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Santa Monica Daily Press
FEBRUARY 22-23, 2014
Volume 13 Issue 84

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

A GREAT HARVEST
SEE PAGE 9

THE DRINK UP ISSUE

Communication a focus in next school district fundraiser

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS The second the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation fundraiser ended on Jan. 31, another one began.

The Vision for Student Success, an initiative managed by the foundation to fund learning programs evenly across the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, brought in $3.2 million over 15 months. The Board of Education covered the $800,000 gap, allowing the Ed Foundation to reach its $4 million goal.

But on Feb. 1, the fundraising total dropped back to zero with 12 months to raise next year's scratch. With a yearlong fundraiser ahead, school officials, board members, and the public discussed the ways the program was a success and the ways it could be improved at Thursday's school board meeting.

Ed Foundation Executive Director Linda Gross pointed to many of the highlights.

A third of all the cash raised, or over $1

SEE MESSAGE PAGE 10

Housing for mentally ill breaks ground

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

COLORADO AVE The Santa Monica-based nonprofit Step Up On Second, which provides support for homeless people suffering from mental illnesses, broke ground Friday on a new, $14 million housing project called Step Up on Colorado.

The Colorado Avenue location near Fifth Street will add 34 units of affordable housing in the city by the sea. It's a joint effort between Step Up and affordable housing provider Hollywood Community Housing Corporation (HCHC).

The Colorado Avenue building is financed through a mix of public, private, and philanthropic funds provided by City Hall, the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, and Wells Fargo Bank.

"I never got so excited by dirt as I did today," said Step Up President and CEO Tod Lipka at the groundbreaking.

A 100-year-old two-story rooming house previously sat on the lot, which has been cleared except for the heavy construction machinery.

"I remember when we first walked through the building before we bought it and I was literally afraid to be on the second floor because the building was so rickety," Lipka said. "I thought it was all going to fall in."

He asked attendees to imagine the new building, which will be just a few blocks from the nonprofit's headquarters on Second Street where all kinds of support,

SEE HOME PAGE 10



NEVER FORGET

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Project coordinator Chris Gantz (center right) and Jeremy Painkin (center left) with The Remembrance Project talk about the history of the New York Fire Department's Rescue Engine 5 at Santa Monica Fire Station 1 on Seventh Street on Friday morning. The nonprofit travels the country educating kids about the sacrifices made rescuing people during the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

West Malibu residents concerned about tigers moving in

BY MELISSA CASKEY
Special to the Daily Press

VENTURA COUNTY A move to house white Bengal tigers in a west Malibu neighborhood delivered seven hours of growling public testimony last week before the Ventura County Planning Commission — but ultimately no bite.

Due to the abundant public response, planning commissioners did not get a chance to comment on the proposal, deferring a decision on the item until their March 13 meeting.

Applicant Irena Hauser is seeking a permit to construct a 13,500-square-foot exercise arena and enclosures for up to five white Bengal tigers on 7.2 acres of her Deer Creek property. Hauser told the commission her

SEE TIGERS PAGE 11

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

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
9 a.m.
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 thegourmandiseschool.com for more information.

Get to shred
Gates, Kingsley and Gates Moeller Murphy Funeral Directors
1925 Arizona Ave., 10:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.
Identity theft is the nation's fastest-growing crime, claiming almost 10 million victims per year — especially senior citizens, according to FBI statistics. To address this growing epidemic and help community members properly dispose of personal, confidential documents that might be used in identify theft, Gates, Kingsley and Gates Moeller Murphy is hosting a free Community Shred Day. For more information or questions, call (310) 395-9988.

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.

Musical review
Harvelle's
1432 Fourth St., 9 p.m.
Take the legendary TV show "Soul Train" and cross it with Dick Clark's very-hip-in-its time "American Bandstand" and you get a good idea of what a Blowin' Smoke Rhythm & Blues Revue show is like. That is, a packed dance floor full of sweaty souls enjoying themselves more than should be allowed by law! Cost: $10. Info: (310) 395-1676 or http://santamonica.harvelles.com/

Sunday, Feb. 23, 2014

Old stuff
Santa Monica Airport
3100 Airport Ave., 8 a.m.
Antiques, collectibles and crafts market. All ages welcome.
Admission: $5. For more information call (323) 933-2511 or visit www.santamonicaairportantiquemarket.com

Symphony show
Samohi's Barnum Hall
601 Pico Blvd., 4 p.m.
Van Cliburn International Piano Competition gold medal winner Cristina Ortiz will make her New West Symphony debut playing "Momoprecoce" by Heitor Villa-Lobos. New West Symphony music director Marcelo Lehninger will lead three performances of the program that also includes Maurice Ravel's "Suite from Ma Mère L'oye" ("Mother Goose") and "Pictures at an Exhibition" by Modest Mussorgsky in the Ravel orchestration. Tickets priced from $25 to $98 are available at the box office or online at newwestsymphony.org.

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DOWNTOWN

Honoring women in history

In honor of Women's History Month and in collaboration with City Hall's Commission on the Status of Women, the Santa Monica History Museum is seeking Santa Monica Women of World War II to participate in its Discover the History program.

Immeasurable Contributions – the name of the exhibit – will include a slide show of historical photographs, a corresponding short talk and focus exhibit.

American women were crucial to the war effort – especially in Santa Monica. With so many men away at the front, women joined Douglas Aircraft at what is now the Santa Monica Airport in droves to build, test, and deliver necessary aircraft; patrolled the beaches on civil defense patrols; spearheaded and supported war bond efforts; served in service organizations that provided entertainment and goods to the troops; and even joined the armed services.

The celebration of women's Immeasurable Contributions to World War II will take place on March 9 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Santa Monica History Museum, 1350 Seventh St. Doors open at 1:30 p.m. and parking is available in the adjacent parking garage.

– KEVIN HERRERA

COUNTYWIDE

Pregnant woman dies from flu

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has received a report of an influenza A (H1N1)-associated death of a pregnant woman and her unborn baby from the South Bay area. Although influenza activity in Los Angeles County has been on the decline, it is still widespread and will continue at least through March, public health officials said this week.

The flu vaccine is recommended for everyone, six months of age or older, including pregnant women at any stage of their pregnancy. Pregnant and postpartum women are more likely than others to have severe illness from flu, officials said.

"This sad event demonstrates that serious complications can occur with flu infection in pregnant women," said Dr. Jonathan E. Fielding, the county's director of public health. "Therefore, it is critical that all pregnant and postpartum women get vaccinated to protect themselves against the flu. We recommend that everyone ... practice basic hygiene, such as hand washing and covering coughs and sneezes, to prevent the spread of influenza and other respiratory diseases."

For pregnant women with flu-like illness, immediate treatment with anti-viral medication is recommended even before influenza testing is confirmed. Symptoms of the flu include fever, cough, headache, and muscle ache within the first three to five days of illness. Because immunity from flu vaccination declines over time and the strains of the flu virus can change from year to year, it is important to get vaccinated annually.

Influenza accounts for up to 220,000 hospitalizations, and an average of 24,000 deaths in the U.S. each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In L.A. County, a total of 52 confirmed deaths due to influenza among men, women, and children of all ages have been reported as of Feb. 20. Influenza vaccine remains available as are anti-virals. Residents are encouraged to contact their regular doctor or health plan for information on where and when they can get a flu vaccine. Many local community clinics and pharmacies are offering seasonal flu vaccine for a low fee.

To find locations where flu vaccinations are currently available visit www.ph.lacounty.gov/ip/flu/FluLocatorMain.htm or call the county Information Line at 2-1-1 from any landline or cell phone in the county.

– KH

CALIFORNIA AVE

Freebird: Missing parrot

Mac, a white cockatoo, the companion and registered service animal for a local disabled veteran, flew the coop last week. Her owner, Peter D'amico, misses her desperately and wants her to come home. The cockatoo was last seen earlier this week by a worker on California Avenue and 21st Street.

Mac is potty trained and does not squawk or bite, D'amico said. D'amico is worried about hawks in the area.

If you see Mac, call D'amico at (310) 828-4758.

– DAVID MARK SIMPSON

Better late than never

Obama honors local for WW II service

BY JIM KUHNHENN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Seeking to correct potential acts of bias spanning three wars, President Barack Obama will award the Medal of Honor to 24 Army veterans — include one Santa Monica native — following a congressionally mandated review to ensure that eligible recipients were not bypassed due to prejudice.

The unusual mass ceremony, scheduled for March 18, will honor veterans, most of

SEE **MEDAL** PAGE 11



SURROUNDED

Morgan Genser *editor@smdp.com*

Crossroads' Kayla Mitchell (center) takes flight in the middle of several defenders from Ontario Christian Thursday during the first round of the Division 4 Southern Section Playoffs in Santa Monica. Crossroads would go on to win the game 42-30 and advances to the second round.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Cars should take a back seat

Editor:

On Feb. 17, Bill Bauer wrote in his column My Write, "Claims that bicycle-friendly streets will mean more riders and less cars are unfounded. When you have an agenda, why let reality get in the way?"

All over the country, cities are installing green lanes, cycle tracks, and other forms of bike infrastructure. The result? Bike traffic has gone up, and car traffic has gone down. You can find a great big list of examples here:

www.peopleforbikes.org/statistics/category/safety-statistics

Here's one about Long Beach:

www.bikelongbeach.org/archives/5534

It shows that, after the city installed a protected bike lane, there was:

- A 33 percent increase in the number of bike riders;
- A 15 percent increase in pedestrian traffic;
- A 50 percent decrease in the number of bike related accidents;
- A 10 percent decrease in the volume of traffic on the two streets;
- A 10 percent decrease in traffic speed (from just over 30 mph to under 30 mph)
- And a 50 percent decrease in the number of vehicle related accidents ... from just under 100/year to just under 50/year.

Based on his previous articles, I have figured that Mr. Bauer doesn't trust traffic studies (unless, of course, they're done by the would-be developers of the Fairmont-Miramar), but, when you have an agenda, why let reality get in the way?

In January, I asked both this paper and Mr. Bauer a simple question: What kind of city do you want, one for cars or for people? With this column decrying the Michigan Avenue Neighborhood Greenway, with its potential to make Santa Monica a healthier, safer city, I think Mr. Bauer has answered the question.

Adam Rakunas
Santa Monica

What they deserve

Editor:

I too worked for the Veterans Administration.

I started my career as a psychiatric nursing assistant at the Brentwood VA hospital. While I was a student at UCLA I worked nights on the psychiatric wards. It was one of the greatest experiences of my life. The staff was dedicated to their jobs and treated the patients with the utmost respect.

Back in those days we had veterans from WW I, WW II, Korea and Vietnam. Just as Ms. Brennan indicated ("We can do better for veterans," Letter to the Editor," Feb. 13), the veterans were treated well. Many of them had no families and very few visitors.

During the Reagan administration not only did he close a number of psychiatric hospitals, but also forced many VA patients living in VA domiciles discharged to the community that many had not lived in for decades. Many of those patients died.

After graduating from UCLA, I worked at several VA hospitals, retiring as the medical center director at the Sepulveda VA hospital.

The veterans deserve the best medical care in the world because they gave so much for our country.

Norman Hensley
Santa Monica



Your column here

BY Gerhard W. Mayer

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Favoring density isn't being dense

DEAR RESIDENTS AGAINST THE HINES project,

How do you solve a problem that is already unbearable by rallying to do — nothing?

I offer my opinion here out of concern for our shared future. I gain no financial benefit, nor do I have any project before the City Council now, nor in the foreseeable future. And I feel your fear and frustration, but I do not share it. I suspect that the difference between us is a consequence of our holding on to very different visions of what the future may hold.

Your vision, in my humble opinion, is looking into the rear view mirror, reminiscing of days of old when there was just not that much traffic — yet. I hear you wanting to "fix traffic," which is the same as wishing that people would just get off the streets so we can all drive again. And I observe you blaming congestion on development and growth, which in your mind has ruined the bucolic low-key beach life you once had.

What you fail to understand is how traffic and the low-key city you reminisce and mourn are really two sides of the same coin. That unique moment in time you wish to return to, when driving was unobstructed, was only a fleeting state by design. We built wider roads than we needed to be ready for future traffic. The dreaded growth was built into that scenario from the very first moment.

Driving is hugely wasteful in land use, and all that land that is dedicated to our automobiles costs money to be maintained with funds, which especially after Prop. 13, cities generate more and more through development fees. In the car-based, low-density city you must grow and sprawl, otherwise you are cutting off your financial nose to spite your face!

But there is also another vision for the future, and that picture is a bit more promising. And I thought this vision is one I shared with many residents in Santa Monica.

My vision includes transit as a mobility alternate, not a replacement, to our cars. As I stated before, just inserting transit into the car-based city does not work — unless you intend transit only for "other" people to get out of your way. But, let's hope in Santa Monica we still are better than that.

Density is the enemy of the car-based city, but it is a requirement for the transit city, at least within walking distance to the transit stops. For transit to really succeed, one must prevent people from needing their own car for any portion of their trip, because once people start to drive, most of them will just keep going.

If you really wanted to improve traffic, you'd need to get lots of people off our roads. I do not know of a mechanism to do this in a free, democratic society. Unless driving becomes un-affordable, there will always be enough folks who will think that today is "their day," and they will drive — and usually they will get stuck.

Every year, the Economist magazine ranks the livability of cities from all over the globe. And the winner and runner-up cities are all equally congested to us. However, what makes these cities great in spite of this is what else they have to offer, and that includes strong alternatives for getting around, such as public transit and bicycles.

What is at stake with your resistance against the Bergamot Transit Village is whether we all are saying "yes" to a better future, or choose to bury our head in the sand and hope against reason. The transit net Metro is building is our lifesaver in greater L.A. We owe it to ourselves to provide it with the best possible conditions to function; that means density at the stations, no matter who says what against it.

The Bergamot Transit Village is not a perfect project, but this is not the point. It is much less dense than it was technically allowed to be, it went through our review process, has been revised and adopted and has at last been deemed to be in conformance with local development rules. It deserves to be built now. We cannot rewrite rules on a project by project basis. If we don't like the outcome of our own rules, then let's rally to write different ones!

For instance, if we want smaller developments with more design variety, then stop insisting on parking minimums! They favor corporations who aggregate parcels so that they can then build one really large and efficient parking garage. What is happening to Santa Monica is not that suddenly bad or greedy people (who you call "corporate developers") took over, rather this is an obvious consequence of the car-centric rules we operate by, rules which you support. If you keep insisting on making projects car friendly, they will create environments more akin to Century City rather than the pedestrian, funky, low-key beach paradise we all want.

And if you must oppose projects in Santa Monica, I wish you would focus on all of those projects, large or small, that are outside the half-mile walking distance from an Expo Line station because those projects will for sure contribute to more congestion, little by little. Believe it or not, the Bergamot Transit Village might actually work better for us all than you dare to hope. There is enough pent up demand locally for a life without the automobile. This project makes that possible. Let the Bergamot Transit Village happen and wait and observe.

It might turn out to be good for all of us.

GERHARD W. MAYER is an architect who lives and practices on the Westside. He is also a chair of the American Institute of Architects L.A.'s Urban Design Committee.





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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.

This past week, Q-line asked:
Do you think it was wise for the board to give the money, and why?

Here are your responses:

"AS LONG AS THE SCHOOL BOARD CAN come up with the money by not asking for more money from the city or from the community by pushing for more property tax bonds, I could be interested in supporting them. Mostly I am interested in how they are going to accomplish this. That should mean they would reduce some spending to be able to fund the difference. However, the school board shows that they need to go back to school to learn math so they can budget money appropriately as they keep requesting the city or property owners to give them more funds than they receive. Thus it is apparent how clueless they are and we should be worried for the education they are responsible for providing and, therefore, we should not accept this move from them."

"WHERE DO YOU THINK THE SCHOOL board got that $800,000 reserve? My guess is from the 1,000 employees working for the school district who haven't received a raise in five years and, on top of that, have taken 10 days a year forced unpaid time off. It takes a village socialism is supportive of the ego, but socialism is only great until you run out of other people's money. Malibu has taught the district's Hillary clones a very good lesson. I hope they succeed in breaking away from Santa Monica. The Education Foundation is an example of the rot that has become the norm in this town. Reward wrong ideologies, incompetent leaders, ill choices, and parents who have watched too much Oprah. Malibu parents have talent, maybe luck, work hard and forgo the easy and not do stupid things. I've worked hard since the fifth grade and I'm still stupid, but I don't expect anyone to support me, a value I am very proud of, something the school board has yet to learn."

"THE QUESTION YOU SHOULD BE asking this week is 'Has the SMMUSD shown enough gratitude to the foundation for giving them $3.2 million?'"

"I THINK IT WAS WISE THIS TIME around since it was the board's bright idea to change the way parents can contribute to their child's education. But in future years, if the Education Foundation continues to come up short with fundraising, the board needs to look closely at the policy of districtwide fundraising and consider whether or not we should continue in this fashion. While I think that the ultimate goal of making sure that all children have an equal opportunity to learn is laudable, I am not confident that it can be achieved. Some schools that raised more money in the past will ultimately lose the programs they once had, and yes, there will be equality, but the base line will be lowered. That doesn't sound like a good idea to me."

"NO, I THINK THE BOARD HAS SHOWN over the years it is unable to balance its budgets and has time and time again come back to the taxpayers for more. We can no longer keep opening up our wallets. There must come a time when the board tightens its belt and deals with the harsh reality that education funding is drying up. Tough decisions need to be made, teaching positions my have to be cut, class sizes increased and extracurriculars reduced. But we cannot just keep spending without being somewhat thrifty."

"OUR CHILDREN ARE OUR GREATEST assets and we need to do everything we can to ensure they get the best educational possible. Without education, our whole community, state, nation and the world will suffer. So, yes, I do think the board was right in giving that money. And it should continue to do so in future years if needed. We cannot scrimp when it comes to educating our youth."

"NO, THIS ISSUE ONCE AGAIN SHOWS the complete incompetence of the school board. Their program failed and now they want to waste money they claim they don't have. Why would you ever have changed the old program if the new one results in nearly a loss of $1 million? Of course parents want to donate money to their own schools. Donations go wherever the donor wants it to."

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Witness says gang members involved in nightclub attack

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANTA ANA, Calif. Lawyers say a witness has reported he was beaten by gang members who accompanied a 23-year-old woman killed in a melee outside a Southern California nightclub.

Defense attorneys told the Orange County Register Thursday that the account supports their assertion that Vanesa Zavala and Candace Brito acted in self-defense when they allegedly punched and kicked Annie Hung Pham in the early morning hours of Jan. 18.

Zavala and Brito have pleaded not guilty to murder.

With gang members reportedly involved in the fight, defense attorneys say it means that the women's actions were justified.

Santa Ana police officials said they do not comment on ongoing investigations.

During a preliminary hearing last week, detectives testified that Pham threw the first punch in the clash outside The Crosby in Santa Ana.

Farmers won't get federal water

BY SCOTT SMITH
Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. Federal officials announced Friday that without a lot more rain and snow many California farmers caught in the state's drought can expect to receive no irrigation water this year from a vast system of rivers, canals and reservoirs interlacing the state.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation released its first outlook of the year, saying that the agency will continue to monitor rain and snow fall, but the grim levels so far prove that the state is in the throes of one of its driest periods in recorded history.

Unless the year turns wet, many farmers can expect to receive no water from the federally run Central Valley Project. Central Valley farmers received only 20 percent of their normal water allotment last year and were expecting this year's bad news. Some communities and endangered wildlife that rely on the federal water source will also suffer deep cuts.

"We will monitor the hydrology as the water year progresses and continue to look for opportunities to exercise operational flexibility," Reclamation Commissioner Michael L. Connor said in a written statement, noting that the state's snowpack is at 29 percent of average for this time of year.

Gov. Jerry Brown last month declared California's drought emergency, and both state and federal officials have pledged millions of dollars to help with water conservation and food banks for those put out of work by the drought.

California officials who manage the State Water Project, the state's other major water system, have already said they won't be releasing any water for farmers, marking a first in its 54-year history.

In 2009, the dry weather caused federal authorities to announce many Central Valley farmers would receive no water, but the wet weather that followed moved that up to 10 percent. Ryan Jacobsen of the Fresno County Farm Bureau said no Fresno County farmers were spared of bad news this time, marking a sad historical first. Fresno County leads the nation in agriculture production with $6.6 billion in annual economic activity.

There's still time for the situation to improve. By late Wednesday, the National Weather Service expects a storm to sweep through the region bringing significant showers. The weather is expected to break Thursday with rain continuing Friday and Saturday. The state needs a succession of storms dumping mountain snow, said Pete Lucero of the Bureau of Reclamation. "Rain is nice, but snow is where the money is," he said.

Gayle Holman of the Fresno-based Westlands Water District, the nation's largest supplier of water for agricultural use, said she fears farmers will be stuck with no increases to the federal water distribution. The district had been preparing farmers for Friday's announcement.

"They're all on pins and needles trying to figure out how they're going to get through this," Holman said, adding that Westland's 700 farmers will choose to leave fields unplanted, draw water from wells or pay top dollar for water that's on the market. "We would need those buckets of rain now."

Farmers are hit hardest, but they're not alone. Contractors that provide cities with water can expect to receive half of their usual amount, the Bureau said, and wildlife refuges that need water flows in rivers to protect endangered fish will receive 40 percent of their contracted supply.

Contractors that provide farmers with water and hold historic agreements giving them senior rights will receive 40 percent of their normal supplies. Some contracts date back over a century and guarantee that farmers will receive at least 75 percent of their water.

One of those is the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority in Los Banos that provides irrigation for 240,000 acres of farmland.

The Water Authority's executive director Steve Chedester said farmers he serves understand that the reality of California's drought means it's going to be tough to find enough water for them. "They're taking a very practical approach," he said. "If it's not there, it's just not there."

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Transcripts show Fed at times slow to grasp crisis

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER & PAUL WISEMAN
AP Economics Writers

WASHINGTON The Federal Reserve agonized in 2008 over how far to go to stop a financial crisis that threatened to cause a recession and at times struggled to recognize its speed and magnitude.

"We're crossing certain lines. We're doing things we haven't done before," Chairman Ben Bernanke said as Fed officials met in an emergency session March 10 and launched never-before-taken steps to lend to teetering Wall Street firms, among a series of unorthodox moves that year to calm investors and aid the economy.

"On the other hand, this financial crisis is now in its eighth month, and the economic outlook has worsened quite significantly."

The Fed on Friday released hundreds of pages of transcripts covering its 14 meetings during 2008 — eight regularly scheduled meetings and six emergency sessions. The Fed releases full transcripts of each year's policy meetings after a five-year lag.

The 2008 transcripts cover the most tumultuous period of the crisis, including the collapse and rescue of investment bank Bear Stearns, the government takeover of mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, the fateful decision to let investment bank Lehman Brothers fold in the largest bankruptcy in U.S. history and the bailout of insurer American International Group.

For all its aggressive steps in 2008, the transcripts show the Fed failing at times to grasp the size of the catastrophe they were dealing with. Bernanke and his top lieutenants often expressed puzzlement that they weren't managing to calm panicky investors.

As late as Sept. 16, a day after Lehman Brothers filed for bankruptcy, Bernanke declared, "I think that our policy is looking actually pretty good."

The Fed declined at that meeting to cut its benchmark short-term rate. Yet just three weeks later, after the Fed had rescued AIG, Bernanke felt compelled to call an emergency conference call. In it, he won approval for a half-point rate cut.

Early in the year, some Fed officials had yet to appreciate the gravity of the crisis. In January, Frederic Mishkin, a Fed governor, missed an emergency conference call because he was "on the slopes."

"I think in Idaho somewhere," Bernanke said.

The crisis had been building for months. In the Jan. 21 conference call, Bernanke rallied support for a deep cut in interest rates. He warned that market turmoil reflected investors' concerns that "the United States is in for a deep and protracted recession."

Bernanke apologized for convening the call on the Martin Luther King holiday. But he felt the urgency of the crisis required the Fed to act before its regularly scheduled meeting the next week. It approved a cut of three-fourths of a percentage point in its benchmark for short-term rates.

The transcripts show that Bernanke enjoyed the support of Janet Yellen, who succeeded him this month as Fed chair, for the unconventional policy actions he was pushing. At the time, Yellen was head of the Fed's San Francisco regional bank.

At an Oct. 28-29 Fed meeting, Yellen noted the dire events that had occurred that fall. With a nod to Halloween, she said the Fed had received "witch's brew of news."

"The downward trajectory of economic data," Yellen went on, "has been hair-raising — with employment, consumer sentiment, spending and orders for capital goods, and homebuilding all contracting."

Market conditions had "taken a ghastly turn for the worse," she said. "It is becoming abundantly clear that we are in the midst of a serious global meltdown."

Yellen had downgraded her economic outlook and was predicting a recession, with four straight quarters of declining growth. The recession was later determined to have begun in December 2007. It lasted until June 2009.

The Fed's moves failed to prevent colossal damage from the crisis. The U.S. economy sank into the worst recession since the 1930s. But Fed officials and many economists have argued that without the Fed's aggressive actions, the Great Recession would have been more catastrophic, perhaps rivaling the Great Depression.

"I really am extremely nervous about the current situation," Mishkin said at a July meeting. "We've been in this now for a year, but, boy, this is deviating from most financial disruptions or crisis episodes in terms of the length and the fact that it really hasn't gotten better. We keep on having shoes dropping."

Even as they grappled with a floundering financial system and an economy in freefall, Fed policymakers wondered how history would judge them. Bernanke, acknowledging that they were operating in "the fog of war," said in late October: "I would defend what we've done in terms of the general direction, acknowledging that execution is not always perfect and that communication is not always perfect."

But Bernanke wrestled with doubts, too. At an April meeting, he said: "I play Jekyll and Hyde quite a bit and argue with myself in the shower and other places."

By the end of 2008, the Fed had made eight rate cuts, leaving its benchmark short-term rate on Dec. 16 at a record low near zero. It remains there today. Many economists don't think the Fed will start raising rates until late 2015 at the earliest.

The Fed that year also launched other never-before-tried programs to get money flowing to parts of the economy that were desperate for credit.

Yet Fed policymakers fretted over the unprecedented steps being taken. Thomas Hoenig, head of the Fed's Kansas City regional bank, expressed concern during a July 24 conference call that the Fed might continue its extraordinary lending to Wall Street firms into 2009.

"This seems to take us away from, rather than toward, backing out — and I really am a bit concerned about that," Hoenig said.

Bernanke countered that the Fed was "not in this business indefinitely ... But at the moment, conditions do not seem considerably better, and I don't think that at this moment we really should be reducing our support to the market."

Jeffrey Lacker, head of the Richmond Fed, worried at the March 10 meeting about accepting mortgage bonds as collateral for Fed loans to Wall Street firms. "This proposal crosses a bright line that we drew for ourselves in the 1970s in order to limit our involvement in housing finance," Lacker said.

But Timothy Geithner, then head of the New York Fed, countered that the Fed was a stronger institution than in the '70s. "We need to be flexible and creative in the face of what are really extraordinary challenges," Geithner said.



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Creating a Paleo diet pantry isn't so tough

BY DANIELLE WALKER
Special to the Daily Press

When you switch to a Paleo or grain-free lifestyle, your kitchen essentials will be in need of a big overhaul. Revamping your entire kitchen can be a bit daunting, but if you get organized and do a clean sweep and replace, you'll have less waste and more ease in your new way of cooking.

• STEP 1: KNOW WHAT YOU USE MOST AND MAKE IT VISIBLE AND ACCESSIBLE.

Pick the things you use the most often to store front and center in glass containers, if possible, so you don't run the risk of plastic leaching into your foods. Fill them with your main kitchen staples: almond flour (I keep a little at room temperature), coconut flour, raw cacao powder, flaxseed, and my go-to nuts like almonds and cashews. When you cook as often as I do, you actually appreciate being able to just pop off a lid!

• STEP 2: LABEL PERISHABLE ITEMS WITH DATES AND NAMES.

It's easy to forget that your "real" foods won't last very long, and you end up having waste. If you get your pantry organized to where you can see everything, and it's properly labeled with the name and date you purchased or opened the item, you won't waste so much. Use chalkboard contact paper (on Amazon for $11).

We use nuts a lot in grain-free baking, and they are one ingredient in particular that will go rancid quicker than you would think. They're actually best stored in the fridge, but if you're like me and prefer to eat a room temperature nut, follow these guidelines:

Shelled nuts — Pantry, three to four months; Refrigerator, 12 months.

Unshelled nuts — Pantry, five to six months; Refrigerator, 18 to 24 months.

• STEP 3: SHOP IN BULK AND ONLINE WHEN POSSIBLE.

If you have the storage space for the excess goods, you will save money shopping in bulk for Paleo foods. They offer even deeper discounts for higher volumes. A lot of sites also frequently offer promotions. Keep an eye out for them, and stock up when you see one.

• STEP 4: TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AMAZON.

I have an Amazon store on my website where all of my favorite products are available at the click of a button. We get an Amazon box delivered weekly full of non-perishables that I buy in bulk and store in the garage. Paleo uses so many specialty items, and it is so nice to know I don't always have to trek to my local health food store to find them. We find we actually spend less money shopping online because I don't end up buying those impulse items that my hungry stomach insists I throw in the cart!

Amazon also has great promotions that you can take full advantage of. Get a Prime account and receive free two-day shipping all year long. Use Subscribe and Save! You can choose to have things delivered to you automatically on a regular interval of your choice and the price drops significantly. You can cancel your subscription at any time with no charge, or choose to skip a scheduled delivery if you haven't finished what you currently have. Pair that with Prime shipping, and you're saving tons!

• STEP 5: CREATE ZONES IN YOUR PANTRY.

Organize your pantry sections by food type — snacks, baking items, nuts and seeds, etc. Each zone gets its own dedicated shelf or drawer, or if you're tight on space give each zone a basket. Add an extra level of storage by using removable shelves, or three-tiered shelves.

Happy organizing everyone!

DANIELLE WALKER (www.againstallgrain.com) is the author of the New York Times best selling cookbook "Against all Grain." After being diagnosed with an autoimmune disease when she was 22 years old, Danielle realized that she needed to make dietary changes to end her suffering. She removed grains, lactose, and legumes from her diet, and started her blog to help others suffering from similar ailments continue to enjoy food.

Real-deal chocolate chip cookies

Serves: 1 dozen

Ingredients:
1/4 cup palm shortening or grass-fed butter
1/4 cup coconut palm sugar
2 tablespoons honey
1 large egg, room temperature
2 teaspoons vanilla
11/2 cups blanched almond flour
2 tablespoons coconut flour
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon sea salt
1/4 cup dark chocolate pieces (just chop up a dark chocolate bar)
1/4 cup Enjoy Life chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
In a food processor, cream the palm shortening, coconut sugar, honey, egg, and vanilla for about 15 seconds until smooth and fluffy.
Add the almond flour, coconut flour, baking soda and sea salt and mix again until combined, about 30 seconds. Scrape down the sides of the bowl if needed to incorporate all of the flour. Pulse once or twice more.
Stir in the chocolate chips by hand.
Place golf-ball sized balls of dough on a cookie sheet lined with parchment or a Silpat. Using another sheet of parchment on top of the dough, flatten them slightly with the palm or your hand or a spatula. The cookies don't spread much so create the size and thickness you want prior to baking them.
Bake for 9-12 minutes, until slightly golden around the edges.

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Photo by Thomas Oldcastle

BUSINESS IS BLOOMING: **Wine grapes are one of California's top commodities, with a crop worth $3.16 billion last year, according to the California Association of Winegrape Growers.**

Calif. wine-grape growers celebrate bumper crop

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MODESTO, Calif. California agriculture officials reported good news for wine lovers and vineyard operators alike: a record harvest of wine grapes.

Growers in the nation's premier wine region brought in a bumper crop last year, thanks to expanded acreage and overall favorable weather.

Wine brokers told The Modesto Bee that two back-to-back years of large harvests will mean wine aficionados should find plenty of bargain bottles on grocery store shelves.

"Consumers are in a great position because of the amount of wine that is coming out of California," said Erica Moyer of Riverbank, a grape and wine broker for Turrentine Brokerage in Novato.

Wine grapes are one of California's top commodities, with a crop worth $3.16 billion last year, according to the California Association of Winegrape Growers.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture's preliminary figures show that the crop of red and white varieties combined weighed in at 4.23 million tons in 2013, up 5 percent from 4.02 million tons in 2012.

The industry is well positioned to take advantage of the large crops, said Heidi Scheid, chairwoman of the winegrape growers' association.

"After short crops in 2010 and 2011, growers delivered two remarkable vintages, with record-sized harvests and exceptional quality," she said.

While Napa County's vineyards carry international cache, the San Joaquin Valley, stretching for 220 miles from Stockton to Bakersfield, is the U.S.'s most prolific grape-growing region and home to 44 percent of the state's crop.

Along with raisins and table grapes, vast tracts of wine grapes are mechanically harvested for popular labels such as Gallo's economy brands and Bronco's popular Charles Shaw, aka Two Buck Chuck, and blended into higher end wines.

Large growers in the valley are poised to profit from the higher volumes, analysts said.

"We had a good-quality harvest, and heavier than expected," Fred Franzia, CEO of Bronco, said in an e-mail. Bronco is California's largest vineyard owner.



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MESSAGE
FROM PAGE 1

million, was from new donors — a good sign. More than a quarter of the total cash came from parents. They scored nearly 3,000 total donors and their cash total was up 700 percent from last year.

Even the Santa Monica High School football team, a group that Gross said has a hard time raising money for its own sport, gave $1,000. Twelve of the 16 Parent Teacher Associations donated cash, totaling $76,000. Olympic High School, which is comprised of students who have struggled academically, had 100 percent participation from staff and parents. Will Rogers Elementary, a Title 1 school with a higher percentage of students living in poverty, also had 100 percent participation from parents.

Numbers were lower at the Malibu schools, where some parents have resisted donating because they were opposed to a switch to the centralized fundraising model, which inhibited their ability to give money directly to their child's school.

There is tension between Malibu parents and the district. Some parents would like to form their own school district and feel they are not properly represented. Currently no school board member resides in Malibu.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, one Malibu parent made the point that the Vision for Student Success is hurting her child's school.

Webster Elementary School — which had 18.8 percent family participation, just 2.6 percent lower than Santa Monica High School — will lose more than half of its teacher's aid hours under the current funding formula, said Stacy Rouse.

In the past, Webster parents could donate directly to the school, raising enough cash to fund 29 aid hours a day, Rouse said. Under the new plan, they will get 12 hours of aid assistance per day.

Rouse asked the board to fund up to $80,000 for all schools that can prove they lost programs or staffing.

"These are instructional aids working directly for the students in the class helping the teacher so this affects students," she said. "They get less individualized or group instruction time. It affects our teachers. It affects the aids because this is a loss of income and jobs."

Raquel Vallejo, a parent from Will Rogers, told the board that no exceptions should be made for schools that had low showings during the fundraiser.

"To reward those who obviously didn't attempt to do what (Will Rogers) did, would diminish our efforts," she said. "Surely schools should not be permitted to pick and choose which parts of (the Vision for Student Success) they can be a part of to the detriment of the entire district."

Vallejo said that she'd heard other parents spreading rumors that Will Rogers reached 100 percent participation by making $1 donations. They raised more than $5,000 in total, she said.

"In order to reach over $5,000, every family would need to give over $15 a piece over 320 families," she said. "The idea that there were $1 contributions from 320 families is pretty ridiculous."

Board member Laurie Lieberman, who will serve as the board's fundraiser liaison this year, expressed sympathy for all parties but said that the two groups need to learn to communicate.

"We're not going to put behind us everything that's come before but we have to find a way to move forward in a positive way and learn from this year and from the things that people are saying," she said. "It's hard. It's very emotional."

The Ed Foundation has made clear that higher levels of participation are key to the success of this year's fundraiser. Lieberman said that it's only going to happen if they can bridge the gap.

"We have to find a way to recognize a lot of the realities, share them with each other, to build some kind of dialogue and conversation among the different parts of the district," she said.

Lieberman also wants to see the fundraising message simplified to make it easier to communicate.

The Pier Party, the Ed Foundation's signature fundraiser, will be held on the Santa Monica Pier on April 27. To learn more visit http://smmef.org/ or call (310) 396-4557.

dave@smdp.com

HOME
FROM PAGE 1

from meals to job training, is provided. The western-most stop on the incoming Expo Light Rail will be a half a block away. Another Step Up building, a 46-studio building called Step Up on Fifth, is right around the corner.

"For us it's about creating a sense of community and a sense of belonging," Lipka said. "You can't do any better than that. To be surrounded by your friends and community living in this lower class community is so amazing."

Local dignitaries, including Santa Monica Mayor Pam O'Connor and L.A. County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, donned hard hats to scoop some ceremonial dirt with gold painted shovels. Former Mayor Bobby Shriver, an advocate for more housing for the homeless, was also in attendance.

"Step Up on Colorado combines HCHC's 25-year record of developing award-winning, service-enriched affordable housing with Step Up's 30 years of providing recovery services for individuals experiencing mental health issues" said HCHC Executive Director Bill Harris.

Step Up uses a "housing-first" model, which focuses on moving homeless people from the streets into their own apartments. Other issues, Lipka said, can be addressed once their housing is set.

Killefer Flammang Architects (KFA), a Santa Monica architect, is designing the five-story building.

The space includes two community rooms with kitchens, a computer lounge, and library. The design incorporates a green approach which will result in a LEED Silver certification.

"The design strategy provides residents a variety of spaces to enjoy alone or in small groups, while still being part of the larger community," said Lise Bornstein, senior associate at KFA.

dave@smdp.com



TIGERS
FROM PAGE 1

family has years of experience training and working with the tigers. Hauser and her sister, Sophia Kryszek, own ISIS Preservation, which supplies the white tigers for filming in the entertainment industry.

"We consider them part of our family," Hauser said. "But we never forget that these are wild animals."

She painted a peaceful picture of her family coexisting with and training the endangered white Bengal tigers for more than 20 years and stressed there would be "no room for human error" at the facility, with plans to install chain-link ceilings and 14-foot-tall perimeter fencing on the exercise arena and enclosures.

Planning staff and many neighbors disagreed.

County staff is recommending the Planning Commission deny the permit application because the "project is not compatible with surrounding development," according to planner Jay Dobrowalski. He referenced two nearby camps that operate year-round, Camp Hess Kramer and a Boy Scout Camp Site. Both are within 3 miles of Hauser's property.

"Even with all of these safety measures, all risk cannot be eliminated and the potential for human error remains," Dobrowalski said.

A contingent of opponents at the hearing maintained their outrage over the idea of keeping the tigers in a secluded part of Malibu where many residents enjoy quiet lifestyles. Decked out in matching neon yellow baseball caps and white T-shirts with "No Tigers" emblazoned across the middle of both, several residents said the tiger facility would instill a constant fear amongst neighbors.

"No one should have to have their peace of mind and tranquility disturbed in this manner," said Deer Creek resident Mike Bradbury.

In cases of emergency, neighbors argued police and fire services would take 15 to 45 minutes to get to the facility's secluded location, and said the Ventura County Fire Department has no response guidelines in place for tiger-related emergencies.

Hauser has plans to move her family into a home on the Deer Creek property and said at least one expert would be on hand at the facility at all times. If some kind of emergency arose, at least two people would be present to handle the tigers and move them if need be.

Even if one of the endangered tigers were to escape the high-level security, Hauser said they would immediately seek a familiar person or place.

"The wild would be exceptionally frightening to these cats. They do not know how to hunt," Hauser said. "They would instantly search for the familiarity of a safety enclosure."

Actress and animal activist Tippi Hedren was amongst the opponents. Hedren, who founded the Shambala Preserve animal sanctuary in the Antelope Valley, said despite Hauser's assurances that the two tigers she owns are not vicious, they could still attack without warning.

"There's nothing you can do to take [aggressive genes] away, and that's what makes them so dangerous. You never know what makes them go after somebody," Hedren said. "It's just a frightening thought."

Supporters of the facility, including other animal trainers and film industry representatives, defended Hauser's zero-incident safety record and chided residents for being more concerned over runaway tigers than the everyday risk of driving or biking on Pacific Coast Highway.

"There's a bigger chance of getting hit on PCH then there is getting eaten by a tiger in Malibu," said Annie Ellis, a stuntwoman and Malibu resident.

While the staff has recommended denying the permit, the commission could choose to approve it. The decision can be appealed to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors.

The commission is set to pick up the discussion once again on March 13 at 8:30 a.m. Meetings are held at 800 S. Victoria Ave., in Ventura.

MEDAL
FROM PAGE 3

Hispanic or Jewish heritage, who had already been recognized with the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second-highest military award. Only three of the recipients are living.

Pvt. Joe Gandara, born in Santa Monica, is scheduled to be recognized for courageous actions during combat operations in Amfreville, France, on June 9, 1944. He is deceased.

"I never really did worry about decorations," said one of those being honored, Melvin Morris of Cocoa, Fla., who was commended for courageous actions while a staff sergeant during combat operations on Sept. 17, 1969, in the vicinity of Chi Lang, South Vietnam.

Morris, who is black, said in an interview that it never occurred to him that his race might have prevented him from receiving the Medal of Honor. He said it was a huge surprise when the Army contacted him last May about the review and then arranged for a call from Obama.

"I fell to my knees. I was shocked," Morris said. "President Obama said he was sorry this didn't happen before. He said this should have been done 44 years ago."

The other living recipients are Spc. 4 Santiago J. Erevia of San Antonio, cited for courage during a search and clear mission near Tam Ky, South Vietnam, on May 21, 1969; and Sgt. 1st Class Jose Rodela of San Antonio, cited for courage during combat operations in Phuoc Long province, South Vietnam, on Sept. 1, 1969.

The Army conducted the review under a directive from Congress in the 2002 National Defense Authorization Act. The law required that the record of each Jewish American and Hispanic American veteran who received a Service Cross during or after World War II be reviewed for possible upgrade to the Medal of Honor.

The Pentagon said the Army reviewed the cases of the 6,505 recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross from World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars and found an eligible pool of 600 soldiers who may have been Jewish or Hispanic. The Army also worked with the National Museum of American Jewish Military History, the Jewish War Veterans of the USA and the American GI Forum, the largest Hispanic-American veterans group, to pinpoint potential medal recipients.

Of the 24, eight fought in the Vietnam War, nine in the Korean War and seven in World War II.



SURF REPORT



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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **61.2°**

SATURDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** Knee to chest high
New SSW swell tops out as primary; old/minimal NW swell continues to ease; Light wind

SUNDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** Knee to chest high
Holding/primary SSW swell; New/minimal WNW swell builds in; Light wind

MONDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high
Easing/primary SSW swell with minimal WNW swell mixing in; Light wind

TUESDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to thigh high occ. 3ft
Small mix of old/easing SSW swell and minimal WNW swell; Light wind

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 19, 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 -- 37 / 5
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 7 / 4

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: SMA 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.	F	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.	C	A
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	ns	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	ns

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	B	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.

Judging talk overshadows figure skating – again

BY BARRY WILNER
AP Sports Writer

SOCHI, Russia Leave it to figure skating and judging, where winning can be obscured by whining.

Any sport without a finish line or clock or some definitive standard is subject to skepticism about the results. It has happened at the Olympics before, and now it's happened at Sochi after Adelina Sotnikova skated away with the gold medal, the first for a Russian woman in the individual event.

Social media was ablaze Friday with questions and accusations, particularly from South Koreans who saw countrywoman Yuna Kim denied a second straight Olympic title. Others wondered why there is so little transparency in the judging, or about the makeup of the panel — Alla Shekhovtsova of Russia is the wife of Valentin Piseev, general director of the country's figure skating federation.

Perhaps this simple fact can be offered as an explanation: Under the current points system, adopted after the judging scandal at the 2002 Salt Lake City Games, Sotnikova, 17, did exactly what she needed to come out on top.

"Today's figure skating comprises those evaluations that include a program, steps, jumps," Sotnikova's coach, Elena Buyanova, said Friday. "We were not behind in our complexity, rotations, and I think we should be proud of our two girls because they did not give in to the world elite."

Watching from his NBC broadcast location, 1984 Olympic champ Scott Hamilton was intrigued by the 17-year-old Sotnikova's strategy, which he said worked perfectly for the scoring format. It was more than enough to beat Kim and Carolina Kostner, whose bronze medal was the first in Olympic singles figure skating for Italy.

"Adelina collected more points. That is really the only way you can describe it," Hamilton said. "If you look at Yuna of the past, this was not a program as difficult as she has done, and she left the opportunity for someone to collect points on that side of the scoring.

"It may not have been as beautiful as Yuna and Carolina, but under the rules and the way it works, she did all that. ... I think it was a just strategy that worked on the night."

It was a strategy based not so much on artistry but on technical superiority. Nothing in the rules says the program must be an artistic masterpiece. Some observers called Kostner's "Bolero" just that Thursday night. Just check off the boxes: great coverage of the ice, connection between steps, execution that is powerful.

Sotnikova did that, although her margin of victory of nearly six points was shocking.

Eteri Tutberidze — coach of 15-year-old Russian Julia Lipnitskaia, who overshadowed Sotnikova until the last two days — fully supported the outcome.

"Later at night, I watched on TV and Sotnikova was an absolute champion for me," said Tutberidze, whose skater finished fifth. "It was a presentation of her life. I have never seen her before be so concentrated and skate every element so neat. ... Emotions, jumps, rotations, spins, spirals, and if you combine all these elements, Adelina won overwhelmingly."

Finding the correct elements is a challenge for everyone: skaters, coaches and choreographers. There is so much gray area in this scoring system, just as there was in the old 6.0 format, that even when the athlete's strengths mesh perfectly with the music, there's never any certainty the judges will be impressed.

So upsets happen.

"It's so hard to find the ideal system that would work for everyone, when it comes to even making the rules of figure skating," said Peter Tchernyshev, who won five U.S. ice dance titles under the 6.0 formula. "It's not track and field when you ran faster. Or lifted more weight. Or jumped higher. Again, it's very subjective, yet this sport is surviving over so many years because everyone realizes it's very athletic.

"As I said before, somebody likes more athletic, somebody likes more balletic figure skating. Who's right? Who's wrong?"

Is there even a right or wrong? Judging, after all, comes down to expert opinions.

The athletes wisely steer clear of it all as best they can. Sure, American Ashley Wagner, who finished seventh, questioned the veracity of the points system and, most notably, the lack of openness in it. Generally, though, the skaters take the approach Kim used Friday, hours after she retired from competitive skating.

"I didn't watch the performances of the other skaters, so I don't think it makes a difference whether or not I accept this,'" she said. "I don't have any regrets, and because it ended, that's that.

"There have been times in other competitions as well when the score did not reflect my performance, no matter how well I did, to the point of being strange. I imagine various scenarios before the competition: doing well, not receiving a good score and coming in second place. Because I imagined a lot of things yesterday, I don't think it was that surprising."

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Saturday, Feb. 22
Breathless (R) 1hr 30min
The Little Soldier (NR) 1hr 28min
7:30pm

Sunday, Feb. 23
Weekend (NR) 1hr 45min
La Chinoise (NR) 1hr 39min
7:30pm

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

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

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

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

Dirty Wars (NR) 1hr 30min
11:00am

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

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

Girl on a Bicycle (R) 1hr 41min
11:00am

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

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

STAR OF THE SHOW, PISCES

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Staying too close to home might get boring. Why not take off and go on a day trip? Though you might think you are heading to a certain destination, you actually could end up somewhere else. Others find you more and more unpredictable. Tonight: Keep it exotic.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You might want to understand a dear loved one much better, so plan a long-overdue visit. There is nothing that can replace quality time together. Communication could be unusually awkward at certain moments today. Tonight: Be a duo.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Defer to others, and see what happens. You are always so adamant about what you want, and now you will see a lot more of what others desire. Be willing to see different choices more clearly; they might not be so bad. Tonight: So many people, so many invitations.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ You will be unusually energetic and full of ideas, though many of them might not pan out. Stop and slow down. Run some errands, or make a stop at the gym. Enjoy a day with an easy pace. Tonight: Ever playful.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You attract people who love living life to the fullest. What starts as a difficult moment today is likely to turn into a fun happening. Be willing to go somewhere you have never been. Read between the lines when someone refuses to share. Tonight: Let the party go on.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You have had a lot of interesting communication in the past few days. You'll want some time to think about everything that has been said. The unexpected could occur when dealing with a partner. Zero in on what you want. Tonight: Togetherness works.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You might want to have a long-overdue chat. You might notice that your feelings seem to be altering rapidly regarding a key person. Tonight: Let the fun times begin.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Consider your options before making any new purchases. Say "no" to taking any risks today, no matter how good an offer might seem. Your creativity will emerge when you are able to detach and really look at a problem. Pace yourself. Tonight: Your treat.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You feel more in tune with yourself and your needs. You might wonder what would be best to do with an unpredictable and/or challenging loved one. An interaction with a partner promises to be very rewarding. Tonight: Whatever you decide, it feels right.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Take some much-needed downtime. You don't need to be alone; you simply need to relax. There won't be a problem if you're with the right company. Someone will go out of his or her way to express his or her caring. Tonight: Close to home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ A friendship means much more than you might realize. When this person starts acting unpredictably, you could get upset. Know and communicate your expectations, as they might be changing. Take care of yourself first. Tonight: Surround yourself with friends.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Pressure to perform could build. Get past a problem simply by dealing with it directly. Understanding is likely to evolve to a new level as a result. Surprises could occur when you least expect them. Tonight: You are the lead actor.

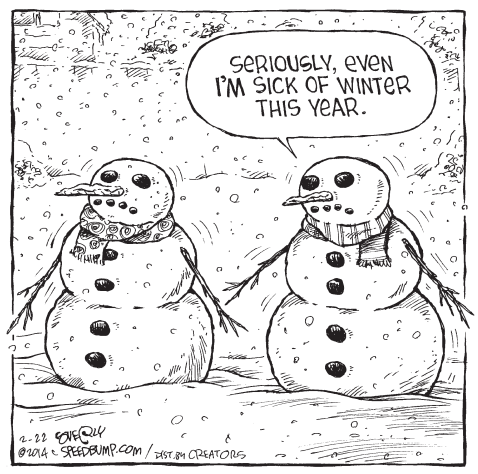
February 22-23, 2014

This year you find that you are in the limelight more often than you might like. Whether you are involved with your community or with your workplace, others naturally look up to you. Recognize your newfound leadership role. Your ingenuity is the key to handling everything. Open up to new possibilities, and learn to delegate. If you are single, you suddenly could meet someone who knocks your socks off. This encounter is more likely to happen in the second half of your birthday year. If you are attached, the two of you reveal a sense of togetherness. A special trip will be planned after July, which will bring you even closer together. The very presence of SAGITTARIUS creates pressure.

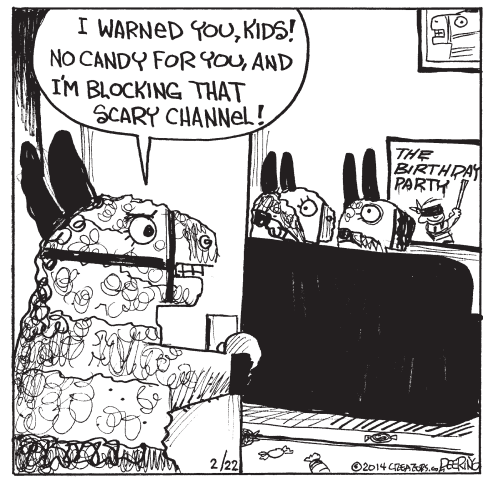
JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
Check out the HOROSCOPES above!
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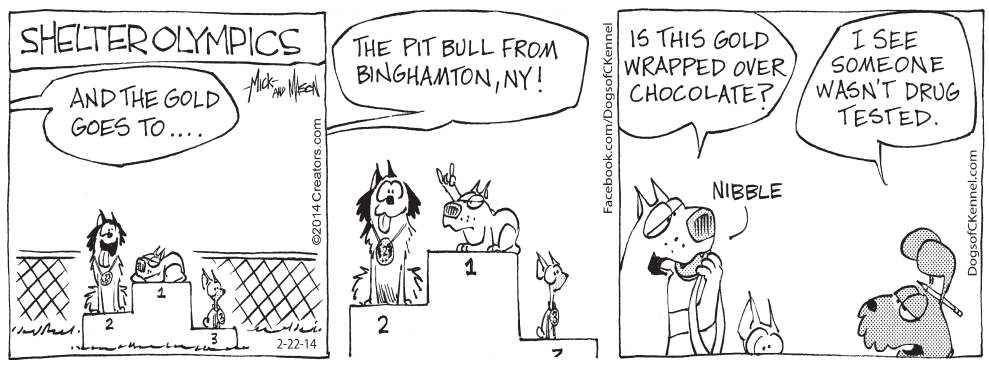
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



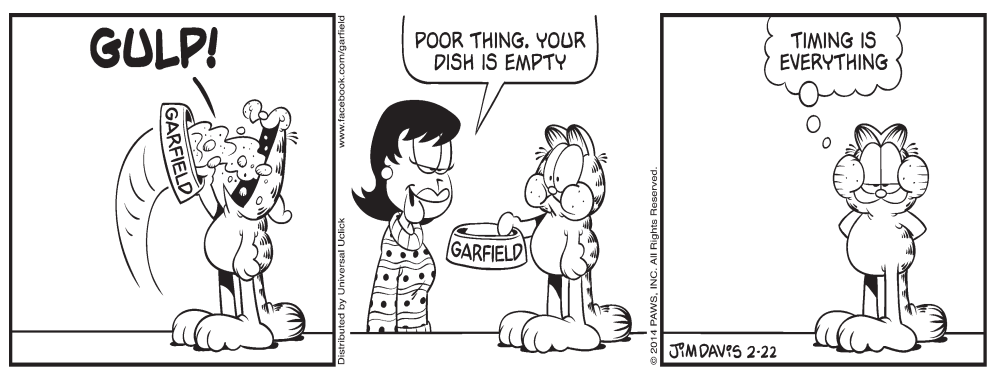
Strange Brew
By John Deering



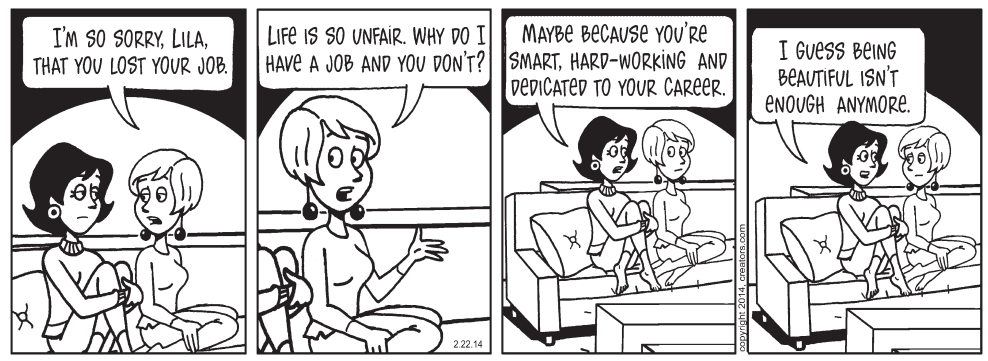
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

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

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

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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 Pharaoh symbols
5 Folded food
10 Baseball's Rusty
12 Rework
13 — Beach, California
14 — Rica
15 NYC subway line
16 Demand
18 Bob Cratchit's son
19 Run, as an exhibition
21 Stage item
22 Shaw play
24 Insinuate
25 Shaw play
29 Strong wind
30 Tate Gallery setting
32 Strike caller
33 Singer Tormé
34 Cherbourg chum
35 Left over
37 Permitted
39 Unstated
40 Stomach
41 Unforeseen problems
42 Head honcho

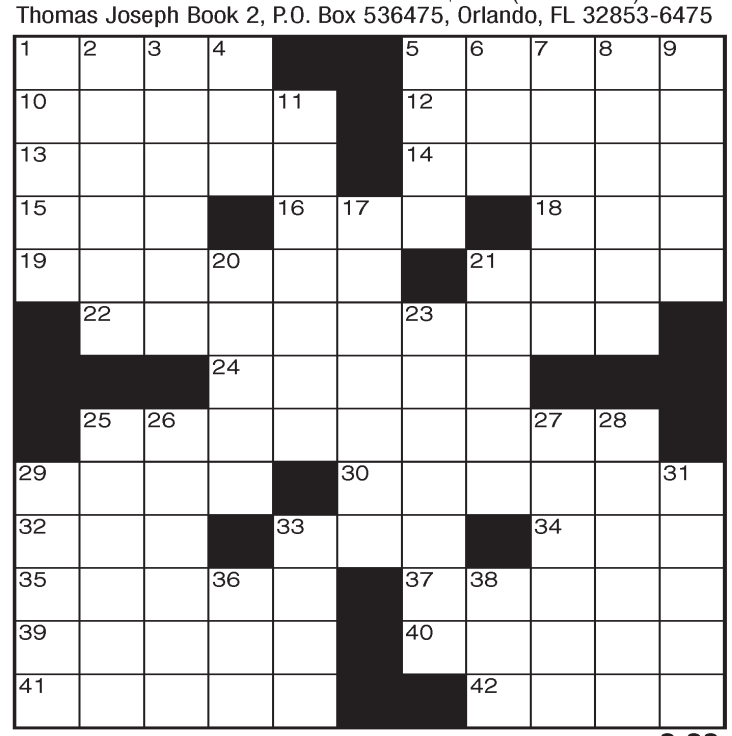
DOWN

1 Jellied dish
2 Roil
3 Danish, e.g.
4 Total
5 Stable stuff
6 Hubbub
7 Cuban leader
8 Choice
9 Philatelist's find
11 Mariners
17 Mariners' home
20 Texas A&M player
21 Climber's spike
23 San Diego section
25 Flat-bottomed boat
26 Llama's cousin
27 Slow tempo
28 Wanderers
29 Strong winds
31 Frasier's brother
33 1969 Series champs
36 Outfit
38 Subside

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

Yesterday's answer

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



2-22



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Stories That Never Get Old: (1) Following the early-January winter storm in East Kingston, N.H., emergency crews came to the aid of a 12-year-old girl who had a "what would happen" moment and tried to lick a metal flagpole in her front yard. (2) Police in the Los Angeles suburb of Harbor City were searching in February for the man suspected of stealing surveillance cameras from a home, but not before he apparently failed to distinguish between the camera (which he took with him) and the recording unit (which remained in the home and captured his face clearly as he removed the camera).

■ Can't Possibly Be True: Kyle Johnson shattered his skull so badly in a high-speed longboard accident in June (2010) that ordinary "decompressive craniectomy" (temporarily removing half of the skull to relieve pressure) would have been inadequate. Instead, doctors at McKay-Dee Hospital in Ogden, Utah, removed both halves, leaving only a thin strip of bone (after placing Johnson in a drug-induced coma) and kept the skull frozen to prevent brittleness. After the swelling subsided, they reattached both halves of the skull to his head and woke him up gradually over a week's time. Johnson admits some memory problems and cognitive dysfunction, most notably his inability to focus on more than one concept at a time -- even when they are part of the same scene, such as two crayons on a table. Johnson said he probably won't go back to the longboard (but would try snowmobiling).

TODAY IN HISTORY

1995 - The Corona reconnaissance satellite program, in existence from 1959 to 1972, is declassified.

WORD UP!

toothsome
\ TOOTH-suhm \ , adjective;
1. pleasing to the taste; palatable: a toothsome dish.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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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

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

RUN YOUR DBAs IN THE DAILY PRESS FOR ONLY

$55 *Call us today!*

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www.smdp.com/dba

Santa Monica Daily Press





CALL TODAY FOR SPECIAL MONTHLY RATES!

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING CONDITIONS: REGULAR RATE: $8.50 a day. Ads over 15 words add 40¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. PREMIUMS: First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. TYPOS: Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. DEADLINES: 2:30 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 2:00 p.m. PAYMENT: All private party ads must be pre-paid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. CORRESPONDENCE: To place your ad call our offices 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310) 458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406. OTHER RATES: For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310) 458-7737.

Traffic out of control?

Santa Monican's, Let Your Voices Be Heard

Santa Monica City-Wide Petition-Signing Party

Today, Saturday February 22nd

Locations

Hours available	Business Name *If applicable*	Address
9 am - 5 pm	Coldwell Banker	1608 Montana
9:30 am - 2 pm	Kelly Handley Hair	1621 1/2 Montana
Noon - 2 pm	Residence	409 19th St
2 pm - 4 pm	Adamm's Glass	1426 4th Street
noon - 2 pm	Cafe Bolivar	1741 Ocean Park
8 am - 11 am	Residence	434 Euclid Ave
9 am - 7 pm	Farrah's Florist	2006 Wilshire Bl
10 am - 4 pm	Surf Liquor	Ocean Park & Main
10 am - 4 pm	L&K Market	Main St & Pacific
noon - 3:30 pm	Palisades Park - Rose Garden	Ocean Ave @ Palisades Ave
2 pm - 6 pm	Residence	2401 Washington Ave
10 am - 3 pm	Blue Daisy Cafe	2303 Wilshire Bvd
noon - 4 pm	Casa Martin	1654 Ocean Ave,
2 pm - 4pm	Unurban Café	3301 Pico Blvd
9 am - 4 pm	Marmalade Cafe	710 Montana Ave
2 pm - 5 pm	Residence	730 Kensington
1 pm - 5 pm	Residence	1205 Pine
Noon - 4 pm	Reed Park	California betwn Lincoln & 7th St
1 pm - 5 pm	Residence	655 Ashland Ave

Kate Bransfield

We The People

RESIDOCRACY.ORG

A Community Network of Residents