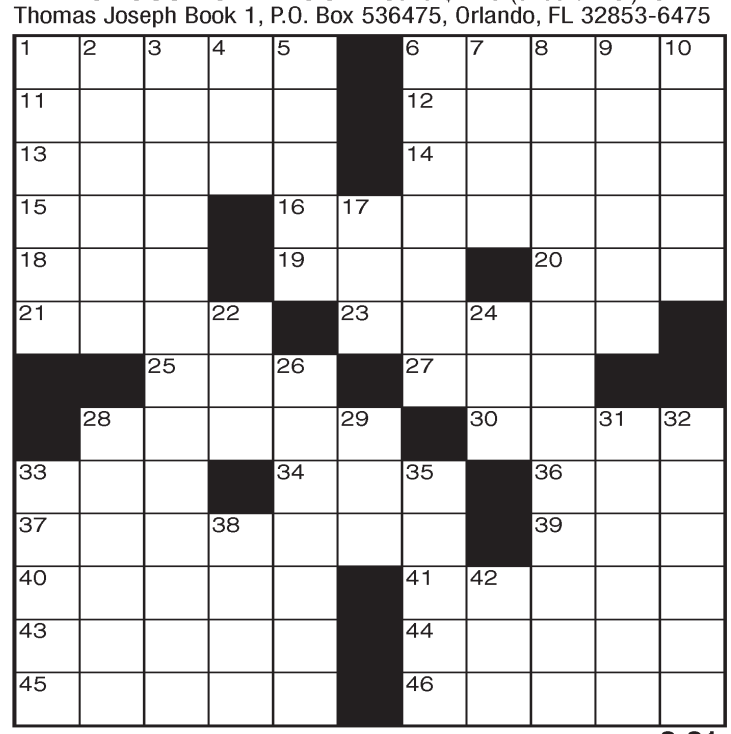
DOWN

1 Spoiled
2 Kuwait setting
3 "Hardly!"
4 Employ
5 Police blotter types
6 Thermal makeup
7 Fan's favorite
8 Unlikely to happen
9 Spring bloom
10 Ibis's cousin
17 "— been real!"
22 Suffer
24 Craze
26 Cheapened
28 Folder type
29 Dawn goddess
31 Leave behind
32 Game pieces
33 Magnet ends
35 Man of morals
38 Cracker spread
42 Pub staple

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

Yesterday's answer

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



2-21

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 2/19
1 17 35 49 54
Power#: 34
Jackpot: $40M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 2/18
23 29 31 37 70
Mega#: 14
Jackpot: $172M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 2/19
10 15 22 24 31
Mega#: 1
Jackpot: $21M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 2/20
6 8 13 23 30

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 2/20
MIDDAY: 6 9 0
EVENING: 2 9 5

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 2/20
1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 03 Hot Shot
RACE TIME: 1:42.09

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

■ Trevor Robinson, 67, of Skellingthorpe, England, was re-arrested in November for violating a previous Anti-Social Behavior Order by pushing a doll-carrying baby carriage in public. (He was also reportedly performing a sex act on himself.) The 2009 ASBO barred him from possessing dolls, baby carriages and "any other" means in which toys might be transported. Robinson has admitted a having a problem with dolls -- due, he said, to his inability to father children himself.

■ It Pays to Know Your Rap Sheet: Jerry Pancoast, 42, was arrested on at least four charges after a high-speed chase through Iowa's Polk and Jasper counties in January following an alleged shoplifting of tweezers and an eyebrow pencil -- not even taken by Pancoast but by his companion. Pancoast drove at 100 mph, even on deflated tires and three rims that eventually caused his truck to catch on fire. The episode started as "a simple theft case," said the arresting officer, until Pancoast abruptly took off. He later explained that he panicked because he knew there were already arrest warrants against him -- but a subsequent search turned up none.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1972 – President Richard Nixon visits the People's Republic of China to normalize Sino-American relations.

1973 – Over the Sinai Desert, Israeli fighter aircraft shoot down Libyan Arab Airlines Flight 114 jet killing 108.

1974 – The last Israeli soldiers leave the west bank of the Suez Canal pursuant to a truce with Egypt.

WORD UP!

Salchow \ SAL-kou \ , noun;
1. Ice Skating . a jump in which the skater leaps from the back inside edge of one skate, making one full rotation of the body in the air, and lands on the back outside edge of the other skate.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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- Roomates
- Commerical Lease
- Real Estate
- Real Estate Loans
- Storage Space
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- Massage
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- Computer Services
- Attorney Services
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Announcements

Announcements

Reward Lost Small Parrot. Gofin Cockatoo. White with Salmon in cheeks California Avenue & 20th 310-828-4758 Assists Disabled Veteran

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.

Real Estate

Commercial

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

Services

Personal Services

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Protecting the Moreton Bay Fig Tree

One of our first decisions after acquiring the Miramar Hotel in 2006 was to hire the best and most experienced heritage tree preservation experts in the world.

ValleyCrest Landscape Companies has 65 years of experience in saving and preserving these special trees. Six years ago, they began the delicate and sensitive task of restoring this 125-year-old treasure to robust health again.

As we move forward with the Miramar Plan, one of our top priorities is to make sure that the Fig Tree is protected during construction.

The tree and the site have now been extensively studied by both ValleyCrest Landscape Companies' own Certified Arborist and landscape construction professionals and an independent Certified Arborist who agree that the Moreton Bay Fig tree is once again very healthy. They have created a comprehensive plan for ensuring its protection during planning, construction and into the future.

The Moreton Bay Fig tree is one of the most significant landmarks in the City of Santa Monica. As the custodians of this legacy, we are committed to ensuring its continued good health and returning the tree to public view as the centerpiece of the Miramar Plan.

THE MIRAMAR PLAN

Restoring Our Legacy – Investing in Santa Monica's Future

Visit **www.MiramarPlan.com** for more information about the Miramar Plan.