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Volume 10 Issue 95



Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered
THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER ISSUE

KERSHAW INKS NEW DEAL
SEE PAGE 12

City Hall moves forward with RDA projects despite uncertainty

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL As the state battles to meet Gov. Jerry Brown's March 9 budget deadline, cities like Santa Monica face a difficult choice — cut hundreds of millions of dollars worth of planned projects or risk getting the funding pulled out from under them mid-stream.

The governor's budget calls for giving the ax to redevelopment agencies, special creations of cities and counties that take a portion of property taxes within a specified geographic district and use the money to combat blight.

If approved, the state would take approximately $1.7 billion from those coffers to cover budgetary gaps in MediCal and the courts.

In Santa Monica alone, that could mean the loss of $283 million worth of projects, which include the new Pico Neighborhood Library, multiple parks and $57 million for the revitalization of the Samohi campus.

Even as the considerable funding source appears to be coming under fire, City Hall is moving forward with costly planning processes, such as over $1 million fronted to the school district for planning and environmental studies.

"Our thinking is to proceed as if it isn't happening, because we don't want to rush and make mistakes," said City Manager Rod Gould.

It's a risk, but staff believes it is secure against the cuts for two reasons, Gould said.

First is what many view as the inevitable legal challenge to the state removing redevelopment agencies.

"If the legislature were to pass legislation that would kill redevelopment, an immediate legal challenge would be brought by the California Redevelopment Association and the League of California Cities," Gould said.

The basis of that argument is that redevelopment appears three times in the

SEE RDA PAGE 8

BB oversight committee requests transparency, timeliness

Committee's report demurs on final decision

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS The Board of Education is expected to accept the report of the Measure BB Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee at its meeting tonight, a document that requests more clarity and alacrity on the part of both the district and its auditors.

The committee concluded that it could not state "beyond reasonable question" that the information it received from the district concerning the way Measure BB funds were spent reflected that the district had acted in compliance with state law.

Members also took pains to state that they couldn't draw a definitive conclusion from the information one way or another.

"We do not have confidence in an information source, the Special Audit Report, deemed to be critical in reaching a definitive conclusion," the report reads.

The statement refers to a report produced by the independent auditing firm Christy

SEE BB PAGE 7



Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

GOING HARD: **Samohi's Kristina Johnson collides with Kaija Powell from Mater Dei during the division semifinals at the Anaheim Arena on Tuesday. Powell was called for the foul. The Vikings lost 57-37 and were knocked out of the playoffs.**

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Mater Dei ousts Samohi from playoffs

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

ANAHEIM This time, Goliath won.

Coming off a stunning upset of Long Beach Poly, Santa Monica High School's girls' basketball team couldn't keep the magic going against Mater Dei Tuesday at the Anaheim Arena as the Vikings were eliminated from the CIF-Southern Section Division 1AA playoffs, 57-37.

Mater Dei, ranked No. 3 in the nation in a number of polls, advances to the division final against Brea Olinda, which is considered the consensus top team in America. Samohi is left to ponder what went wrong as the Vikings attempted to repeat as a CIF-SS champ.

"Beating Poly was such a high," Head Coach Marty Verdugo said. "But, we didn't keep that up as we had a slow start."

Mater Dei, true to form, raced out to an 18-5 lead after the first quarter, something Verdugo said his team couldn't allow. The Vikings were able to battle back and ended the half down 28-19.

Samohi opened the third quarter by scoring the first two baskets to shave Mater Dei's lead to 5 two minutes into the period. But, that would be as close as the Vikings could get as Mater Dei ended the third up 40-30, a lead they would steadily build upon.

"Santa Monica had our attention," Mater Dei head coach Kevin Kiernan said. "But, we thought we could outlast them."

The game was the second meeting of the season for both teams with Mater Dei sweeping the series. Kiernan said that this second

SEE SPORTS PAGE 9

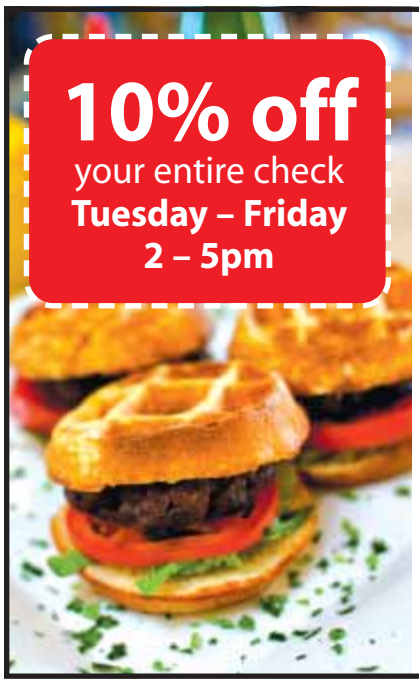
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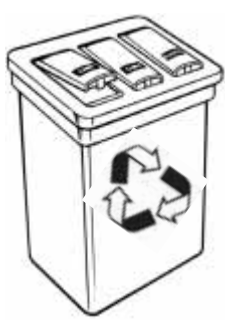
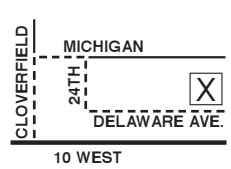
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, March 3, 2011

Get connected
Ocean Avenue Seafood
1401 Ocean Ave., 7 a.m. — 9 a.m.
Start the day off right with a little networking with the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce and the Santa Monica Daily Press. Over 40 members will be attending the breakfast. Make new contacts and get a goodie bag. Both members and prospective members are encouraged to attend. To register, visit http://smchamber.com or call Shelly at (310) 393-9825 ext. 10. Cost: $20 in advance for members, $25 at the door.

Mastering dance
SMC Main Campus, Gym 104
1900 Pico Blvd., 10:30 a.m.
The Santa Monica College Dance Department is proud to present the spring "Masters of Dance Series," an eclectic series of master classes and lectures that this semester will include styles ranging from street dance to the Lewitzky Technique. Today's class is "Articulating Bodies: Language, Motion, Meaning." Independent dance artist/scholar L. Martina Young will lead a lecture/movement writing workshop exploring the body as image-maker and the poetic relationships between gesture and language. Seating is on a first-arrived basis. For information, call (310) 434-3467 or go to www.smc.edu/dance.

You are what you eat
Main Library, Children's Activity Room
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 4 p.m. — 4:45 p.m.
Learn about the food you eat with the Santa Monica Farmers' Market. For teens in grades 6 to 12.

Lost dogs
Fred Segal
500 Broadway, 6 p.m. — 9 p.m.
BARKCODE and the Red Cross will be at Zero Minus Plus in Fred Segal to promote a new technology that uses mobile barcodes to help bring lost pets home. BARKCODE will be donating a portion of their proceeds from the sale of their Scan Code Pet ID Tags to the Red Cross. There will be speakers and refreshments.

Friday, March 4, 2011

Journey in sound
Edgemar Center for the Arts
2437 Main St., 8 p.m.
Listen to classic tunes in "Hoboken to Hollywood: A Journey Through The Great American Songbook," written by Luca Ellis, Paul Litteral and Jeremy Aldridge. Admission: $49.50. For reservations call (310) 392-7327. To purchase tickets online go to www.edgemarcenter.org. Performances also scheduled for the weekend.

Elemental Strings
John Adams Middle School
2425 16th St., 7 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Elemental Strings is a fun orchestra program for fourth and fifth grade string students in Santa Monica schools. Every week, students from across town gather for rehearsals and friendship. Join them for their March concert, including the world premiere of Robert Anderson's "Jah Mon!" Open to all. Price: Adults $5, students $2. For more information or to purchase tickets go to www.elementalstrings.org or call (310) 486-3857.

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

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



CORRECTION

In the article "Dreams do come true," which appeared in the March 2 edition of the Daily Press, it should have said non-Hodgkin's Burkitt's lymphoma.

Living well in less space: tiny houses catching on



Photo courtesy

LIVING LARGE? **A Katrina Cottage designed by architects Andres Duany and Marianne Cusato as a dignified alternative to the FEMA trailer for flood-ravaged New Orleans.**

BY SUSAN ZEVON
For The Associated Press

TINY HOUSES ARE GOING MAINSTREAM.

Just look at the Katrina Cottage, originally designed by architects Andres Duany and Marianne Cusato as a dignified alternative to the FEMA trailer for flood-ravaged New Orleans. The tiny charmers with pitched roofs, nostalgic front porches and 300 to 1,800 square feet are becoming popular elsewhere; Lowe's home stores sell the blueprints and materials.

The cottages are being used as affordable housing, guesthouses and vacation cottages.

It's part of a larger trend toward living small.

The average size of the American home expanded from 983 square feet in 1950 to 2,340 square feet in 2004, up 140 percent. This boom was largely driven by a belief that living big meant living well, and that real estate was a great investment so the bigger the house the better the investment.

The recession is one thing killing that notion. Millions of foreclosures have meant "people have lost a ton of equity," said Boyce Thompson, editorial director of Builder magazine. Add in high unemployment and energy costs, and no wonder small might seem better.

According to the American Institute of Architects in 2010, 57 percent of architecture firms reported a decrease in the square footage of homes they designed.

Another factor is people's desire to live more ecologically, less wastefully.

And there are demographic changes. Thompson points out that one-third of American home buyers are now single; people are marrying later, and many don't want to wait until marriage to invest in a house. Moreover, as Americans live longer, many widows and widowers are downsizing to small homes.

And with elderly parents and grown children returning home, there are more multigenerational families, increasing the demand "for small auxiliary buildings," Cusato says. Tiny dwellings allow generations of a family to live side-by-side with privacy.

HOW SMALL IS TINY?

Some people don't just want small; they want minuscule.

Mimi Zeiger, author of "Tiny Houses" (Rizzoli International, 2009) and the new "Micro-Green" (Rizzoli International, March 2011), defines tiny houses as around 1,000 square feet, although "some enthusiasts cap them at the 300- to 400-square-foot range," she says.

In "Tiny Houses," Zeiger presents three-dozen international examples, including some in the United States. She believes that America's abundance of land and materials has traditionally made us less conscious of conservation than people are elsewhere, but that is changing.

Cusato credits Sarah Susanka's book "The Not So Big House" (Taunton), first published in 1998 and expanded in 2009, with starting a movement to change the way builders work. "People started saying they wanted their houses to be smaller, but better," Cusato says.

Susanka, who considers a tiny house to be one measuring no more than 500 square feet, once lived in an 8-by-12-foot flatbed trailer truck.

"There has always been a fascination with tiny houses and an underground interest in them that surfaces when the economy goes down," Susanka says.

The best solution for housing in America, she believes, will be in the middle ground: 1,500 to 2,500 square feet.

"The gift of the recession will be that Americans will believe that bigger is not better," she says.

MAKING A TINY SPACE LIVABLE

"You have to be very disciplined to live in a tiny space," Susanka says.

Zeiger, who lives in a small studio apartment in Brooklyn, N.Y., says, "The most important thing that makes a tiny house livable is efficient space planning and clever storage. Like on a ship, things need to have dual purposes. You also need good light and air, so that the space isn't claustrophobic or hut-like, but is a space you want to spend time in."

Her table, for example, serves as both kitchen table and office desk.

Cusato agrees that light is essential in a small space. She recommends "windows on multiple walls in a room, two at a minimum — three or four are ideal. Tall ceilings — 9 feet in a small space feels great. When living in a tiny house, lots of storage is essential. Nothing makes the walls close in faster than clutter."

Proximity to a public space is fundamental, she believes, and recommends that porches or terraces connect to street life or a garden.

"The house does not need to be the size of an entire town if it is connected to a town," Cusato says.

Zeiger notes that it's easy for urbanites living in tiny spaces to go out and engage with the rest of the world. When her apartment starts to feel cramped, she goes to a neighborhood coffee shop. And since she doesn't have space for a lot of bookshelves, she takes full advantage of the public library.

There is also in America the tradition of Thoreau's Walden, the tiny cottage in the wilderness where natural surroundings become part of the living space.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CYBERSPACE

Buying local made easy

The Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation has teamed up with the Buy Local Santa Monica campaign to launch a website that makes it easier for people to support public schools while at the same time saving money and helping local businesses thrive.

BuyLocalMarket.com is an online shopping platform like Groupon.com that features local businesses who donate a portion of their proceeds to the ed foundation, a nonprofit that funds art programs, athletics and academics.

Seventy five businesses are featured on the site, each offering various discounts. For example, Rosti Tuscan Kitchen is offering their pizza at a 14 percent discount and will be donating an additional $2 to the ed foundation for every order they receive.

The website is expected to streamline fundraising efforts this year, ed foundation officials said.

DAILY PRESS

SUNSET PARK

Helping boomers volunteer

The Santa Monica YWCA, with the help of the Commission on the Status of Women, has established a new partnership to train baby boomers so that they can serve as "high-level" volunteers with nonprofits and civic offices.

The Westside's Women's Partnership will include a series of learning weekends in private Westside homes that will help participants better communicate their life experiences and learn more about the issues facing Santa Monica.

"We saw a need with baby boomers who represent the largest number of women in history who are retiring," said Julia Miele, executive director of the YWCA. "They are looking for something beyond retirement, something stimulating and that draws on their expertise or gives them an opportunity to refine a passion they have but may have put on hold because of their careers."

With the recession, many organizations have had to lay off workers and are in need of qualified volunteers to help with the workload, Miele said. The YWCA had to let go of some staff and is relying on more volunteers, she said.

To register, visit www.smywca.org. Each session, $80. Sign up for all three, $200.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Bring back Billy

Editor:

Was it just me or did Sunday's Oscar show really suck? Now James Franco and Anne Hathaway are real cute and all but they were a bad choice to host the show. I hope that the producers of the telecast were paying attention when everyone in attendance gave Billy Crystal an extended standing ovation when he came on stage.

Memo to the producers: Give Billy Crystal the hosting job for as long as he wants it! He is obviously an industry favorite and he hosted some of the most memorable Academy Awards shows in the recent past.

Barry Barker
Santa Monica

Clean the bike path

Editor:

As I continue to read the bike path banter between bicyclers and pedestrians, I have to wonder if any of this makes it to the people that need to be aware of it the most? Has anyone from the Recreation & Parks Department even been out to the bike path to actually see the concerns? There seems to be so much talk of safety and concern, but has anyone thought to maybe clean the bike path, even once a week, as so there is more of the actual bike path to share? So many places on the path are overcome with sand from lack of maintenance that there is little of even one lane to share. This seems to be such an obvious hazard that is never addressed. A little help from parks and rec please!

Claudia Prevost
Santa Monica



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Life Matters

JoAnne Barge & Katrina Davy Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Social media and the job search: Friend or foe?

DEAR NEW SHRINK,

I have heard from several people that social media can help individuals find new jobs. On the other hand I have also heard that some people have lost out on job offers as a result of personal things they have posted online. Can you help clarify?

Signed,
Puzzled

DEAR PUZZLED,

Both sides are correct. There are stories of individuals who have secured new positions as a result of social media. There are also plenty of accounts describing people who have lost out on great job opportunities because of what they posted or featured on their personal profiles or websites. Ultimately social media can be a great source of job leads and can show an employer you're the best candidate for the job, if it is used appropriately and strategically.

The rise of the Internet and social media has made it easier for applicants to apply to open positions. It has also made it easier for employers to learn more about candidates before the first interview. Using social media effectively starts with managing your image properly. Use your privacy settings, but don't rely on them too much. Keeping your personal information private is important, but beyond just resorting to settings simply think before you post. Put yourself in the mind of the recruiter. How would they interpret what you're about to write or that picture you're tagged in?

It is also important to find out what's available for others to see. Do a simple Google search to see what's attached to your name. You should also be mindful of who you friend or accept invitations from. It is not just a numbers game. Develop your own personal policy for your Facebook and LinkedIn accounts and stick to it.

Sensitive information is not intended to be part of the hiring process for a reason. Keep sensitive information, including religious preferences, marital status, political beliefs, or other personal affiliations, off of your public profile. Use the rule of thumb that if the information is not appropriate in an interview or as part of the hiring process the information itself does not need to be posted publicly online.

Have purpose in what you do online. Use your social media tools as a way to showcase your skills and interests. Your tweets, posts, and updates should relate to what you're truly passionate about. An employer's top concern is hiring someone who is passionate about what they do — it's what gets them through the rough days and tough clients. You can also show your interests by joining professional groups online. Joining the groups designed for your industry can be a great way to increase your visibility among colleagues in your field and show your interest in the professional community. Signing up for daily or weekly digest e-mails can help you stay on top of what others are talking about. But, don't just be a quiet bystander. If you have something to say, feel free to add in your thoughts or experience. Providing insightful comments can be a great way to get noticed.

SOCIAL MEDIA CAN HELP YOU LAND YOUR NEXT GIG AND IT CAN ALSO HELP YOU KEEP IT.

Use LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook as a way to identify who is hiring and then do your own background research to make a tailored approach to those employers. The companies who are hiring a greater number of people in a shorter amount of time often resort to social media tools as a way to identify qualified applicants in a quick, inexpensive manner.

Social media can help you land your next gig and it can also help you keep it. Employers continue to monitor employee's social media presence even after the hiring process is completed. Maintaining and promoting your online image should not just take place when you're actively searching for a new position. Use your social media tool as a way to keep in touch with friends, former classmates and colleagues, and professional contacts. Keep in mind that others can see when you post. Save your personal updates and photo sharing for post-work hours. You serve as an extension of that company so make sure you are adding value in the office and online.

KATRINA DAVY is a Santa Monica based professional career counselor who holds degrees from Cornell and Columbia universities. Send your questions to newshrink@gmail.com. All questions are kept anonymous; let us help you with your life matters! Visit us online at www.newshrink.com.



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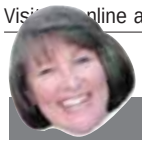
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Play Time
Cynthia Citron
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Arthur Miller's 'Broken Glass' entertains at Pico Playhouse

PHILLIP GELLBURG KEEPS INSISTING THAT he worships and adores his wife Sylvia, yet he hasn't made love to her in more than 20 years. "You gradually give up and it closes over you like a grave," he says.

Further, he hates the fact that he is Jewish and devotes himself to "passing" for Gentile, yet he asserts, "They will never destroy us. When the last Jew dies, the light of the world will go out."

This conflicted man is the antihero of Arthur Miller's 1994 play, "Broken Glass," now at the Pico Playhouse in West Los Angeles. He is stiff, humorless, and fearful and spends his life berating his wife and cowering to his boss, who continually refers to him as "you people." Actor Michael Bofshever, however, is able to make him both pitiable and understandable in his anguish and frustration.

His wife Sylvia (Susan Angelo) has no weapons to use in asserting herself. She has suppressed her own personality, submerging her identity in order to be the perfect compatible wife in what has turned out to be a flawed and unhappy marriage. Seething with unresolved resentment, she laments, "I gave away my life." And in a moment of candor she acknowledges, "There's nothing I know now that I didn't know 20 years ago. I just didn't say it."

As the play opens, Phillip is consulting Sylvia's doctor (a charming Stephen Burleigh) about a strange paralysis that she has acquired that seems to have no physical cause. Yet she is unable to move her body from the waist down. Is this her way of punishing him for his years of aloofness and neglect?

Or is she really as obsessed as she appears to be with the hideous events unfolding in Germany? It is 1938, and the newspapers have been reporting on Kristallnacht, "the night of broken glass," when vandals have erupted throughout Germany to trash synagogues and break the windows of shops owned by Jews.

She is transfixed by pictures of old, bearded Jews, down on their knees, forced by Nazi toughs to scrub Germany's sidewalks with a toothbrush. The humiliation she feels is tinged with the fear that this kind of brutality against the Jews could be duplicated in America. "To be alive is to be afraid," the doctor says. "We are born afraid. It's how we deal with it that counts."

"Broken Glass" is filled with Arthur Miller's consistent themes: identity (and/or the loss of it), personal responsibility, and forgiveness. All three are powerfully rendered and, under Elina de Santos' strong direction, emotionally gripping.

The action falters a bit, however, as the play is slowed down by repetition. Sylvia expresses her torment too many times over the old men cleaning the sidewalks with toothbrushes; Phillip strives to explain himself (and apologize) to everyone in sight. "Why are you so cut off from yourself?" the doctor asks him, provoking yet another explanation. Even though it's considered a major sin to tamper with a playwright's work (especially one as acclaimed as Arthur Miller), a little tightening wouldn't hurt.

Otherwise, the play is enhanced by its three additional characters: Lindsey Ginter as Phillip's subtly menacing boss, Peggy Dunne as the doctor's supportive wife, and Renae Geerlings as Sylvia's concerned sister.

Scenic designer Erin Brewster has put together a minimal amount of rather boring furniture to represent the offices of the doctor and of Phillip's boss, as well as the bedroom in which Sylvia languishes. Leigh Allen differentiates between the settings with an effective lighting design, and Melanie Watnick has deftly revealed the personalities of the various characters with her appropriate costume designs.

"Broken Glass" is no "Death of a Salesman" (what play is?), but it's definitely worth seeing. Arthur Miller always has a lot to say, and he says it better than almost anybody else.

"Broken Glass," produced by the West Coast Jewish Theatre, will continue Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through April 17 at Pico Playhouse, 10580 Pico Blvd., in Los Angeles. Call (323) 821-2449 for reservations.

CYNTHIA CITRON can be reached at ccitron@socal.rr.com.

The Q Line

Restoring public trust

City Manager Rod Gould recently told the City Council that the Santa Monica Police Department mishandled the investigation of school board member Oscar de la Torre. Police leadership promise changes to its practices in the wake of an independent investigation of the de la Torre probe.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think these actions will improve the public trust in the department, or are they window dressing?

Contact **qline@smdp.com** before **Friday at 5 p.m.** and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. You can also call **(310) 458-7737 ext. 102.**


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A Roundabout Way Of Thinking

Drivers in Santa Monica might have noticed some recent changes to many intersections around town that have people wondering if they are headed down the Champs Elysees towards the Arch de Triumph or perhaps lost on an English country road. The roundabout intersection has made a roundabout trip across the world to Santa Monica with the hopes of easing traffic congestion and making the roads safer for drivers and pedestrians alike. Drivers here in Santa Monica must be aware of the traffic rules and regulations that govern roundabout driving so that motorists are not stranded like foreigners in a foreign land. Here are some basic rules and explanations about roundabouts that will hopefully help you on your way around town.

The basic definition of a roundabout is a circular junction in which road traffic must travel in one direction around a central island. Roundabouts increase safety in the community by requiring drivers to both decrease their speeds and in turn increase their awareness upon entering the intersection. Roundabouts also increase a neighborhood's aesthetic appeal by creating charming and unique architectural designs. Neatly landscaped circles or placement of a statue, monument, or flagpole give roundabouts a homely and suburban feel despite their very urban purpose. Pedestrians are often prohibited or discouraged from entering the center circle of a roundabout, but pedestrians and drivers can nonetheless enjoy the visual charisma that the intersection adds to a community. Roundabouts facilitate motorists, bicyclists, runners, and dog-walkers in an efficient and competent manner.

Roundabouts have some negative drawbacks as well. Larger vehicles and trucks may find it difficult to navigate through narrow roundabouts that are not built to handle such vehicles. The recent implementation of roundabouts in Santa Monica has also caused some backup and unwanted traffic delays at roundabouts where drivers are not familiar with the traffic laws and traffic flow. On the same note, there is a greater risk of traffic collisions and accidents from drivers who are simply not paying attention to their surroundings. Roundabouts require far greater concentration and awareness than do conventional squared intersections.

Upon entering a roundabout, drivers should first notice a sign or traffic indicator alerting the driver to slow down and prepare to yield. A painted dashed line will also alert drivers that they are entering a roundabout intersection. Unless otherwise indicated, drivers do not have to come to a complete stop; however, the situation may require a complete stop depending on traffic conditions at the time. Remember, pedestrians always have the right of way! So, if you see a bicyclist, jogger, or walker you must stop in order to allow that person safe passage. If there are no other cars in the roundabout and no pedestrians, the driver can then safely enter the roundabout. Most Santa Monica roundabouts are one-way, meaning a driver can only make a right turn to enter the roundabout and a right turn to exit the roundabout.

A driver that is already in the roundabout has the right of way over a driver that is entering the roundabout. Thus, if you are the car that is approaching the roundabout and slowing down getting ready to turn into the roundabout, do not expect another car that is already in the roundabout to stop or slow to let you in! This area tends to be one of the most confusing aspects of roundabouts, but if you remember that the car already in the roundabout has the right of way…you should be alright. Regardless of who has the right of way, drivers should nonetheless always remain vigilant and aware of their surroundings to prevent any kind of accident. Keep a slow to moderate speed while circling depending on the traffic at the time. Also, it is very important that drivers remember to use their turn signals. Turn signals alert circling drivers inside the roundabout and allow other drivers to adjust speeds based on turns. Moreover, a turn signal also notifies drivers waiting to enter the roundabout that the path is clear for them to safely make the maneuver.

Avoid unnecessary traffic citations, accidents, and congestion by following these simple roundabout rules. Remember to be aware, vigilant, and attentive to your surroundings at all time. Adjust to a roundabout way of thinking and enjoy the ride around town!

THIS COLUMN WAS PREPARED BY JACOB GLUCKSMAN, A CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY. HE CAN BE REACHED THROUGH THE LEGAL GRIND AT 310-452-1860 OR REFERRAL@LEGALGRIND.COM

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WEDNESDAY	
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SATURDAY	
10am-12noon	(1st, 3rd, & 5th Saturday/Month) Estate Planning, Trust & Will Contests Probate, Elder Law, Business Litigation, Formation & Dissolution, Contracts, HOA & Personal Injury with Attorney Richard Ruman

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Supreme Court: Raucous funeral picketers allowed

BY MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON The Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that a grieving father's pain over jeering protests at his Marine son's funeral must yield to First Amendment protections for free speech. All but one justice sided with a fundamentalist church that has stirred outrage with raucous demonstrations contending God is punishing the military for the nation's tolerance of homosexuality.

The 8-1 decision in favor of the Westboro Baptist Church of Topeka, Kan., was the latest in a line of court rulings that, as Chief Justice John Roberts said in his opinion for the court, protects "even hurtful speech on public issues to ensure that we do not stifle public debate."

The decision ended a lawsuit by Albert Snyder, who sued church members for the emotional pain they caused by showing up at his son Matthew's funeral. As they have at hundreds of other funerals, the Westboro members held signs with provocative messages, including "Thank God for dead soldiers," "You're Going to Hell," "God Hates the USA/Thank God for 9/11," and one that combined the U.S. Marine Corps motto, Semper Fi, with a slur against gay men.

Justice Samuel Alito, the lone dissenter, said Snyder wanted only to "bury his son in peace." Instead, Alito said, the protesters "brutally attacked" Matthew Snyder to attract public attention. "Our profound national commitment to free and open debate is not a license for the vicious verbal assault that occurred in this case," he said.

The ruling, though, was in line with many earlier court decisions that said the First Amendment exists to protect robust debate on public issues and free expression, no matter how distasteful. A year ago, the justices struck down a federal ban on videos that show graphic violence against animals. In 1988, the court unanimously overturned a verdict for the Rev. Jerry Falwell in his libel lawsuit against Hustler magazine founder Larry Flynt over a raunchy parody ad.

What might have made this case different was that the Snyders are not celebrities or public officials but private citizens. Both Roberts and Alito agreed that the Snyders were the innocent victims of the long-running campaign by the church's pastor, the Rev. Fred Phelps, and his family members who make up most of the Westboro Baptist Church. Roberts said there was no doubt the protesters added to Albert Snyder's "already incalculable grief."

But Roberts said the frequency of the protests — and the church's practice of demonstrating against Catholics, Jews and many other groups — is an indication that Phelps and his flock were not mounting a personal attack against Snyder but expressing deeply held views on public topics.

Indeed, Matthew Snyder was not gay. But "Westboro believes that God is killing American soldiers as punishment for the nation's sinful policies," Roberts said.

"Speech is powerful. It can stir people to action, move them to tears of both joy and sorrow, and — as it did here — inflict great pain. On the facts before us, we cannot react to that pain by punishing the speaker," Roberts said.

Margie Phelps, a daughter of the minister and a lawyer who argued the case at the Supreme Court, said she expected the outcome. "The only surprise is that Justice Alito did not feel compelled to follow his oath," Phelps said. "We read the law. We follow the law. The only way for a different ruling is to shred the First Amendment."

She also offered her church's view of the decision. "I think it's pretty self-explanatory, but here's the core point: the wrath of God is pouring onto this land. Rather than trying to shut us up, use your platforms to tell this nation to mourn for your sins."

Veterans groups reacted to the ruling with dismay. Veterans of Foreign Wars national commander Richard L. Eubank said, "The Westboro Baptist Church may think they have won, but the VFW will continue to support community efforts to ensure no one hears their voice, because the right to free speech does not trump a family's right to mourn in private."

The picketers obeyed police instructions and stood about 1,000 feet from the Catholic church in Westminster, Md., where the funeral took place in March of 2006.

The protesters drew counter-demonstrators, as well as media coverage and a heavy police presence to maintain order. The result was a spectacle that led to altering the route of the funeral procession.



BB
FROM PAGE 1

White Accountancy, based in San Diego, which reviewed approximately 20 percent of all transactions to verify the accuracy of expenditures, budgets and reporting to determine whether or not the district was spending money appropriately.

The language of the citizens' committee analysis may have come out harsher than anticipated, said Committee Vice Chair Neil Carrey.

"We couldn't make a definitive statement based on the year we were dealing with, and what we had seen in the use of bond proceeds," Carrey said. "That doesn't mean we feel there's a potential issue."

In fact, Carrey felt confident that there was no discrepancy in how the district had used the money.

The committee took issue with how long it took to get the materials to review, cases of commingling of BB money with other unrelated money and the clarity of the Special Audit Report.

Committee members were asked to respond to an audit of fiscal year 2009, Carrey said, which spans the dates between July 1, 2008 and June 30, 2009.

"That was part of the problem, that we need to speed up this process so there's not such an enormous time lag," he said.

The discrepancy also makes pieces of the report throwback information. In many cases, the district has already fixed problems noted by the committee.

One such was an informal loan of Measure BB money to the Boys and Girls Club for a building project, which resulted from a commingling of funds for the club and Measure BB in the same district account.

Although the club paid for the majority of the project, the district served as the agency that hired and paid contractors.

The district then billed the Boys and Girls Club for the work the contractors had performed, said the district's Chief Financial Officer Jan Maez.

The money temporarily missing from the account represented a payment by the school that had not been immediately reimbursed by the club, Maez said.

"We don't disagree that could be considered a loan, and probably was something we'd want to avoid," Maez said. "The fact that it was all in one fund facilitated that to occur."

Since, the funds have been separated completely, and both the principal money and interest have been returned to the BB fund.

The committee also noted a lack of clarity in the report, specifically that pieces of it were factually inaccurate, and that it omitted information that could make it appear to the layperson that serious accounting errors had been made.

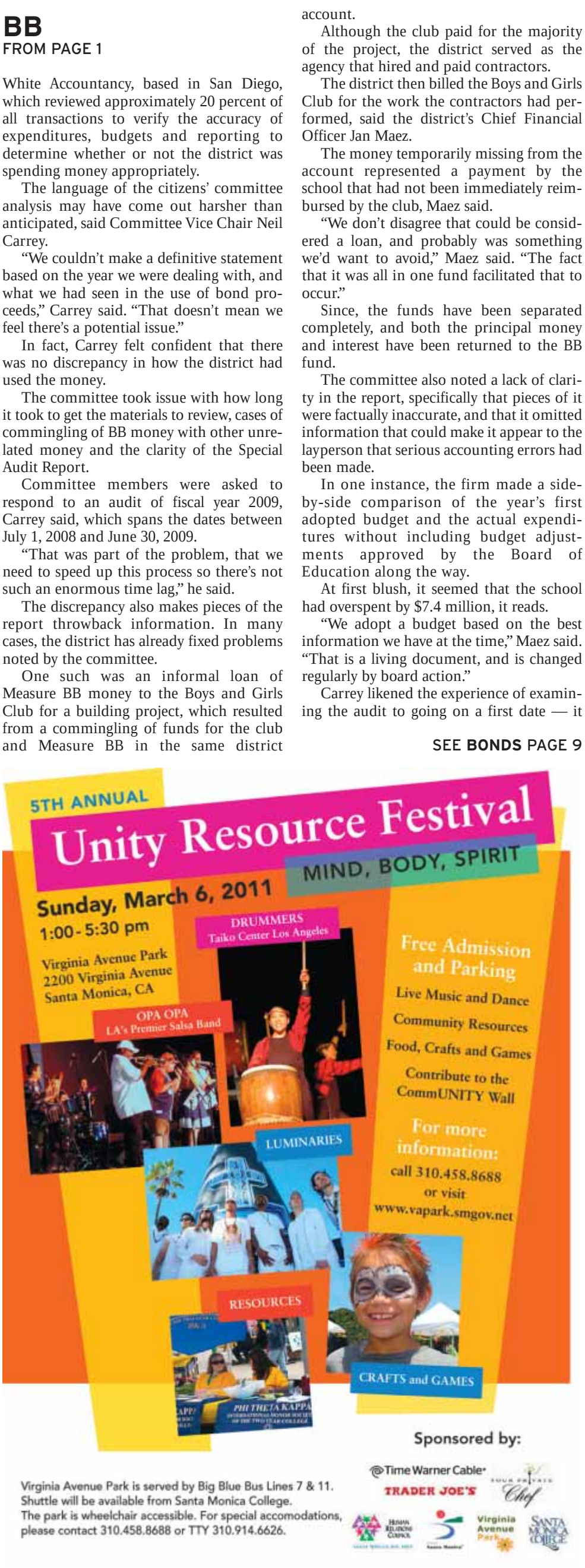
In one instance, the firm made a side-by-side comparison of the year's first adopted budget and the actual expenditures without including budget adjustments approved by the Board of Education along the way.

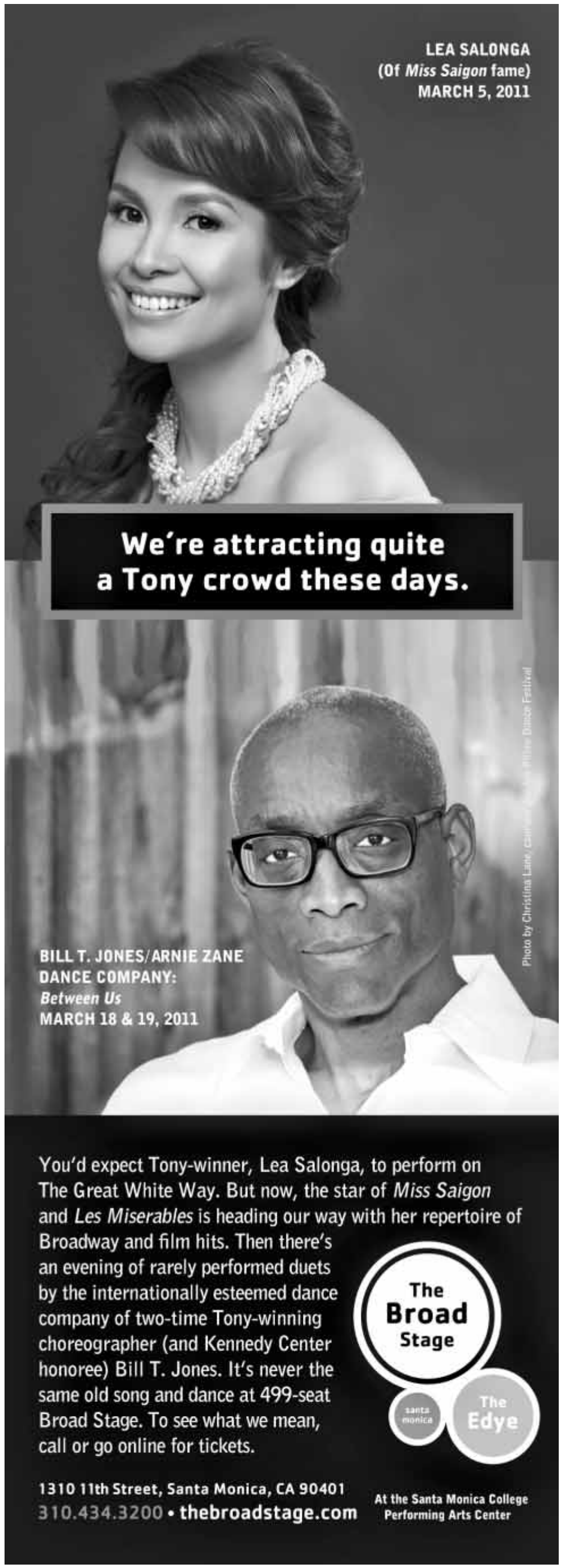
At first blush, it seemed that the school had overspent by $7.4 million, it reads.

"We adopt a budget based on the best information we have at the time," Maez said. "That is a living document, and is changed regularly by board action."

Carrey likened the experience of examining the audit to going on a first date — it

SEE **BONDS** PAGE 9





RDA

FROM PAGE 1

California Constitution, and enjoys constitutional protections.

More recently, voters passed Proposition 22 in November, which expressly prohibits the state seizure of local government funds.

"We don't think that the state can enact a law that contradicts the constitution," Gould said.

The money held in redevelopment agencies cannot be touched under the state constitution, said Ethan Walsh, an attorney with Best, Best and Krieger. The firm represents the California Redevelopment Association.

"I think there are protections in place in the law that segregate this money for a specific purpose in the law and constitution," Walsh said. "It's protected for the specific purposes in which redevelopment got it in the first place."

Santa Monica's second defense rests in an action taken by the City Council in August 2010, when the council and the Redevelopment Agency entered into an agreement guaranteeing the pass-through funds would be used for a set list of projects.

The foresight may help the projects get past another legislative hurdle.

A trailer bill recently unveiled by the governor's office would negate redevelopment projects entered into after Jan. 1, when Brown unveiled his budget plan.

"Sometimes it's good to be lucky, and sometimes it's better to be good," Gould said. "This time, it's a little of both."

Many cities hustled to obligate as much of their redevelopment money as possible to prevent the state from taking it, but after the proposed budget was announced.

Under the language of the trailer bill, the state will have three years from the start-date of those contracts to rule whether or not they were entered into legally, said Brown spokesman Evan Westrup.

"This allows for ample time for review of those projects that were put on the fast track to sequester hundreds of millions of dollars," Westrup said.

It won't retroactively cancel contracts already made, he said.

Certainly that's what Santa Monica officials are hoping for, but it's not bulletproof, Walsh said.

As written, the plan freezes all redevelopment agency actions until July 1, at which point the agencies will be dissolved and the money and debt obligations will be transferred to the city or county which created the agency.

As the "successor agency," the city would then move forward with projects already under way, and give the remainder of the money to the state for fiscal year 2012. After that, the property tax revenue which funds redevelopment agencies would go back to local taxing agencies, including the city and schools.

The governor's position is that this will correct an imbalance in funds as the agencies' coffers swell with property taxes while cities are forced to cut basic services because they cannot access redevelopment funds for those purposes, Westrup said.

As the successor agency, Santa Monica should then be able to continue on with the projects agreed to in August, but only if a cooperative agreement between a city and its redevelopment agency is considered an "enforceable obligation" under the law, Walsh said.

"From everything I've seen, the state's clear that it's their intent not to honor those obligations," Walsh said.

It's also disingenuous for the state to claim that cities will have as much money for redevelopment-type projects when fiscal times improve without redevelopment agencies, Walsh said.

Redevelopment agencies get more money from property taxes than a city would by itself, which would mean more dollars to put toward projects like building improvements, libraries and public parks.

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SPORTS
FROM PAGE 1

meeting was reminiscent of the first with Mater Dei running out to a big lead only to have Samohi catch up before losing steam.

"We just wanted to do what we did before, better," Kiernan said.

Mater Dei was led by UConn-bound Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis, who led all scorers with 20 points. She also pulled down 12 rebounds.

Samohi was led by University of the Pacific-bound point guard Kristina "KJ" Johnson, who scored 12 points in defeat. Senior Bianka Balthazar added 7 points of her own. Balthazar has signed to play for Long Beach State next season.

"We're disappointed not to win tonight," Samohi head coach Marty Verdugo said. "But, I couldn't be more proud of these girls."

Despite the loss, Samohi has qualified for the state tournament, which begins next week.

Brackets have yet to be released, but it doesn't matter to the Vikings, who vow to do what it takes to keep the season alive.

"We have to shake [the loss] off," UCLA-signee Moriah Faulk said. "We have to get back on our grind at practice."

Verdugo, who earlier this season announced that this would be his final year as head coach, said that emotions haven't set in because the Vikings lived to play another day.

"I believe that we should go deep into the state playoffs with this team," Verdugo said. "These [players] have the hearts of warriors."

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BONDS
FROM PAGE 7

takes time for people to be comfortable and communicate with one another.

In this case, he admitted, the committee relied too heavily on the Special Audit Report, although it felt that the district could have improved what went into the document and what was left out.

"It's important to cultivate greater consciousness, to make sure things are run in such a way that these inadvertent errors will not occur," he said.

Clarity is key in the post-Bell world, he said, referring to the July 2010 revelations that corruption had run rampant in the now infamous Southern California city of Bell.

"Sometimes perception is more important than the facts," Carrey said.

In a five-page response to the report, district staff noted that improvements in the reporting method could and would be made, although it did not believe that all of the requested information could be incorporated in the Special Audit Report.

Staff noted that all materials are open to the committee and the public, but that inclusion in a single report would make it difficult to conform to state reporting requirements.

"The primary message here is that the district is working closely to improve the reporting and make it more complete," Maez said. "I believe that the reporting we're doing is accurate. I also believe that how we're spending these bond funds is completely in sync with what the voters gave us this money for."

Measure BB authorized the district to sell bonds for up to $268 million for capital improvements at secondary campuses in the district and the construction of a new school at Edison Elementary, as well as a number of smaller safety projects.

To date, approximately half of that money has been bonded.

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LA police chief supports big ammo ban

BY THOMAS WATKINS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES The city's police chief on Wednesday endorsed a proposed federal ban on the sale of high-capacity ammunition magazines that have been used in mass shootings.

If passed, the ban would prohibit the sale or transfer of any magazine that holds more than 10 rounds, though possession of magazines legally purchased before the ban's start date would be allowed.

Jared Loughner, the suspect in the shooting that wounded U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and killed six people in Arizona, legally bought the 9 mm handgun he's accused of using at a Tucson grocery store. Authorities say he was carrying extended magazines that hold 30 rounds of ammunition.

"There is no reason that a peaceful society based on rule of law needs its citizenry armed with 30-round magazines," Police Chief Charlie Beck said at a news conference, adding that they transform a gun "into a weapon of mass death rather than a home-protection-type device."

The federal bill was authored by Rep. Carolyn McCarthy, D-N.Y., whose husband was killed and son seriously wounded in a 1993 shooting. The sale of high-capacity magazines is already banned in California.

Several law enforcement officials have endorsed the proposed ban, but Beck, who heads the nation's third-largest police force after New York and Chicago, has the highest profile.

"Large-capacity ammunition magazines carry far more bullets than any civilian could possibly ever use," Richard M. Aborn, president of the Citizens Crime Commission of New York City, said in a statement. "Common sense restrictions provide law enforcement with a tactical advantage over criminals, making us all safer."

The National Rifle Association would do everything in its power to stop the law, the group's spokesman Andrew Arulanandam said.

Members of the public should be allowed access to high-capacity magazines to protect themselves from attacks by armed mobs, he said.

"When someone is being attacked by multiple people, it is only reasonable that they are given as much opportunity to defend themselves as they need," Arulanandam said.

High-capacity magazines were banned in 1994, but Congress refused to renew the law and it expired in 2004.

Since then, such magazines have been used in several mass shootings, including the Virginia Tech slayings in 2007 that left 33 dead, and the 2009 attack at Fort Hood, Texas, that killed 13.

McCarthy's bill, which was introduced Jan. 18, currently has 90 co-sponsors.

STATE BRIEFS

SACRAMENTO, Calif.

Democrats cool to targeting workers' pensions

Democratic lawmakers are criticizing a watchdog organization's recommendation that California freeze pension benefits for current state and local government workers.

Stuart Drown, executive director of the Little Hoover Commission, told a legislative hearing Wednesday that California's public pension systems face soaring liabilities as baby boomers retire and live longer. The commission said obligations to retirees will become unsustainable in the future.

It made its recommendations for reform in a report last week.

Democrats control both legislative houses and generally support public employee unions. They say the commission's proposal to cut existing workers' benefits faces such legal hurdles that it likely is not worth pursuing.

Democratic Sen. Alex Padilla of Los Angeles chided commissioners for presenting a solution that "raises legal and constitutional red flags."

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MANTECA, Calif.

Woman survives 35-mile ride on hood

The woman desperately gripped a windshield wiper blade, her body splayed across the hood of the minivan as it raced down a Northern California freeway in the middle of the night, reaching 100 mph, witnesses said.

With the temperature hovering in the low 30s, Christopher Michael Carroll drove 35 miles from Manteca to nearby Pleasanton on Saturday with his wife clinging to the hood, prompting 911 calls from at least two alarmed witnesses, police said.

Carroll, 36, was being held without bail Wednesday at the San Joaquin County Jail on charges of attempted murder, kidnapping and domestic assault, according to sheriff's department records.

Carroll got into the family's minivan around 12:30 a.m. Saturday after he and his wife had an argument at their Manteca home, said police spokesman Rex Osborn.

"She kind of goes with the van to try to stop him, gets up on the hood and is hanging on to the wiper blade," he said. "She obviously didn't think he would keep driving."

Carroll sped through Manteca, got on the freeway and didn't pull over until he reached Pleasanton, Osborn said.

Eventually, Carroll slowed down the vehicle and his wife "was able to roll off," Osborn said. The driver following the vehicle took the woman to a nearby hospital, where she was treated for hypothermia. Carroll returned home, where police arrested him a short time later, Osborn said.

AP

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Fire chief unaware of gas line before explosion

BY JOAN LOWY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Until a deadly explosion south of San Francisco last year, local firefighters had no idea there was a large gas transmission pipeline underneath their town — a recurring problem in pipeline accidents, federal safety officials said Wednesday.

Pacific Gas & Electric Company, which owned the line, did not tell the San Bruno fire department about it or provide a map with its location, the town's fire chief, Dennis Haag, told a National Transportation Safety Board hearing Wednesday. Gas company training materials provided to the fire department were generic, he said.

Haag acknowledged his department hadn't made use of a federal website that provides first responders with maps of gas lines in their community.

"We didn't have the information, we didn't have maps of a pipeline going through," Haag said. "We have heard today there is a system we can access. I just didn't know about it, to be honest with you."

When the pipeline exploded underneath a subdivision, residents and firefighters in the small town south of San Francisco International airport mistakenly thought a plane had crashed. Sixty-eight firefighters arrived on scene, but a giant fireball fed by escaping gas kept them from reaching many of the burning homes until the gas was turned off over an hour later, Haag said.

"Without the fuel supply there is a possibility we could have been in an offensive, rather than a defensive, mode," he said.

Even if he had known about the pipeline, Haag said he wouldn't have done anything differently to fight the fire.

Eight people were killed in the accident, including five whom coroner's reports indicate were fleeing, and dozens of homes were destroyed.

Aaron Rezendez, a PG&E official, said the company holds a meeting each year for San Francisco peninsula fire departments like San Bruno to talk about the company's pipelines, but it is usually attended by less than 20 people. He said there is a large map displayed at the meeting.

Haag said one of his officers attended the 2010 meeting.

Rezendez also said the company sends customers literature inside bills about pipeline safety and pipelines in their community, among other efforts to raise public awareness.

NTSB Chairwoman Deborah Hersman noted that when PG&E sent 15,000 customers postcards asking them if they were aware of transmission lines in their community, the company received only 20 replies. Half the people who responded said they didn't know they had transmission lines nearby, she said.

PG&E recently launched a website in coordination with Google that allows customers to find the location of transmission pipelines in their neighborhoods.

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Wireless AMBER Alerts
Ad Council
A child is calling for help.

Dr. Deborah Wallen

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Santa Monica


Hollywood




SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 59°

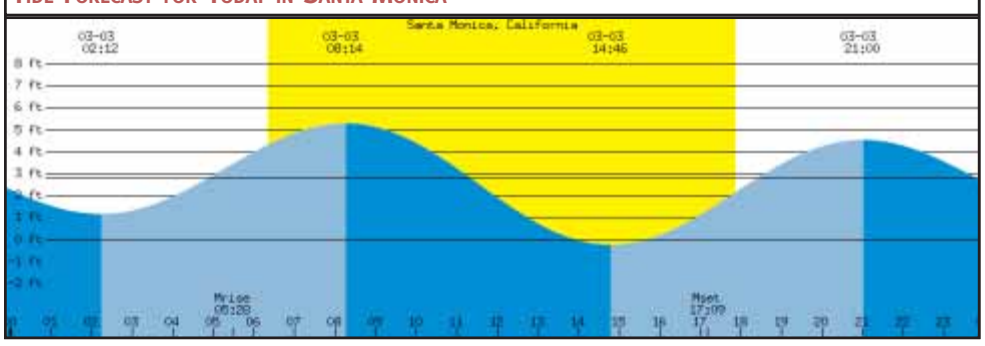
Swell Forecast

Another shot at some wind swell, which looks to be about waist to chest max at west facing breaks. Conditions though are questionable.

Long Range Synopsis

Wind swell is likely to persist at chest max at west facing breaks. Southern hemi is expected to drop off to knee+.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



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 22, 2011**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 9
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 31 / 30
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 13 / 10

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Groundwork Family Foundation, simplehuman, LAcarGUY, SMA

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 Alins creeks.	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	B	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	C	A+
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.	F	A+
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	B
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A	B
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A+	F
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	D	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	ns	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fences.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	D	B
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	B
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	A+
Pena Creek at Los Tunos County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	F	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	B	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	A+
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).	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	F	B
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	F	D
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	F
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	F	A+
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	F
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	C	B
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	F	B
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 D&W jetty).	A+	D
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	D

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

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.

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MLB

Dodgers sign Kershaw to 1-year, $500,000 deal

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GLENDALE, Ariz. The Los Angeles Dodgers have signed pitcher Clayton Kershaw to a one-year deal worth $500,000.

The left-hander has been named the opening day starter against the San Francisco Giants on March 31.

Kershaw earned $440,000 last season, when he went 13-10 with a 2.91 ERA and 212 strikeouts in 204 1-3 innings.

Also on Wednesday, the Dodgers signed 17 other players to one-year deals.

Right-handed reliever Ronald Belisario was placed on the restricted list. He has failed to appear at spring training, apparently because of passport problems in his native Venezuela. He reported a month late last season.

TENNIS

Serena Williams has pulmonary embolism

BY RACHEL COHEN
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK Serena Williams is back home recuperating after two health scares she describes as "extremely hard, scary, and disappointing."

Her agents confirmed Wednesday that Williams suffered from a blood clot in her lungs last week and later needed treatment for a hematoma.

"I know I will be OK, but am praying and hoping this will all be behind me soon," Williams said in a statement. "While I can't make any promises now on my return, I hope to be back by early summer. That said, my main goal is to make sure I get there safely."

Spokeswoman Nicole Chabot told People magazine that Williams underwent "emergency treatment" Monday for a hematoma suffered as a result of treatment for "a more critical situation," a pulmonary embolism.

The 29-year-old Williams was treated at a Los Angeles hospital.

"Thankfully everything was caught in time," her agents said in a statement. "With continued doctor visits to monitor her situation, she is recuperating at home under strict medical supervision."

Williams' mother, Oracene Price, tweeted: "Thank you for your concern. She is fine."

The winner of 13 Grand Slam titles, Williams attended Sunday night's Elton John AIDS Foundation Academy Awards Viewing Party.

On Tuesday night, Williams posted on her Twitter account, "Tough day." A few minutes later she retweeted Kim Kardashian.

"Thank you everyone for all of your prayers, concerns, and support," Williams said in her statement. "This has been extremely hard, scary, and disappointing. I am doing better. I'm at home now and working with my doctors to keep everything under control."

The younger sister of seven-time major champion Venus Williams hasn't played an official match since winning Wimbledon for the fourth time July 3. She cut her right foot on broken glass at a restaurant shortly after the victory, and her comeback has been repeatedly delayed by complications with the injury since.

Williams had surgery after initially hurting her foot and pulled out of the U.S. Open. She resumed practicing in September, but kept pushing back her return and needed an additional operation in October.

Williams missed the Australian Open in January, where she was the two-time defending champion.

Chabot told the magazine the embolism was discovered after Williams returned to Los Angeles from New York "for doctor appointments for the ongoing issues with her foot."

Second-ranked Kim Clijsters tweeted Wednesday: "Just read about Serena!!!! Very scary, hope she is ok!fingers crossed!"

Williams has a wide range of business, fashion and charitable interests that keep her in the public eye even when she's not on the court. Since winning her first Grand Slam title in 1999, she has struggled with injuries on several occasions only to come back to win more championships.

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites sealed bids for:

BID #3023 LNG/CNG FUEL FACILITY MAINTENANCE, REPAIR & SERVICE AND BID #3024 SUPPLY AND DELIVER LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS (LNG) AS REQUIRED BY THE BIG BLUE BUS.

#3023 A mandatory job walk will be held on Wednesday, March 9, 2011 at 9:00 AM Pacific Time.
#3024 A mandatory job walk will be held on Wednesday, March 9, 2011 at 10:00 AM Pacific Time.
Vendors are to meet Ralph Merced & at the Big Blue Bus Maintenance Training Room located at 1620 6th Street (enter security guard gate on 6th and Colorado), Santa Monica, CA. 90401

The bid packet can be downloaded at:
http://vendors.planetbids.com/SantaMonica/QuickSearch.cfm
Submission Deadline is March 16, 2011 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.

Request for bid forms and specifications may be obtained from the City of Santa Monica, 1717 4th St., Suite 250, Santa Monica, California, or by e-mailing your request to Kellee.macdonald@smgov.net. Bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica.

Vendors interested in doing business with the City of Santa Monica are encouraged to register online at http://www.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/

MOVIE TIMES

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

John Barry tribute
Seance on a Wet Afternoon (NR) 1hr 55min
The Whisperers (NR) 1hr 45min
7:30pm

Call theater for information.

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade
(310) 458-6232

True Grit (PG-13) 1hr 50min
1:20pm, 4:05pm, 6:45pm, 9:20pm

I Am Number Four (PG-13) 1hr 44min
1:25pm, 4:00pm, 6:30pm, 9:05pm

Unknown (PG-13) 1hr 49min
1:30pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Mooz-lum (PG-13) 1hr 39min
2:10pm, 4:40pm, 7:05pm, 9:30pm

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

Gnomeo & Juliet 3D (PG) 1hr 24min
11:30am, 1:50pm, 4:10pm, 6:30pm, 8:50pm

Just Go With It (PG-13) 1hr 50min
1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:50pm

No Strings Attached (R) 1hr 50min
11:00am, 4:10pm, 6:45pm

I Am Number Four (PG-13) 1hr 44min
11:25am, 2:05pm, 4:45pm, 7:25pm, 10:00pm

Hall Pass (R) 1hr 38min
11:15am, 1:30pm, 2:05pm, 4:40pm, 7:15pm, 9:20pm, 9:55pm

Black Swan (R) 1hr 50min
11:00am, 1:35pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Justin Bieber Never Say Never 3D (G) 1hr 45min
12:45pm, 3:30pm, 6:15pm, 9:00pm

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

King's Speech (R) 1 hour 58 min
1:10pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:50pm

Biutiful (R) 2hrs 27min
1:20pm, 4:40pm, 8:00pm

Illusionist (L'illusionniste) (PG) 1hr 22min
1:10pm, 3:20pm, 5:30pm, 7:40pm, 9:45pm

Cedar Rapids (R) 1hr 26min
1:00pm, 3:10pm, 5:20pm, 7:50pm, 10:10pm

AMC Criterion 6
1313 Third Street Promenade
(310) 395-1599

Just Go With It (PG-13) 1hr 50min
12:40pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm, 9:20pm

Drive Angry 3D (R) 1hr 44min
1:45pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

Big Momma's: Like Father, Like Son (PG-13) 1hr 47min
12:45pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Unknown (PG-13) 1hr 49min
12:30pm, 3:15pm, 6:15pm, 9:15pm

Fighter (R) 1hr 54min
1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:05pm, 9:50pm

Gnomeo & Juliet (PG) 1hr 24min
1:00pm, 3:20pm, 5:40pm, 8:00pm, 10:10pm

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

Curb overindulgence, Aquarius

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ A dream sets the tone. You might be thinking about realizing this possibility. You are direct and strong, knowing what it is you desire. Dealings with those in charge could test your limits, but for now, be compliant. Tonight: Take needed free time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Don't distort what another person says, especially if that person is a boss or higher-up. Verify by repeating a message or a question. Focus. Networking helps open up new ideas. Work with a new approach or idea. Tonight: Where the crowds are.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Believe in yourself. Take this extremely positive attitude into work, your daily life or a meeting. A partner appears to be on the verge of going on the warpath. Work with his or her anger, helping him or her to use it in an appropriate way. Let go of a hostile comment or two. Tonight: Burning the candle at both ends.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Resist subtlety when speaking about a situation. No innuendoes; use clear language. On some level you might feel nervous or insecure. Stop; have a talk with yourself. Note that you are surrounded by some very strong-willed people. Tonight: Start thinking "weekend"!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Sometimes you shake your head at the politics involved in clearing out a problem. An associate plays devil's advocate. A partner is off in his or her imagination and is not reality-based. Conversations help anchor this person. Tonight: Swapping today's war stories.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Your imagination could be distorting reality. Knowing this, try to reject details, concepts and ideas. Your creativity soars in the presence of others. Ask others to play devil's advocate. Tonight: Let a partner or friend express his or her strong feelings.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Knowledge helps keep a project on track. You might have to revise your impressions more than once. You could be questioning the validity of proceeding as you have. Revamping your thinking allows more creativity. Tonight: Speak to a family member.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Take an important idea and expand it with the help of those involved. Incorporate viable ideas. Don't lock into your thought and your thought only. Tonight: Ever playful, you tumble into the weekend spirit.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You could be taken aback by a domestic or personal matter. You might not want to throw more money into an investment. Look at your options. If you're uncomfortable with the situation, honor that feeling. Tonight: Home is where the heart is.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Communication flows. You discover that what you were sure was right-on just might not be. Your strength is only enhanced by this ability to transform your thinking. Be as direct as possible. Tonight: Hang out with friends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Be aware of what is happening financially. If your sixth sense cuts in, by all means, honor what you feel. Curb spending until you're surer of yourself. Deal with your anger directly; no placebo, please. Tonight: Curb overindulgence.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You perk up by the end of the day. You might wonder exactly what is happening between you and a friend. This person becomes controlling and appears to be transforming right in front of you. Tonight: Know that you are top dog.

Happy birthday

This year, you open up to many ideas. Your immediate circle of friends, associates in the workplace and community acquaintances seem to be an endless source of support and suggestions. You also change this circle by adding different people and new influences. Your sixth sense or intuition guides you. Trust yourself and trust your inner knowledge. If you are single, you will meet people. Perhaps you'll meet "the one" through your immediate circle. Make sure anyone you date is known by someone you know! Total strangers could be problematic. If you are attached, plan that special romantic getaway you've so often discussed. Do it! See how your relationship is enhanced by that experience. AQUARIUS understands much more than you know.

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



MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise *brandonw@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.

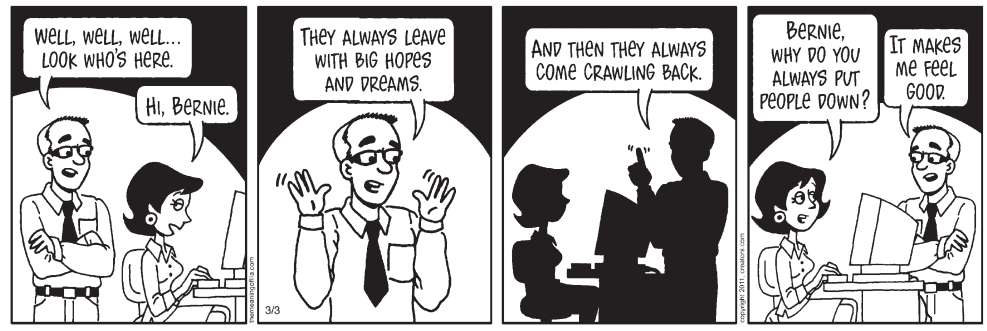
Garfield

By Jim Davis



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Girls and Sports

By Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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 ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Painter Chagall
5 Reuben layer
10 "— for the Misbegotten"
12 Oncle's wife
13 "The same"
14 Modify
15 In the past
16 "Edward II" playwright
18 Page edge
20 Photographer Goldin
21 Nay voter
23 Memorable time
24 José's home
26 Tree house?
28 Convened
29 Existence
31 Lawyer: Abbr.
32 Shopping spot
36 Sci-fi invader
39 Flamenco call
40 Pigtail
41 Contract makeup
43 Oxford parts
44 Adorable
45 Ledger item
46 Head features

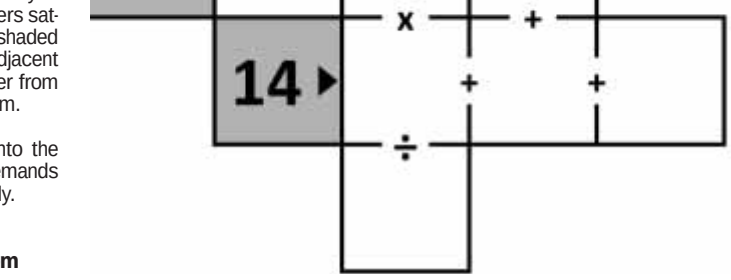
DOWN

1 Sir's counterpart
2 Juanita's friend
3 Copter part
4 Camp bed
5 Celeb
6 China landmark
7 Chants
8 "Harvey" star
9 Venus' sister
11 Symbolic
17 Leaf lifter
19 Heating choice
22 Babies
24 Language of Spain
25 Draw in
27 Poetic "always"
28 Try out
30 "— Believer"
33 Seoul setting
34 Bugs bugs him
35 Tries out
37 Layer
38 Minuscule
42 She sheep

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

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



3-3

ARITHMO™

CrossMath + × − ÷

- Fill the grid with the set of given numbers (1 to 12) to satisfy the Equa demands (7 to 24) in the shaded boxes. The Equa demands represent the sum of the digits that you will insert into the empty squares.
- Each horizontal row has one Equa demand to satisfy; each vertical column also has one demand to satisfy. Each empty square in the grid dictates the math operation (addition +, subtraction -, multiplication X, and division ÷) that must be performed to meet the demands.
- You must follow the given math operations for each square and you must make sure all the numbers satisfy the demands in the shaded boxes when connected in adjacent threes and calculated together from left to right, and top to bottom.
- The numbers you insert into the grid must satisfy the Equa demands both horizontally and vertically.

For more games, go to www.arithmo.com

Fill in the empty fields with the given numbers so when calculated together they satisfy all Equas in the gray boxes:

2, 2, 2, 4, 4, 6, 8, 12

Solution for Task 1033

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 1 12 19 20 47 Meganumber: 25 Jackpot: $105M
SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 9 21 23 41 47 Meganumber: 8 Jackpot: $8M
Fantasy 5: 14 23 24 31 36
DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 7 2 2 EVENING: 2 9 4
DAILY DERBY: 1st: 05 California Classic 2nd: 02 Lucky Star 3rd: 05 Whirl Win RACE TIME: 1:42.44

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Ripley's Believe It or Not! museum is already home to an artist's rendition of da Vinci's "The Last Supper" made from burned toast, and now comes a recent version by Laura Bell of Roscommon, Mich.: da Vinci's masterpiece made with clothes-dryer lint. Bell said she did about 800 hours of laundry of various-colored towels to obtain lint of the proper hues, and then worked 200 more hours to construct the 14-foot-long, 4-foot-high mural.

■ Surprise! (1) New Zealand traffic officer Andy Flitton cited an unnamed speeder recently for the second time in two years -- 11,000 miles from the spot of the first ticket. Flitton had moved from the U.K. to New Zealand, and unknown to him, the motorist himself had relocated to New Zealand last year. When Flitton stopped the man in Wellington in December 2010, the motorist recognized Flitton as the one who had ticketed him on the A5 highway near London. (2) Rap singer Trevell Coleman, trying to bring "closure" and "get right with God" for having shot a man in 1993 (since he was never caught), confessed the assault to New York City police in December, hoping that his humility might impress a judge. However, police checked and then booked Coleman -- for murder. Said Coleman, "(F)or some reason, I really didn't think that (the victim had) died."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1873 Censorship in the United States: The U.S. Congress enacts the Comstock Law, making it illegal to send any "obscene, lewd, or lascivious" books through the mail.

1875 Georges Bizet's opera Carmen receives its première at the Opéra Comique in Paris.

1875 The first ever organized indoor game of ice hockey is played in Montreal, Canada as recorded in The Montreal Gazette.

1877 Rutherford B. Hayes is privately inaugurated as the 19th President of the United States (his public inauguration coming on March 5).

WORD UP!

wunderkind
\ VOON-duhr-kint \ , noun; plural wunderkinder \-kin-duhr
1. A child prodigy. 2. One who achieves great success or acclaim at an early age.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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