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FEBRUARY 23-24, 2013
Volume 12 Issue 90



Santa Monica Daily Press

CHICKEN SOUP FOR THE COMMON COLD
SEE PAGE 9

We have you covered

THE SEE YOU AT THE PINT ISSUE



File photo

READY OR NOT? **Samohi students prepare to graduate in 2008. A new report by the school district says roughly half of SMMUSD students are not college ready when they graduate.**

Half of SMMUSD students not college ready

Basic coursework not enough to succeed in higher education

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS Less than half of Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District students evaluated for college preparedness are ready for their freshman year despite completing required coursework, district findings show.

College readiness is loosely defined as having the knowledge or skills to succeed in freshman-level courses at either a two or four-year university, said Terry Deloria, assistant superintendent of Educational Services at the district.

There are four measures of college readiness available through standardized tests given primarily to high school juniors, and none of them are encouraging.

Juniors who take the California Standards Test in summative mathematics, English or algebra II may also elect to answer a battery of questions called the "Early Assessment Program" which evaluates their college readiness.

College-readiness varied greatly between the tests, with 26 percent of those who took the summative math test and 39 percent of those who took the English test measuring ready for college.

Only 2 percent of those who took the algebra II test met that standard.

The last measure, based on SAT scores, was the most positive with 58 percent of test-takers ready for college compared to 43 percent nationally. Deloria stressed that those numbers could be misleading because not all students take the SAT.

To put it in perspective, Deloria showed a different figure, the percentage of students graduating from SMMUSD schools having passed the coursework required to move on in the California higher education system, often referred to as A through G requirements.

Approximately 75 percent of students managed to achieve that standard.

The takeaway?

"It's not sufficient to say, 'If I complete A through G courses, I'm ready for college,'" Deloria said.

UNDERSTANDING MATH IS THE TICKET

New data compiled by Louise Jaffe, a Santa Monica College trustee, showed that

SEE STUDENTS PAGE 10

SM tenants on Section 8 struggling to find housing

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The Santa Monica Housing Authority should take a closer look at its federal housing voucher program to ensure that it's promoting diversity and availability of housing choices for the city's poorest residents, according to the Legal Aid

SEE HOUSING PAGE 11

National park cuts detailed in memo

BY TRACIE CONE
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. The towering giant sequoias at Yosemite National Park would go unprotected from visitors who might trample their shallow roots. At Cape Cod National Seashore, large sections of the Great Beach would close to keep eggs from being destroyed if natural resource managers are cut.

Gettysburg would decrease by one-fifth the numbers of school children who learn about the historic Pennsylvania battle that was a turning point in the Civil War.

As America's financial clock ticks toward forced spending cuts to countless government agencies, The Associated Press has obtained a National Park Service memo that compiles a list of potential effects at the nation's most beautiful and historic places just as spring vacation season begins.

"We're planning for this to happen and hoping that it doesn't," said Park Service spokesman Jeffrey Olson, who confirmed that the list is authentic and represents cuts the department is considering.

SEE PARKS PAGE 11


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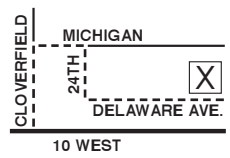
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, Feb. 23, 2013

Morning workout
Santa Monica Pier
200 Santa Monica Pier, 8 a.m.
Need help getting back in shape for spring break? The new PierFit Active Lifestyle program is offering a free run and yoga class on Saturday mornings. You can join either class or both. Meet under the iconic pier sign at 8 a.m. for a brisk run around the beach and pier areas. All experience levels welcome.

Free brain workshop
OT 4 Kids & The Therapeutic Learning Center
1932 14 St., 11 a.m.
In recognition of National Brain Awareness Week and Autism Awareness Day, local occupational therapist Dr. Kari Thompson kicks off the celebration with free workshops on the latest brain research and its benefits to youth. Parents and teachers wont want to miss this free opportunity to learn ways to improve their child's brain functioning and overall success.

Pet and feed the dinosaurs
Broad Stage
1310 11th St., 11 a.m.
"Jurassic Park," but with none of the danger. Ancient, life-like dinosaurs will be on display and come to life. Audiences will be able to feed, water and care for the prehistoric creatures. For tickets and more information, visit thebroadstage.com.

Arena 1 Gallery
Santa Monica Art Studios
3026 Airport Ave., 6 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Arena 1 Gallery is proud to present "Decade of Dissent: Democracy in Action, 1965-1975". The original art exhibition features protest posters that utilize the power of art to inspire ideals of democracy. The exhibit runs through March 23, with an opening reception show on Sat.

More Knotts
Santa Monica Playhouse — The Other Space
1211 Fourth St., 8 p.m.
Karen Knotts, daughter of comedic actor Don Knotts, will be sharing her thoughts on life, love and growing up with a famous dad. She will blend humor with touching insight into the Hollywood way of life. Admission is $18. Proceeds will benefit the Save the Santa Monica Playhouse campaign. For tickets or more information, call (310) 394-9779 or visit santamonicaplayhouse.com

Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013

Piano concert
Crossroads High School
1714 21st St., 2 p.m.
Richard Grayson's annual piano recital will take place in Roth Hall. Grayson has made classical improvisation his specialty, taking themes and creating stylized pieces ranging from the Baroque period to the 20th century. In recent years Grayson has invited people to bring their cell phones to submit ring tone themes. The concert is free and open to the public.

Preserving history
Associated Telephone Company building
1314 Seventh St., 2 p.m. — 4 p.m.
The Santa Monica Conservancy invites residents to attend its annual meeting and award presentation. Various organizations and individuals will be recognized for their work in historic preservation. The event is free.

Monday Feb. 25, 2013

Snack attack
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
3:30 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.
Hang out with friends and learn how to make healthy snacks. This month: bean dips. Space is limited; seating is first come first serve. For more information call (310) 458-8681.

To create your own listing, log on to smdp.com/submitevent

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

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



Fewer bees in US a threat to world's almond supply

BY GOSIA WOZNIACKA
Associated Press

TURLOCK, Calif. In an almond orchard in California's Central Valley, bee inspector Neil Trent pried open a buzzing hive and pulled out a frame to see if it was at least two-thirds covered with bees.

Trent has hopped from orchard to orchard this month, making sure enough bees were in each hive provided by beekeepers. Not enough bees covering a frame indicates an unhealthy hive — and fewer working bees to pollinate the almond bloom, which starts next week across hundreds of thousands of acres stretching from Red Bluff to Bakersfield.

"The bloom will come and go quickly," said Trent, who works for the Bakersfield-based bee broker Scientific Ag Co. "The question is: Will the almond seeds get set? It depends if you have enough of a workforce of bees."

That has growers concerned as nomadic beekeepers from across the country converge on the state with their semi-trucks, delivering billions of bees to the orchards for the annual pollination. Most almond trees depend on bees to transfer pollen from the flower of one tree variety to the flower of another variety before fertilization, which leads to the development of seeds.

It's a daunting task: California's orchards provide about 80 percent of the global almond supply. And with almond acreage increasing steadily in recent years, the bees must now pollinate 760,000 acres of trees. The number of bees needed is expected to increase as almond demand grows and orchards continue to expand.

Already, more than half of the country's honeybees are brought to California at the end of February for almond pollination, which requires about 1.5 million hives from out of state, and another 500,000 from elsewhere in the state. Honeybees are preferred for commercial-scale pollination, because they are social, build larger colonies than other bees, and their hives can easily be moved.

Bee brokers, beekeepers and almond growers around the state say there's a shortage of healthy honeybees for this year's pollination, especially after colony collapse disorder took a higher toll this winter. The disorder, in which honey bees suddenly disappear or die, wipes out thousands of colonies each year.

The shortage has some growers scrambling for bees — even sub-performers — as trees are about to bloom, driving up bee prices again this year, to an all-time high of more than $200 per colony.

"There's definitely a shortage of strong bee colonies," said Joe Traynor, owner of Scientific Ag, which connects growers with beekeepers. "There is a problem covering all the acres of almonds in the state."

Since it was recognized in 2006, colony collapse disorder has destroyed colonies at a rate of about 30 percent a year, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Before that, losses were about 15 percent a year from pests and diseases. No one has determined its cause, but most researchers point to a combination of factors, including pesticide contamination, poor nutrition and bee diseases.



This year, experts say, the die-off has been as high as 40 to 50 percent for some beekeepers.

"We have smaller populations in the hives and higher winter losses," said Eric Mussen, a bee specialist at the entomology department of University of California, Davis. "Bees across the country are not in as good a shape as last year. When you stress them far enough, the bees just give in."

This year, Mussen said, many bees did not get enough nutrition because a Midwest drought reduced forage. Conversion of pasture land to corn production for ethanol also reduced the number of flowers producing nectar.

To compensate for forage loss, beekeepers fed bees more high-fructose corn syrup and other supplements. But such substitutes don't provide all the nutrients pollen does, Mussen said. Malnourished bees are more

SEE **BEES** PAGE 11



GOOD RUN

Morgan Genser *editor@smdp.com*

Jose Plascencia (left) from Lennox Academy jumps into the air with St. Monica's Jack Cain as both try to get their heads on the ball at Airport Park on Friday during the quarterfinals of the Division 7A Southern Section playoffs. St. Monica fell 2-0.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MID-CITY

Saint Johns among America's best

Saint John's Health Center has been named one of the nation's 50 best hospitals by Healthgrades, a leading online resource for patients to make informed decisions about healthcare providers.

Healthgrades , which was founded in 1998 and is based in Denver, Colo., evaluates hospital performance for nearly every hospital in the nation; no hospital can opt-in or opt-out of being evaluated, and no hospital pays to be evaluated.

This recognition marks Saint John's seventh consecutive time being named. The distinction places Saint John's in the top 1 percent of hospitals nationwide out of 4,500 hospitals evaluated.

"Saint John's remains dedicated to providing the best possible care to its patients in a healing and comforting environment," said Dr. Paul Natterson, president of Saint John's medical staff.

While many of the nation's hospitals are eligible to be on this list, Saint John's was only one of two hospitals out of 14 eligible in Southern California to receive the designation.

"Hospitals earn this distinction by providing better than expected outcomes across a broad spectrum of conditions and procedures and maintaining these superior results over an extended period of time," said Evan Marks with Healthgrades.

– HENRY CRUMBLISH

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Preaching tolerance

Editor:

An open letter to the Santa Monica-Malibu school community:

You may have heard that the Westboro Baptist Church is planning protests throughout the Los Angeles area on Feb. 25. Timed to garner attention from media that will be gathered to cover the Academy Awards, these protests will purportedly be staged in many places, including Santa Monica High School. To be clear, according to its own website, the Westboro Baptist Church engages in these sidewalk demonstrations as an expression of opposition to "the homosexual lifestyle of soul-damning, nation-destroying filth."

As the leadership team of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, we have an unwavering commitment to teach tolerance, acceptance and compassion for others. It is the mission of the Santa Monica-Malibu School District to ensure that all students are cared for, supported and educated to their highest potential.

To support this mission:

We believe any action that demonstrates intolerance toward others is unacceptable.

We believe in the fundamental dignity and intrinsic worth of every one of our students.

We believe that each and every member of our learning community deserves respect, compassion and appreciation, regardless of his or her sexual orientation, race, religion, gender, national origin, or immigration status.

We condemn any action that purposely attacks, harasses or devalues any student, staff or community member.

Our entire district leadership team stands united in opposition to messages of intolerance and bigotry. We will continue to be a district of inclusiveness, caring and compassion. However, as long as the protesters operate within their constitutional rights, we cannot stop this event.

We are proud to share that the dedicated education professionals at Santa Monica High School are preparing to use this demonstration to deliver real-life lessons about the First Amendment and freedom of speech.

We understand that some members of our community will exercise their First Amendment rights by participating in a counter-protest. We urge counter-protesters to conduct themselves in a peaceful, non-confrontational manner consistent with our district's educational mission and values.

We will be working closely with the Santa Monica Police Department to ensure that our students and staff have safe access to our campus and that the assembly does not compromise campus safety.

This situation provides an opportunity to stress to our students and our school community that peaceful protests are part of American democracy, and that tolerance and respectful acceptance of cultural diversity is essential in civilized and educated society.

Sandra Lyon
SMMUSD Superintendent

Laurie Lieberman
Ben Allen
Jose Escarce
Nimish Patel
Maria Leon-Vasquez
Oscar de la Torre
Ralph Mechur
SMMUSD Board of Education members

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Your column here

Mark Anthony — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Comprehensive immigration reform will boost economy

SINCE LAST NOVEMBER THERE HAS BEEN a lot of talk about how passing immigration reform this year will be "smart politics" given the role Latino voters played in the recent election. As a small business owner, I'll leave the political forecasting to the pundits, but I can say this: failing to pass immigration reform, whatever the politics, would be downright knuckle-headed economics.

I've been recording history for over 40 years as a photographer, capturing events in people's lives like weddings, proms, and graduations. So I know a big moment when I see one, and the moment for immigration reform is now.

Immigrants play many roles in our economy — as workers, as customers and as business owners themselves. How big are their contributions? Here's one reference point: if some politicians got their way and all unauthorized immigrants were deported, we would lose $551 billion in total spending and $245 billion in GDP, according to a report by the Perryman Group.

On the other hand, if we do immigration reform right — strengthening the workforce and customer base for small businesses, creating a pathway to earned citizenship, and reducing red tape for businesses and workers — that kind of immigration reform will add $1.5 trillion to our GDP over 10 years.

That's just the kind of shot in the arm the economy needs.

Now, business owners like me might be expected to prefer what's called a "guest worker" program — temporary visas for immigrant workers, but without the opportunity to earn a path to citizenship. But actually, I don't.

A guest worker program might help some employers, who want to take advantage of cheap foreign labor, but it won't help the vast majority of responsible business owners and it won't boost our customer base the way comprehensive reform will. The economic verdict is clear: reform based on a guest worker model (with no path to citizenship) would cut nearly in half the economic growth we can achieve from comprehensive immigration reform.

Of course, an issue like immigration reform is about more than dollars and cents. It's also about values, about who we are as a country. As a small business owner, I don't check my values at the door when I walk into my business, and we shouldn't check our values at the door as we enter this debate, either. Our values should guide it.

For example: as a business owner, I don't believe we should treat anyone with second-class status — not our workers, not our customers, and not the new Americans who come here to start businesses of their own. The American promise is the promise of a land of opportunity, and the American entrepreneurial spirit is about going big, not going half way.

As a small business owner, I also believe in treating my workers like family. And I know that when an employee's family is torn apart by our out-of-touch immigration policies, it has a direct impact on workplace morale and productivity. That's why I support immigration reform that reunites families or avoids breaking them apart to begin with.

[I]MMIGRATION REFORM IS ABOUT MORE THAN DOLLARS AND CENTS. IT'S ALSO ABOUT VALUES ... . AS A SMALL BUSINESS OWNER, I DON'T CHECK MY VALUES AT THE DOOR ... AND WE SHOULDN'T CHECK OUR VALUES AT THE DOOR AS WE ENTER THIS DEBATE.

Even with these compelling reasons to move forward with comprehensive immigration reform, there are still loud voices calling for costly enforcement-only approaches — more raids, more border patrols, more walls. But here's what the president had to say about this: "I want to remind people, fearful people build walls. Confident people tear them down."

That was a powerful rallying cry from a recently-inaugurated president. But it wasn't President Obama. It was President George W. Bush, speaking to a crowd in Ohio more than 10 years ago.

As President Bush's words make clear, immigration reform — common sense, comprehensive immigration reform, not more walls — can and should be a bi-partisan commitment. It is also long overdue. For small businesses and our economy, there's no time to waste. Let's capture this big moment.

MARK ANTHONY is the owner of Higher Vision Photos, a photography business in Edison, N.J., and a member of the Main Street Alliance, a network of local, independent small businesses.



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OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

The Q Line

Road work

Beginning this week, the eastbound portion of Colorado Avenue between Fourth and Fifth Streets will close permanently to make way for the final stop of the coming Expo Light Rail Line.

This past week, Q-line asked:
What sort of impact do you think closing that portion of Colorado Avenue will have on Downtown traffic?

Here are your responses:

"YES I THINK IT'S A WONDERFUL IDEA that the Expo Rail is coming to San Malicious. However, it's really going to create problems for the people that have to travel. But so bloody what? We need to have an Expo Rail. And I think that good is going to outdo the negative factors tremendously."

"I THINK CLOSING COLORADO EASTBOUND is going to really make Downtown traffic very bad. I think what they should do is actually close Colorado from Ocean Avenue to Fifth Street. That way, it's not going to back up Ocean, especially during the summertime when traffic is much worse ... . People going westbound will be able to go down to Ocean, be able to go to the hotel, go to McDonald's. But the other way, if it's just closed between Fourth and Fifth, it's going to make traffic terrible. They ought to think about closing it from Ocean."

"WE KNOW WHAT IT'S GOING TO DO TO traffic. It's going to really mess it up badly. I just hope and pray that the city has enough sense to put up signs that would say, maybe, 'local traffic only' or 'not a through street' – that should help with the traffic a little bit. And the street that comes down from City Hall going north that ends up at Colorado – maybe no right turn at that particular location. Or else it's going to really mess up traffic. I think if the city plans it properly, everything will be OK. But if not, it's going to be a big mess."

"ONE MORE MAJOR TRAFFIC inconvenience in this already way overburdened city will just be absorbed by all the other horrors. Those who have had the ability and good sense to leave this city will have another reason to rejoice that they have left. Those who are stuck here, for one reason or another, will moan all the louder. But wait until this horror of the light rail finally gets here and armies of L.A. lowlife descend upon this city. You think it's bad now? Try to envision that time."

"TRAFFIC IS GOING TO BE TERRIBLE ON Colorado. I was taking a walk yesterday on Ocean to Colorado. Traffic was bad yesterday, and it's not even prime season, it's not even a weekend. What we need to do is make Colorado a one-way street going eastbound to Lincoln Boulevard. Make Broadway one way, westbound from Lincoln. That way it doesn't mess up the bus schedules or the bus routes, and make Fifth Street one way like it used to be: northbound. Make Fourth Street to Wilshire one way southbound. That will help and straighten out the traffic. If not, come the summertime forget about it."

"FIRST LET'S UNDERSTAND THE LIGHT RAIL boondoggle is nothing more than another progressive, European, socialist intrusive idea into the freedom of American car driving. The former Sears automotive building and before that a Mayfair Market is a perfect spot for a Target store, but no. The public salvation needs to be an unwanted and unneeded light rail. Closing Colorado Avenue is just the beginning phase of massive street closures or one-lane avenues. Bringing the unwashed, and unwanted masses from L.A. is the Utopian dream of urban planners with their doctorates and Marxist thought. The more you build, the more you can tax, the more you can spend, the more congestion of buildings, the more noise, more crime, negative quality of life. The automobile represents freedom; the council has done everything to curtail that freedom. Parking meters, zone parking, curb extensions, bicycle importance, reducing lanes, street closures. Light rail is a pitiful example of a City Hall that hates you and has failed you."

"THIS PAST SUNDAY ON PRESIDENTS Day weekend, an emphasis is placed before the closure of Colorado Avenue. We were trying to be good citizens. We were on the No. 3 bus going southbound from Wilshire Boulevard down to Marina Del Rey. Traffic on Fourth Street was at a complete standstill. We had to wait through many, many traffic cycles at Arizona, Santa Monica Boulevard, Broadway, Colorado until we got down to the Olympic Boulevard on-ramp to the freeway. It took us 18 minutes from Wilshire down to Olympic Boulevard freeway access. Fourth Street is impassable under the best of circumstances on weekends, and particularly in summer when everyone descends upon Santa Monica. When you have a bus fall behind schedule by 18 minutes, it means it will never recover its schedule when it returns back to Santa Monica. Most people don't realize that the Big Blue Bus people have plans to put a street car line down Fourth Street which will permanently remove two lanes of traffic feed. People with business interests in Downtown obviously want to replicate The Grove experience. Except people go to The Grove and park. In Santa Monica people can't even reach Downtown anymore."

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Poll: Voters back citizenship for illegals

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. Nine in 10 California voters say they support allowing illegal immigrants who have been in the country for several years to stay and become citizens if they have a job, learn English and pay any back taxes they may owe, according to a Field Poll released Friday.

The poll, which comes as Congress prepares to debate federal immigration reform, also found that a majority of voters support allowing residents who are in the U.S. illegally to get California driver's licenses, a reversal from previous surveys.

Assemblyman Luis Alejo, D-Salinas, has proposed legislation this year that would allow the Department of Motor Vehicles to issue licenses to any resident who can show they pay taxes, regardless of their immigration status. Former state Sen. Gil Cedillo, a Democrat, tried for more than a decade to make such a change, but his efforts either did not make it through the Legislature or were vetoed by previous governors.

The Legislature took a partial step last year when Gov. Jerry Brown signed a bill by Cedillo that allows some young illegal immigrants to obtain driver's licenses. Those immigrants would have to be eligible for work permits under a new federal deferred-action policy.

While the poll found voters support loosening restrictions on some illegal immigrants, it also found that two-thirds favor boosting the number of federal agents patrolling the border with Mexico. Most also support stringent penalties for employers who hire illegal workers.

Three-quarters of those surveyed said they supported adding significantly more visas for immigrants with engineering or other advanced degrees, creating temporary worker programs and allowing illegal immigrants to pay in-state tuition for college as they do if they attend for three years and graduate from a California high school.

Under a law that took effect this year, low-income illegal immigrant students who graduate from a California high school are eligible to receive Cal Grants to attend college and may apply for fee waivers in the community college system if they show they are in the process of applying to become legal residents.

Congress is in the midst of bipartisan negotiations over immigration reform, and the Obama administration is drafting backup legislation as a way to prompt action on the issue.

The debate in Washington is likely to include providing a pathway to citizenship for most of the 11 million illegal immigrants already in the U.S., tightening border security, cracking down on businesses that employ illegal workers and strengthening the legal immigration system.

The Field Poll interviewed 834 registered voters by telephone Feb. 5-17. The poll has a sampling error margin of plus or minus 5 percentage points.

STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

LA health officials seek to contain TB outbreak

California health officials are tracking a new tuberculosis strain that has emerged in an area of downtown Los Angeles frequented by a large concentration of homeless people.

Homeless shelters in Skid Row are increasing efforts to urge homeless people to get tested after state and local public health officials alerted them to the outbreak about a month ago.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will be sending a team of specialists to Los Angeles next month to investigate the causes and spread of the often lethal lung infection, spokeswoman Salina Cranor said.

Tuberculosis is a highly contagious disease spread by airborne contact such as coughing, sneezing and spitting. It is often seen in environments where people live in crowded quarters, such as in prisons and homeless shelters. It has long been a problem in Skid Row, a 50-square-block area that houses the nation's densest concentration of homeless people. About 1,000 people sleep on sidewalks nightly. Several thousand more seek refuge in four shelters.

Employees and clients at the shelters are already routinely tested for TB, but several shelters have increased outreach in light of the new outbreak.

"We're watching out for coughs and going out on the street looking for people coughing," said Andy Bales, president and chief executive of the Union Rescue Mission. "It's not a panic, but a plan to address a very persistent problem."

Several people have died of TB at the mission over the past year, he said. The Los Angeles Mission is also expanding efforts to alert more homeless people about coughs, said Herb Smith, the mission's president.

– ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Gas prices spike in Southern California

The Automobile Club of Southern California says the average price of gasoline in the region has seen one of the largest one-month jumps since 2000.

The agency said Friday that gas prices have spiked between 57 and 59 cents over the past 30 days. The largest increase was 70 cents between May and June of 2008.

The average price of regular gasoline in the Los Angeles area is $4.316 per gallon, which is 11.3 cents more than last week and 57 cents higher than last month. In San Diego, the average price is $4.285, 10.2 cents above last week and 58 cents above last month.

Auto Club spokeswoman Marie Montgomery says the spike can't be attributed to a single factor, but refineries were expected to undergo a heavy maintenance schedule.

– AP

FRESNO, Calif.

Treatment requirement for almonds OK'd

An appeals court has ruled that federal officials had the authority to require that all California almonds be treated following two salmonella outbreaks linked to almonds from the state.

Friday's ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals in the District Court of Columbia upheld a lower court decision. The case stemmed from a 2007 order by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack that all California almonds sold domestically be pasteurized with heat or chemicals.

A group of California almond growers argued that Vilsack lacked authority to require that all almonds be treated irrespective of whether they were contaminated. The growers said almonds that had undergone treatments were still labeled "raw", confusing consumers who wanted to buy unprocessed nuts. California's almond industry grows 100 percent of the domestic supply.

– AP

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Some patients won't see nurses of different race

BY JEFF KAROUB
Associated Press

DETROIT It's been called one of medicine's "open secrets" — allowing patients to refuse treatment by a doctor or nurse of another race.

In the latest example, a white man with a swastika tattoo insisted that black nurses not be allowed to touch his newborn. Now two black nurses are suing the hospital, claiming it bowed to his illegal demands.

The Michigan cases are among several lawsuits filed in recent years that highlight this seldom-discussed issue, which quietly persists almost 60 years after the start of the civil rights movement.

The American Medical Association's ethics code bars doctors from refusing to treat people based on race, gender and other criteria, but there are no specific policies for handling race-based requests from patients.

"In general, I don't think honoring prejudicial preferences ... is morally justifiable" for a health care organization," said Dr. Susan Goold, a University of Michigan professor of internal medicine and public health. "That said, you can't cure bigotry ... There may be times when grudgingly acceding to a patient's strongly held preferences is morally OK."

Those times could include patients who have been so traumatized — by rape or combat, for instance — that accommodating their care request would be preferable to forcing on them a caregiving whose mere presence might aggravate the situation, she said.

Tonya Battle, a veteran nurse at Flint's Hurley Medical Center, filed the first complaint against the hospital and a nursing manager, claiming a note posted on an assignment clipboard read, "No African-American nurse to take care of baby." She says the note was later removed but black nurses weren't assigned to care for the baby for about a month because of their race.

That case is now a federal lawsuit. Hospital officials said they planned to make a statement about the matter Friday evening but offered no details.

Hurley President Melany Gavulic said in a statement that the swastika tattoo "created anger and outrage in our staff," and supervisors raised safety concerns. Gavulic said the father was told that his request could not be granted.

Multiple e-mail and phone messages left for Battle through her attorney were unreturned, and a listed number for her had been disconnected. But she told the Detroit Free Press she "didn't even know how to react" when she learned of her employer's actions following her interaction with the father.

She said she introduced herself to the man and he said, "I need to see your supervisor." That supervisor, Battle said, told her that the father, who was white, didn't want African-Americans to care for his child and had rolled up his sleeve to expose the swastika.

"I just was really dumbfounded," Battle said. "I couldn't believe that's why he was so angry (and) that's why he was requesting my (supervisory) nurse."

Attorney Tom Pabst, who is representing nurse Carlotta Armstrong in a second lawsuit, said the hospital's actions left the neonatal intensive care nurses "in a ball of confusion."

"She said, 'You know what really bothered me? I didn't know what to do if the baby was choking or dying. Am I going to get fired if I go over there?'" Pabst said.

The Michigan cases follow a 2010 decision by the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which held that the federal Civil Rights Act prohibits nursing homes from making staffing decisions for nursing assistants based on residents' racial preferences. The ruling stemmed from a lawsuit filed by a black nursing assistant who sued her employer for racial discrimination.

In another federal lawsuit filed in 2005, three black employees of Abington Memorial Hospital near Philadelphia claimed they were prevented from treating a pregnant white woman by her male partner, who was a member of a white supremacist group. The man used a racial slur when forbidding any care by any African-Americans.

The complaint alleged that supervisors honored the man's request. The case was settled confidentially before going to trial, and the hospital admitted no liability. Frank Finch III, the attorney for the employees, said hospital officials also cited employee safety in their defense.

"That defense doesn't fly under the anti-discrimination law," Finch said. "Hospitals cannot use that as a defense in non-emergency situations."

He said every hospital has a policy against discrimination and "undoubtedly acquiescing to such a demand is a violation of a written, internal policy in addition to being a violation of the law."

Fordham University law professor Kimani Paul-Emile said she suspects nurses file more discrimination suits than doctors.

"With nurses and other sorts of staff, the hospital is telling them they can or cannot do something," she said. "That might go to why you might see more lawsuits brought by nurses."

She wrote an article last year in the UCLA Law Review titled "Patients' Racial Preferences and the Medical Culture of Accommodation." It was the source of the "open secrets" phrase.

Paul-Emile's research cited a 2007 study at the University of Michigan Health System and others on how physicians respond to patients' requests to be assigned providers of the same gender, race or religion.

The survey of emergency physicians found patients often make such requests, and they are routinely accommodated. A third of doctors who responded said they felt patients perceive better care from providers of shared demographics, with racial matches considered more important than gender or religion.

"The notion of white patients rejecting minority physicians for bigoted reasons in emergency departments and other hospital settings is deeply troubling and uncomfortably reminiscent of the type of discrimination that the civil rights statutes were designed to eliminate," Paul-Emile wrote in her article.

Another study she cited found that patient requests for care by a physician are most often accommodated when made by racial minority patients.

Lance Gable, a law professor at Wayne State University in Detroit, said he believes such requests "are made more often than we'd like to think about" even if they aren't frequently agreed to by hospital management. He suspects a supervisor might honor them but not say anything explicit to employees and only in rare instances would signs be posted as alleged in the Flint case.

"Maybe their explanation is an accurate description of what happened — the supervisor was scared of the father of this patient and made a decision that was ill-advised," Gable said. "It might have been the right thing to do for the safety of the staff, and it still might be a violation of anti-discrimination laws."





The Re-View

Merv Hecht
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Gourmet grub hidden in a rustic, romantic setting

ON RARE OCCASIONS I AM INVITED TO dine at a restaurant that I think I already know and am blown away by how different it is than I originally thought. And so it was at the Inn of The Seventh Ray.

When our daughter was young (a long time ago) we owned a horse ranch with our cousins (who still live there) in Topanga Canyon. Across the street from our entrance was the Inn of the Seventh Ray, known in the community as a converted church bought by a couple of shrinks and serving weird food to weird people. Strange things like brown rice and organic vegetables.

That image was still in my mind when I was invited there last month. Boy was I surprised. First of all the place was redecorated into beautiful. The little stream was still running in the back, but there were a number of new rooms and seating areas, inside and outside, and a roaring fireplace on the cold afternoon we were there.

The menu was nothing like I expected. Yes there was warm brown rice, but it was flavored with avocado, dried sea vegetables, garlic chips, sesame seeds and other flavorings, making for a delicious dish. There were flatbreads and pastas. There were some expected dishes like pan seared salmon, but vastly improved with sautéed asparagus, truffle flavor, and lemon beurre noisette into something I would have expected at a high-end French restaurant.

I didn't try many of the dishes, such as the bouchot mussels in white wine and garlic or the beef burger with heirloom tomato, onion, cheddar, organic ketchup and whole grain mustard. But I saw others eating some of them and was impressed with what I saw.

I did try the oven roasted turkey and artichoke panini with Brie cheese, basil, arugula and cranberry rosemary aioli, and I found the flavor combination to be unusually delicious. I tried a great pork belly, one of my favorite dishes anyway and very hard to find properly prepared — even in France. This one was lean with a lot of pork flavor, with a pumpkin sauce on the side and a maple glaze. I noticed the chef likes maple flavor, and it happens to be one of my favorite flavors. I suppose this should have tipped me off to where he was raised.

The grilled lamb sliders were not our favorite dish, but might appeal to some.

There was another of my favorite things: the Vietnamese barbecue short rib. This turned out to really be a pulled pork sandwich with the slight vinaigrette taste I like.

Don't think I've described the entire menu. There is way too much for the limited space my editor gives me. There are soups, salads, cheeses; all eclectic and beautifully described on the menu.

Then there is a tempting desert menu — note the maple cheesecake — but I settled for the gingerbread and maple popcorn, which came with burnt cinnamon ice cream, hachiya persimmon and condensed milk caramel. I didn't see all that stuff in the dish but it sure was good. Unfortunately the coffee was not so good.

A separate drink menu contains lots of interesting drinks, including root beer, lemonades, almond milk — drinks that one doesn't often see offered. And then there is an exceptional wine list, that is if you are a big spender. The wine list is not oriented toward value, but toward offering very special and thus expensive selections you don't often find. While normally I would find that objectionable, I don't here. This is the kind of special place to come at a special time, when you are ready to relax and eat something very special. And that is the time to order that unique bottle of wine you would not normally spring for. This is one of the few places that deserves the name "romantic."

And don't be turned off by the number of negative reviews on the Internet. The restaurant will not appeal to everyone. First of all, they don't get the same kind of staff as in the big city. Yes the service can sometimes be slow, and the staff doesn't always know how to fix a problem. But this is a place to slow down and relax. And the food is not what many might expect in this setting; it is much higher end and complex, and perhaps more expensive than some expect. I'm amused when I see posts on the Internet complaining about the parking. Yes you actually have to park the car yourself and walk down the stairs!

Having been so extraordinarily impressed with the food, I had to find out more about the chef. That too turned out to be a surprise. Here we were in the backwoods village — if that — of Topanga, in the middle of a bunch of horse ranches. Who is this Bradley Miller and where did he come from? Surprise, he comes from Ottowa, Ill., very near my home town. We were both raised a few miles from one another, and his family probably knew my Uncle Abe. More to the point, he worked at Patina restaurant, which I consider the best restaurant in Los Angeles.

It was a day of surprises, and a culinary experience I will remember with pleasure.

If you go

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YOU FOUND IT

MERV HECHT, the food and wine critic for the Santa Monica Daily Press, is a wine buyer and consultant to a number of national and international food and wine companies. He can be reached at mervynhecht@yahoo.com.



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The Better Option

Lori Salerno
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Feed a cold, starve a fever?

IT HAPPENS EVERY YEAR. THE DECEMBER and January holidays bring large groups together and sometimes from different parts of the country. Inevitably, one person shows up to the gathering with a cold or flu and is kind enough to share their illness with the rest of the group.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports flu outbreaks are reaching epidemic levels this year and are encouraging all Americans to get the flu shot. But what do you do if you haven't received your flu shot yet or you catch a cold or flu in the meantime?

We've all heard the old wives' tale, "feed a cold, starve a fever," but is that really the right way to treat the symptoms of a cold or flu? Actually, it's not. To help protect against infection and to aid the body in its recovery when battling a cold or flu requires proper nutrition to enhance your immunity, says the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Positive health habits such as proper diet, adequate sleep and decreased stress are essential to a strong immune response.

Cortisol and adrenaline are stress hormones that can negatively impact the body's ability to stay healthy. Incorporating positive coping techniques, including regular moderate exercise, has been shown to reduce these stress hormones and strengthen the immune system, enabling the body to fight viral and bacterial infections. Findings state that daily moderate exercise helps white blood cells travel through your body at a quicker pace and can fight bacteria and viruses more efficiently. Moderate exercise includes aerobic activity such as walking, swimming, biking or running at least 30 minutes each day. Conversely, extreme workouts like prepping for the Los Angeles Marathon or exercising when your body is already sick and needs rest can further stress an already weakened immune system, making recovery time longer.

Nutrients are special compounds that are found in foods and essential to the body's repair, growth and wellness. Essential nutrients must come from your diet and any deficiency of these can lead to illness if not corrected. Specific nutrients known for a healthy defense include protein, specific antioxidants, bioflavonoids, and the minerals selenium and zinc.

Antioxidants are thought to play a role in the body's cell protection system by protecting your body against and neutralizing free radicals. The antioxidants beta-carotene and vitamins C and E are thought to armor your body against stressors. Beta-carotene and vitamin A protect you from infections by keeping skin and tissues in your mouth, stomach, intestines and respiratory tract healthy. Vitamin C protects you from infections by boosting your immunity through the formation of antibodies.

Vitamin C supplementation has been studied for years in the prevention and treatment of cold and flu symptoms but the findings have been inconsistent. Some studies show that taking vitamin C can shorten the duration of a cold, but no studies have shown that vitamin C can prevent you from acquiring a cold. And high doses of vitamin C, greater than 2,000 mgs per day for an adult, may cause kidney stones, nausea and diarrhea in some.

Zinc is a mineral that has also been extensively tested and studied for its effectiveness in reducing the duration of cold symptoms because it helps the immune system work properly. But as with vitamin C, data from years of scientific studies has been mixed and the results on using zinc as a cold remedy are inconclusive. There have been problems with mouth irritation, metallic taste and stomach upset with some zinc lozenges and permanent loss of smell from some zinc nasal sprays. The side effects from these zinc remedies may outweigh the potential benefits at this time, and have led to FDA warning labels on packaging.

Phytochemicals and bioflavonoids are other plant compounds being studied and are thought to work with antioxidants and other vitamins and minerals to boost your body's defense system. Scientists have identified many vitamins and minerals, but are still learning about other biochemically active properties and their co-factors in plants, fruits and vegetables.

What about old home remedies like hot tea with honey or grandma's chicken noodle soup? Do these even help? Surprisingly, a couple of research studies have shown that chicken soup might help with cold symptoms. The hot liquid in both the chicken soup and hot tea helps to thin mucus, clear nasal congestion, and keep you hydrated, which all can make you feel better.

LORI SALERNO, M.S., R.D., C.P.T. is a registered dietitian and certified personal trainer who provides medical nutrition therapy to groups and individuals in Santa Monica and recipe and menu analysis for restaurants nationwide. Learn more at www.eatwelldailynutrition.com

The Better Option chicken & vegetable barley soup (8 servings)

2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
1 medium onion, chopped
3 garlic cloves, minced
2 medium carrots cut diagonally into half-inch-thick slices
2 celery ribs, halved lengthwise, and cut into half-inch-thick slices
4 fresh thyme sprigs
1 bay leaf
2 quarts chicken stock (optional homemade stock)
3/4 cup barley, rinsed
1 1/2 cup shredded cooked chicken
Ground black pepper

Place a soup pot over medium heat and coat with the oil. Add the onion, garlic, carrots, celery, thyme and bay leaf. Cook and stir for about 6 minutes, until the vegetables are softened but not browned. Pour in the chicken stock and barley and bring liquid to a boil. Simmer for 40 minutes. Add chicken and continue to simmer for ten more minutes to heat through. Season with pepper.

Calories: 160; Fat: 7g (11% of DV); Sat Fat: 1.5g (8% of DV); Chol: 15mg (5% of DV); Sod: 670mg (28% of DV); T Cho: 13g (4% of DV); Fiber 1g (4% of DV); Sugar: 6g; Pro: 11g

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STUDENTS
FROM PAGE 1

how much math a student took in high school and the grades achieved was a good predictor for overall college readiness and success.

Jaffe studied 2,920 12th grade students, one-third of whom attended community college as freshmen.

She found that true mastery of middle school mathematics was critical to success in high school level math, which then paved the way for college.

Exit exams taken, which test seventh and eighth grade math skills, were predictive of later success, with 83 percent of those scoring at the top of the scale later proving ready for college-level math.

"My findings emphatically point back to middle school," Jaffe said.

On the flipside, students who skipped math as seniors also tended to need remedial help when they got to college.

Math has long been recognized as a critical component to college readiness. According to a 2006 study, every course beyond algebra II doubled the odds of a student completing college.

For all that math and science are recognized as crucial to many occupations in the modern economy, the California Department of Education only requires two math courses between grades nine through 12 for graduation.

College readiness is important, and an ever-increasing amount of research is being done to assess it.

According to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, a nonprofit that in part seeks to ensure that people have the opportunities they need to succeed in school, notes that the more educated a person is, the more likely they are to be employed and more money they earn through employment.

In 2008, the median earnings of those with a bachelor's degree was $55,700 compared to $33,800 for a high school graduate, according to information in Deloria's presentation.

Given those facts and Jaffe's data, Deloria had a question for the board.

"Why would we let any senior not take math?" she said.

Deloria proposed a districtwide plan for assessing college readiness, taking a look at student scores in middle school and the beginning of high school to target for extra help or more challenging classes.

"If they decide not to go to college, that's their choice," Deloria said. "But it won't be because they weren't prepared when they leave our district."

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Stevensville -

Doris Virginia Ragsdale, affectionately known as Grammy and Momma, 88, and beloved mother and grandmother, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family and friends, at her home in Stevensville, Montana, on December 31, 2012.

Doris was born in Palouse, Washington, on October 3, 1924?, to Pearl and Chester Elsworth McFarland. Her early years were spent in Ottawa, Kansas, where she attended a little one-room schoolhouse. During the Great Depression, her family moved from their farm in Kansas to Santa Monica, California, where Doris graduated from John Adams Middle School and then from Santa Monica High School (Samohi). During World War II, she supported the war effort by moving to Seattle, Washington, and working for McDonnell Douglas. She married her sweetheart Clyde Ragsdale on July 7, 1951, in The First Christian Church in Santa Monica, California, after Clyde returned home from the Korean War. She raised four children: Robert, Judy, Beverly, and James. She moved to Stevensville, Montana, in 1993 and enjoyed this beautiful state for many happy years. She was a longtime member of the American Legion Auxiliary and a lifetime patron of charitable causes.

Doris enjoyed sewing, crafting, cooking, creating a family genealogy, traveling, gardening, listening to her canaries sing, and, most of all, visiting with and enjoying her family. Doris self-published a Ragsdale family genealogy and was working on a McFarland family genealogy.

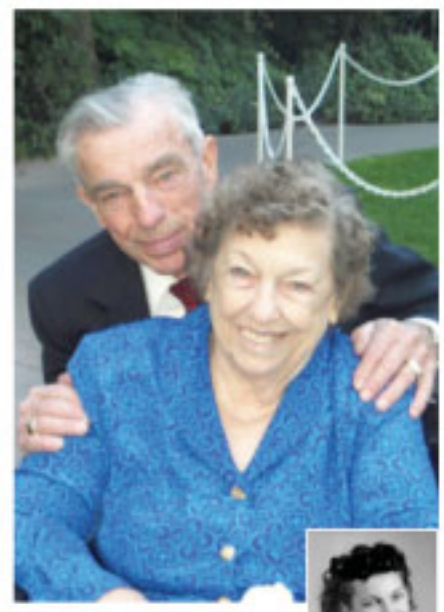
Doris joins her husband, Clyde; daughter, Judy; and son, James, in the loving arms of our Father in Heaven. Also predeceasing Doris are her two sisters, Roberta and Norma; her two brothers, Cecil and Robert; and her granddaughter, Ginger.

Doris is survived by her son, Robert (Kansas City, Missouri); her daughter, Beverly (Stevensville, Montana); her grandchildren, Doris, John, Geoffrey, and Jennifer; her great-grandchildren, Beren, Noel, Shanelle, Ryan, Mitchell, Andrew, Nathaniel, Cameron, Benjamin, Connor, Olivia, and Anthony; her great-great-grandchildren, Abby and Dawson; many cousins; many friends; her dog, Lucky; her granddog, Teddy; and her canaries, Tom and Jerry.

Doris will be missed greatly by all of those who knew and loved her. Her memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 5, 2013, at 11:00 a.m., at Whitesett Funeral Home, located at 314 Church Street, Stevensville, Montana 59870. Afterward, a reception will be held next door at First Baptist Church. Doris will be laid to rest alongside her husband at Western Montana State Veterans Cemetery in Missoula, Montana, following a private ceremony at a later date.

Those wishing to make a donation in Doris' name are encouraged to donate to Samaritan's Purse (P.O. Box 3000, Boone, NC 28607-3000) or Christ for the Nations (444 Fawn Ridge Drive, Dallas, TX 75224), both of which are charities Doris supported.

Doris' family would like to thank all of those who supported Doris during her time of distress, with special thanks to Beverly Aguirre; Gary and Jennifer LaPointe; Geoffrey Aguirre; Mabel Bruce; Samuel, Mitchell, and Andrew Schmidt; Doris Reynolds and Steve; Noel Giustino; Sue Devlin of A2Z Personnel; and Marcus Daly Hospice.





Beverly would like to add a special thank you to her friends and customers for their exceptional patience and graciousness during her Momma's illness.

Momma's love was special.

Condolences and memories may be left for the family at www.whitersittfuneralhome.com

HOUSING
FROM PAGE 1

Foundation of Los Angeles.

The recommendations come as comments to a draft report released in June 2012 looking at roadblocks to fair housing in the city, a document required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to qualify for federal funds.

Santa Monica's rents are too high for a federal program meant to help low-income people afford housing, according to the report.

The city also lacks sufficient protections for participants in the program, who can be discriminated against by landlords who are trying to avoid renting to those with vouchers, wrote Denise McGranahan, an attorney with the Legal Aid Foundation.

"Voucher recipients in Santa Monica have great difficulties finding landlords who will accept their vouchers," McGranahan wrote. "This is partially due to the payment standard but also due to discrimination against Section 8, which may often be veiled discrimination against minorities, the disabled and the elderly."

The housing voucher program, also called Section 8, is the largest federal government program that helps low-income families, seniors and disabled to get housing in the private market by providing guaranteed rental payments to landlords.

In theory, renters pay roughly up to 40 percent of their income toward rent and utilities in the first year, and the voucher picks up the difference. Vouchers have a ceiling on the amount that they can cover that can vary based on where they are used.

Santa Monica's vouchers are already higher than those in Los Angeles County, said Lucie Loach, Santa Monica Housing Authority administrator.

A Section 8 voucher will cover $1,101 in rent for a one bedroom in the county, and $1,352 for a one bedroom in Santa Monica. Similarly, a two-bedroom apartment voucher covers $1,421 in the county and $1,843 in Santa Monica, Loach said.

Although the payment standards are higher in Santa Monica than elsewhere in Los Angeles, they're not high enough to give individuals and families a real choice of apartments available in the city, McGranahan argued.

The housing vouchers don't reach the median market rents, which limits people to specific sections of the city, usually in the eastern end.

"This is not to say that the only landlords who rent to Section 8 tenants are in the Pico Neighborhood," McGranahan said. "However, they have limited access to more expensive areas of the city unless the units they are renting are through (nonprofit housing provider Community Corporation of Santa Monica) or are inclusionary housing units."

Santa Monica could fix that by applying to the federal government for an increase in the payment standard, she said. It hasn't done so since 2007, and that motion was denied.

The amount that the vouchers cover hasn't been a problem, Loach said. Finding a private landlord willing to accept a Section 8 tenant over other applicants, however, is.

Section 8 voucher holders may have bad credit history, and some have criminal convictions that don't make it past a landlord's background check. Because the vouchers are used in the private market, potential renters still need to meet all of their usual requirements.

The Housing Authority has a stable of landlords who are convinced of the benefits of the program, specifically that most if not all of the rent will be guaranteed by the federal government and show up on time, Loach said.

"We try to sell it in a way to show it's a good program," she said.

City Hall could take additional steps to ensure that landlords are not discriminating against voucher holders for their participation in the program, McGranahan said.

Existing state legislation that prohibits discrimination based on source of income doesn't cover Section 8 vouchers, but the local government could make it more difficult to refuse to rent to a tenant who otherwise qualifies for the unit and can afford the rent, she said.

"Studies have shown that in jurisdictions which prohibit Section 8 discrimination, there is less discrimination against minorities and other members of protected classes," McGranahan said.

A dark day may be around the corner for the housing program.

The federal government is scheduled to undergo brutal cuts in March if President Barack Obama and Congress fail to craft a compromise to close the budget deficit.

That will mean a cut of 16,219 vouchers in California alone, some of which may already be held by poor families, McGranahan said.

ashley@smdp.com

PARKS
FROM PAGE 1

Park Service Director Jon Jarvis last month asked superintendents to show by Feb. 11 how they would absorb the 5 percent funding cuts. The memo includes some of those decisions.

While not all 398 parks had submitted plans by the time the memo was written, a pattern of deep slashes that could harm resources and provide fewer protections for visitors has emerged.

In Yosemite National Park in California, for example, park administrators fear that less frequent trash pickup would potentially attract bears into campgrounds.

The cuts will be challenging considering they would be implemented over the next seven months — peak season for national parks. That's especially true in Yellowstone, where the summertime crush of millions of visitors in cars and RVs dwarfs those who venture into the park on snowmobiles during the winter.

More than 3 million people typically visit Yellowstone between May and September, 10 times as many as the park gets the rest of the year.

"This is a big, complex park, and we provide a lot of services that people don't realize," Yellowstone spokesman Al Nash said. "They don't realize we're also the water and wastewater treatment operators and that it's our job to patch potholes, for heaven's sake."

The memo says that in anticipation of the cuts, a hiring freeze is in place and the furloughing of permanent staff is on the table.

"Clear patterns are starting to emerge," the memo said. "In general, parks have very limited financial flexibility to respond to a 5 percent cut in operations."

Most of the Park Service's $2.9 billion budget is for permanent spending such as staff salaries, fuel, utilities and rent payments. Superintendents can use about 10 percent of their budgets on discretionary spending for things ranging from interpretive programs to historic-artifact maintenance to trail repair, and they would lose half of that to the 5 percent cuts.

"There's no fat left to trim in the Park Service budget," said John Garder of the nonprofit parks advocacy group the National Park Conservation Association. "In the scope of a year of federal spending, these cuts would be permanently damaging and save 15 minutes of spending."

For years Congress has been cutting funding to the National Park Service, and in today's dollars it is 15 percent less than a decade ago, said Garder, who is the nonprofit's budget and appropriations legislative representative in Washington, D.C. Park spending amounts to one-fourteenth of 1 percent of the federal budget, he said.

One in five international tourists visits one of America's 398 national parks, research shows, and the parks are one-third of the top 25 domestic travel destinations. If the cuts go though, the memo shows national parks will notice fewer services, shorter hours and the placing of some sensitive areas completely off-limits to visitors when there are too few staff members to protect resources.

The Park Service also writes that communities around parks that depend on tourism to fill their hotels and restaurants would suffer.

Cape Cod National Seashore would close the Province Land Visitor Center, shutting out 260,000 people from May through October. Without monitors to watch over nesting birds, large sections of the Great Beach would close to keep eggs from being trampled.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park will close five campgrounds and picnic areas, affecting 54,000 visitors.

The more than 300,000 visitors who use Grand Teton's Jenny Lake Visitor Center in Wyoming would be sent to other areas of the park. The park's nonprofit association would lose a quarter million dollars in sales.

In Yosemite National Park, maintenance reductions mean the 9,000-foot-high Tioga Pass, the park's only entrance from the east, would open later in the year because there would be no gas for snow plows or staff to operate them. The town of Mammoth Lakes in the eastern Sierra depends on Yosemite traffic to fill its hotels and restaurants.

Even programs important to the long-term environmental health of spectacular places are in jeopardy. In Yosemite, an ongoing project to remove invasive plants from the entire 761,000 acres would be cut. The end of guided ranger programs in the sequoia grove would leave 35,000 visitors unsupervised among the sensitive giants. And 3,500 volunteers who provide 40,000 hours on resource management duties would be eliminated for lack of anyone to run the program.

Glacier National Park in Montana would delay the opening of the only road providing access to the entire park. When the Going-to-the-Sun Road has closed previously, it meant $1 million daily in lost revenue, the memo said.

Even Declaration House in Pennsylvania, the place where Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence, wouldn't be spared. Nor would comfort stations on the Natchez Trace Parkway in Mississippi.

"We remain hopeful that Congress is able to avoid these cuts," said Olson, the national parks spokesman.

BEES
FROM PAGE 3

susceptible to diseases.

Lance Sundberg, a beekeeper who hauled his hives for almond pollination from Columbus, Mont., lost 40 percent of his bees this winter due to the drought and mite problems.

"You have to buy bees elsewhere to pick up your losses, and not everything we have remaining after the loss is very strong," said Sundberg. "I had a tough time fulfilling my obligations to all the growers."

But at least he still has bees, Sundberg said. Some colleagues were not as lucky: they lost 75 percent or even 99 percent.

Traynor, the bee broker, said he's been fielding phone calls from desperate beekeepers and growers who are short several thousand colonies — but he has no more good bees to offer them. The shortage will only get worse in the future, he said, as almond acreage grows.

Having strong hives is critical, Traynor said, especially during rainy seasons, because bees have a short period of flight time when it's dry enough to pollinate. Fewer bees may not be able to reach all the blooms in time.

In recent years, the Almond Board of California, which represents more than 6,000 growers, has poured $1.4 million into bee health research. The group also worked on alternatives to reduce growers' reliance on honeybees, said Bob Curtis, associate director of agricultural affairs.

One is the so-called "self-compatible" almond tree, which can set nuts using pollen transferred among its own flowers, thereby needing fewer bees.

The group also is urging growers to plant forage to help sustain bees before and after almond pollination. And it's exploring using blue orchard bees, which are solitary bees that do not live in hives but nest in small cavities, to augment the honeybee workforce. But building up those alternatives will take time.

"It's tenuous right now," Curtis said. "We've got fewer bees. And if something goes wrong with the weather, some growers could be in trouble."

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SURF REPORT



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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **56.5°**

SATURDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high
Minor NW swell mix

SUNDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high occ. 3ft
Small NW swell pulses up slightly

MONDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high
Minor NW swell

TUESDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high
Minor NW swell

WIND / WEATHER

Possible stronger WNW flow Saturday afternoon and some more offshore winds for Sunday morning.

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 20, 2013**

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 – 8
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill – 0
- Number of wet days – 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather – 34 / 29
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather – 0 / 0

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: simplehuman, LAcarGUY, SIMA and Grousbeck Family Foundation

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Los Cerritos Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisos creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	B
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A	A+
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A+	A+
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pacific Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	B	B
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (beach location) - daily.	F	B
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	F
Los Flores State Beach at Los Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	B
Big Rock Beach at 18648 PCH stairs.	A+	A
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	B	A
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	F	F
Will Rogers State Beach at 17308 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	A+

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

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

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

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

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.

Guerrero sees flaws in Floyd

BY GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

Robert Guerrero has been calling out Floyd Mayweather Jr. since he was an obscure, skinny 135-pounder with no logical chance of getting a fight with boxing's pound-for-pound champion.

Guerrero finally landed the bout he craved this week, and he's already got plenty more to say about his chances.

Guerrero says Mayweather is declining, and he intends to exploit the flaws of the sport's top money-maker in their May 4 meeting at the MGM Grand Garden in Las Vegas.

"I see a lot of slippage," Guerrero said in a phone interview. "I see him slowing down, as far as his legs not being as quick as they used to be."

Bold words are no surprise from Guerrero (31-1-1, 18 KOs), the talkative former featherweight champion from Gilroy, Calif., who has even more old-school boxing bravado than Mayweather, whose interest in trash talk has faded in recent years.

When asked if Mayweather was the best fighter in boxing, Guerrero was blunt: "In my eyes, no."

"There's just so many fighters out there that he hasn't fought, and he was picking and choosing fights," Guerrero said. "That's why I'm excited that I'm in the position I'm in, earning the spot where he actually is going to fight somebody who's earned it."

Guerrero betrays no fear of Mayweather, who hand-picked the challenger for their welterweight title bout in his debut on Showtime. Guerrero thinks the champion doesn't realize what he's facing, and he also expects Mayweather to be fighting rust after a year away from the ring, including a two-month stint in jail.

"Definitely, he's ripe for the picking," Guerrero said. "You know, he's been out for a year. ... He is sharp in the ring. He puts more pressure on guys. I think that has to do with him not being able to move as good on his legs, where people think, 'Oh, he's changed his style.' But I just think that when you get older and your legs start to go, you have to change direction."

Guerrero realizes he's the presumptive victim for the first bout of Mayweather's lucrative six-fight contract with Showtime over the next 30 months. Mayweather opened as a heavy favorite in Las Vegas sports books.

"If people bet on me, they're going to make a lot of money, so I suggest they do," Guerrero said. "I was put in this position not only to humble the boxing world, but to humble Floyd Mayweather. I have a lot of faith that I'm going to go in there and dominate this fight."

Although Mayweather doesn't talk trash the way he once did, at least he finally has an opponent who won't rely on Mayweather to do most of the heavy lifting in promotion and pre-fight interest. Guerrero's confidence could play well on Showtime, which plans to showcase Mayweather and his upcoming opponents in behind-the-scenes programming.

Outside the ring, he's best known for his steadfast support of his wife, Casey, who survived a prolonged struggle with leukemia while Guerrero was an up-and-coming fighter.

Any doubts about Guerrero's ability to fight at welterweight evaporated when he returned from a 15-month ring absence following shoulder surgery last year. Guerrero jumped up two weight classes to 147 pounds to beat Selcuk Aydin last July — and in November, he won a decision over former welterweight champion Andre Berto in one of last year's most exciting fights.

"(Mayweather) is a way smarter fighter than Berto, than Aydin," Guerrero said. "Strength-wise, I feel he's not as strong as either one of them. I think Berto is a lot faster, but the one thing that carries Floyd Mayweather through is his elegance in the ring. His intelligence, being able to change angles. That's what gets him through the day."

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit sealed bids for the:

SP2198 Inline Storm Drain Runoff Infiltration Project

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, 90401, not later than 2:30 p.m. on **March 14, 2013**, to be publicly opened and read aloud after 3:00 p.m. on said date in City Hall Council Chambers. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Bids.

PRE-BID JOB WALK:
At 10:00 am on Thursday February 28, 2013 at N/W Corner of Franklin Street and Nebraska Avenue.

PROJECT ESTIMATE: $140,000
CONTRACT DAYS: 90 Calendar Days
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $500 Per Day
COMPENSABLE DELAY: $500 Per Day

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's Finance website at: http://www01.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/. The Contractor is required to have a **Class A** license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

DO YOU HAVE COMMUNITY NEWS?
Submit news releases to editor@smdp.com or by fax at (310) 576-9913
smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

MOVIE TIMES

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

Saturday, Feb. 23
Lawrence of Arabia (G) 3hrs 36min
7:30pm
Introduction by author Jeremy Arnold

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

Life of Pi 3D (PG) 2hrs 06min
1:00pm, 4:15pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm

Django Unchained (R) 2hrs 45min
3:00pm, 10:15pm

Argo (R) 2hrs 00min
11:55am, 6:35pm

Lincoln (PG-13) 2hrs 30min
1:30pm, 5:00pm, 8:30pm

2013 Best Picture Showcase 2/23 (NR)
10:00am

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

Zero Dark Thirty (R) 2hrs 37min
11:45am, 3:15pm, 6:50pm, 10:35pm

Good Day to Die Hard (R) 1hr 37min
11:10am, 12:10pm, 1:40pm, 2:45pm, 4:15pm, 5:25pm, 7:00pm, 8:00pm, 9:40pm, 10:45pm

Warm Bodies (PG-13) 1hr 37min
11:35am, 2:20pm, 5:05pm, 7:45pm, 10:20pm

Escape from Planet Earth 3D (PG) 1hr 29min
11:00am, 3:50pm, 8:40pm

Escape from Planet Earth (PG) 1hr 29min
1:20pm, 6:10pm, 11:00pm

Identity Thief (R) 1hr 51min
11:55am, 2:00pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm

Snitch (PG-13) 1hr 52min
11:20am, 3:00pm, 5:45pm, 8:20pm, 10:55pm

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

Bless Me, Ultima (PG-13) 1hr 46min
1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:40pm

One Life (NR) 1hr 24min
11:00am

Chasing Ice (PG-13) 1hr 14min
11:00am

Amour (PG-13) 2hrs 07min
1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

Lore (NR) 1hr 49min
1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 9:55pm

Quartet (PG-13) 1hr 37min
1:50pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 9:55pm

Stand Off (R) 1hr 10min
11:00am

AMC Criterion 6
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-7910

Silver Linings Playbook (R) 2hrs 00min
10:55am, 1:45pm, 4:35pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm

Beautiful Creatures (PG-13) 2hrs 12min
11:05am, 1:15pm, 4:10pm, 7:10pm, 10:15pm

Side Effects (R) 1hr 46min
10:45am, 12:15pm, 1:55pm, 3:00pm, 4:45pm, 5:40pm, 7:20pm, 8:20pm, 10:00pm, 11:00pm

Safe Haven (PG-13) 1hr 55min
11:15am, 2:05pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:40pm

Dark Skies (PG-13) 1hr 37min
11:50am, 2:40pm, 5:20pm, 8:00pm, 10:45pm

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

Happy Birthday

Kevin Herrera (Editor-in-Chief, Santa Monica Daily Press/craft beer nut),
Gyllian Lozano (Green Brooms Music Academy and new mom),
Ashley Johnson (Burn Fitness trainer),
April Burgomaster (Santa Monica social director)

To the wee hours, Scorpio

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You might be mulling a lot over. You could have some difficulty tossing yourself into whatever might be occurring around you. A loved one knows how to entice you. Tonight: Let the good times happen.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You hear from a friend and decide to invite him or her to a late brunch or dinner. Entertain from home or go to a place nearby. Structure your weekend near home base. Someone at a distance might need more of your time. Tonight: Where your friends are.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Your sense of direction takes you right out the door after making calls. Meet a friend with whom you have made plans. Your levity and humor make all the difference in what occurs. Tonight: Burn the midnight oil.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You might not like everything about your plans right now. Apparently, your budget is not the same as a family member's. You will find a way to adapt, or you'll figure out how to let this person know that downscaling would be a good idea. Tonight: Enjoy yourself wherever you are.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ If you want to take off for a day trip, do. Just don't be surprised if you encounter a snafu along the way. Communication about meeting times and places could be the source of the problem. Tonight: Initiate a talk.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Take some much-needed private time. Catch up on emails, or just be a couch potato. You could be taken aback by the many options that appear. You understand a lot more than you originally thought. A partner surprises you. Tonight: You do not need to explain anything.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ It could be a hassle to change plans or do something very different. Be honest with yourself, and know that you might not have a choice. You grasp the importance of a special person at a distance. Allow in more playfulness. Tonight: Wherever you are, others will follow.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ A friend could be difficult or out of sorts. Call this person and listen to what he or she has to say. Money dealings will need to be observed much more carefully than they have been in the past. Tonight: To the wee hours.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 21-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You might decide to break through the veil of confusion that surrounds you and others. You are in a changeable period right now. During the next few weeks, you could see the flaws in your thinking, or where you need to make a change. Tonight: Say "yes" to an adventure.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Deal with a loved one directly. The topic at hand might be more difficult than you would have liked. If you believe you will have a quick conclusion to this discussion, think again. A misunderstanding is weaving through this conversation. Tonight: Agree to an offer.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Defer to others, and you will have less difficulty. However, if your anger suddenly flares up, remember that you let others take the lead. Tonight: The more people around you, the better the night will be.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Pace yourself, and get ahead of what needs to happen. An unexpected twist involving your finances could surprise you. Don't take good luck for granted. A domestic issue will work out much better than you think. Tonight: You do not have to go far.

February 23-24, 2013

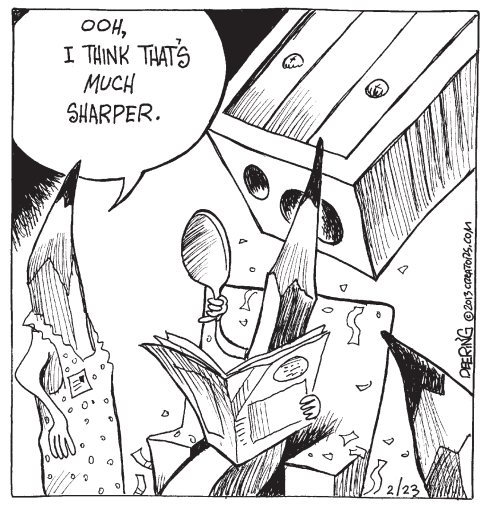
This year others are drawn to you like a bear is to honey. Many doors open up as a result. There is a theme of confusion that rides through your communication. You will learn to confirm meetings and question that which does not sound logical. If you are single, it might be difficult to get a relationship off the ground. The period prior to summer will be excellent for meeting potential suitors. If you are attached, the two of you will need to work on your communication, as misunderstandings tend to occur too easily. LEO makes you smile.

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

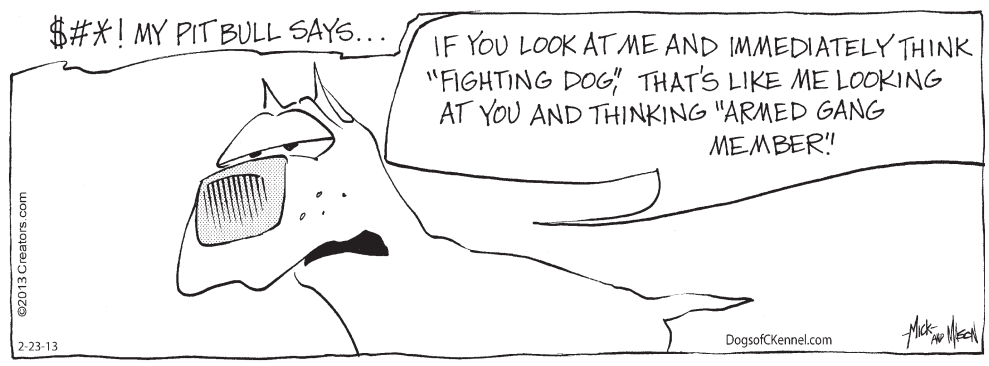
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



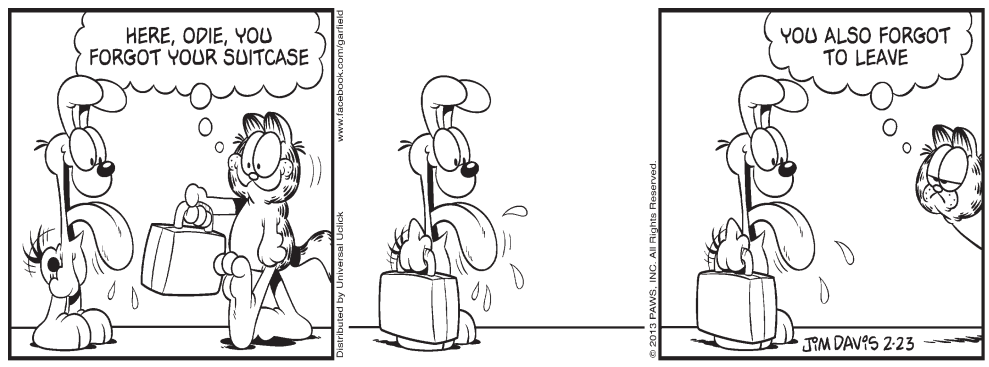
Strange Brew
By John Deering



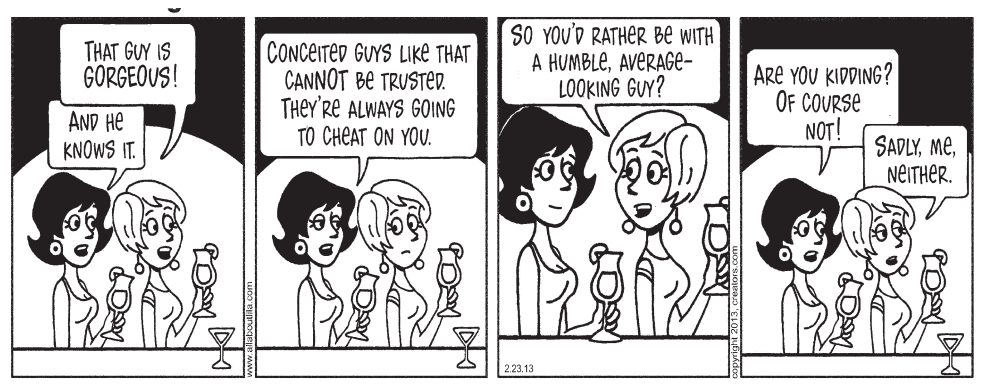
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Gooey sandwich
5 Roof supports
10 Turn away
12 Of the kidneys
13 Gauge
14 Without help
15 Print measures
16 Heart chart
18 Sturgeon yield
19 Abolitionist Harriet
21 Grade
22 Doves
24 Flash of light
25 Watch
29 Casserole staple
30 Passionate
32 Longoria of TV
33 Hoopla
34 In the past
35 Significant
37 Washroom sight
39 Floor piece
40 Outwitter of Sherlock
41 Hefty wrestlers
42 Midmonth day

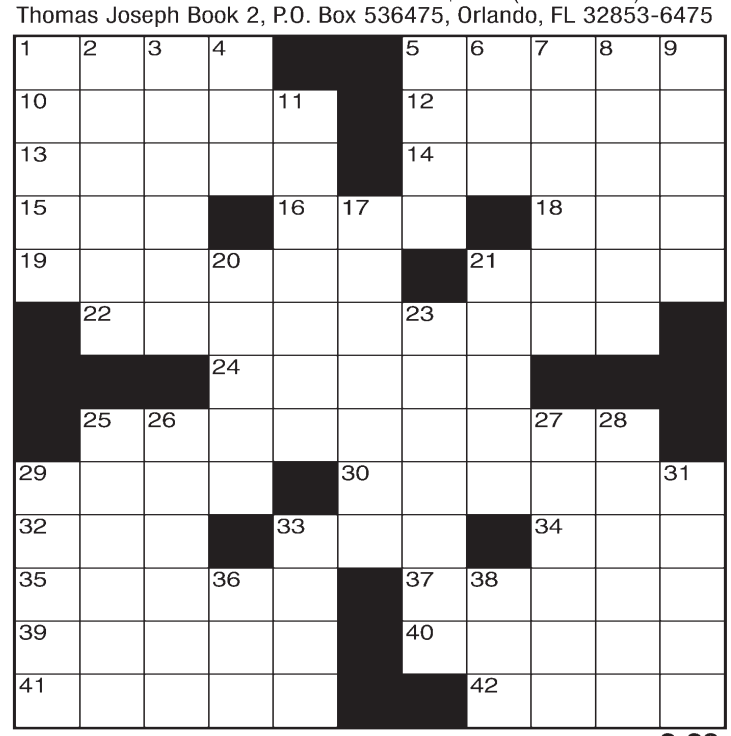
DOWN

1 "American Buffalo" playwright
2 Equalize
3 Doesn't bother
4 Uno plus due
5 Toot one's own horn
6 Sushi choice
7 Hooded jacket
8 Fancy homes
9 Glossy
11 Cloying sentiment
17 Patella protector
20 Molten rock
21 Acted out
23 African capital
25 Pacific nation
26 Stuck
27 Halted
28 Diesel invention
29 Office helpers
31 Musical sounds
33 Sacred chests
36 Lennon's love
38 "Entourage" agent

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

Yesterday's answer

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



2-23



AARP

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ (1) After a 51-year-old man was found dead in Everett, Wash., in January with his heavier girlfriend (192 pounds) lying face down on top of him, sheriff's deputies attributed cause of death as his having been smothered by the 50-year-old woman's breasts. Neighbors said they had heard the man screaming for the woman to get off of him. (2) In January, New York City police, arriving to check out an altercation and a death on the tracks at the East 125th Street subway station, found that the two incidents were unrelated. The man who was killed had actually fallen off of a train near the station while he was squatting between cars, defecating.

■ (1) Sophie Laboissonniere pleaded guilty in January to participating in the 2011 street riot in Vancouver, British Columbia, as part of a crowd that broke into a drugstore following the hometown Canucks' loss in the Stanley Cup finals. Months before the riot, in the Miss Coastal Vancouver beauty pageant, she had been voted Miss Congeniality. (2) On Nov. 4, "Holly" -- Jacob and Bonnie Richter's 4-year-old cat -- fled the couple's motor home (apparently frightened by fireworks) parked at the Daytona International Speedway and did not return. Searches were futile, and the Richters drove home to Palm Beach Gardens, about 190 miles away. Two weeks later, Holly appeared, disheveled with paws rubbed raw, about a mile from the Richters' home, and the finder returned her to the Richters based on Holly's microchip ID.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1954 – The first mass inoculation of children against polio with the Salk vaccine begins in Pittsburgh.

1955 – First meeting of the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO).

WORD UP!

varia
\ VAIR-ee-uh \ , noun;
1.
miscellaneous items, especially a miscellany of literary works.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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Los Angeles' top Stand Up Paddle Board company is looking for someone to help out on Wednesdays and weekends. We are located at Mother's Beach in Marina Del Rey. The job will include inventory maintenance, scheduling, cleaning, helping guests, etc. You will work on the beach and pay is $8. Please call 310-314-3537 for more info.

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DBAS

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2013006295 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 1/10/2013 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as SCN CAREGIVER. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: JONATHAN DE LA TORRE 1337 W. 220TH STREET TORRANCE CA 90501. This Business is being conducted by: . The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)12/1/2012. /s/: JONATHAN DE LA TORRE. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 1/10/2013. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 2/9/2013, 2/16/2013, 2/23/2013, 3/2/2013.

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