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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 105



Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

HOWLAND RETURNING TO UCLA
SEE PAGE 15

THE HOP ON BOARD ISSUE

Dinner with a side of death

Registered nurse encourages frank conversation about dying

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN PARK We face death every day.

In the newspaper. On television. Death from a thousand different causes, linked to studies that tell us the best ways to avoid our fate, to put it off for 20 more years, a few weeks, even days.

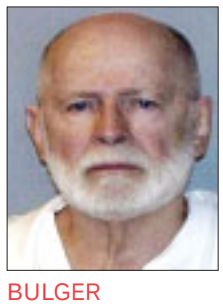
Often, in the desire to keep it at arm's length, death goes unmentioned until the incidence of disease or advancing age brings the inevitable squarely to the forefront.

Or it just happens, suddenly and without warning, leaving family and friends to deal

SEE DINNER PAGE 12

Bulger may have penned memoirs

DENISE LAVOIE
AP Legal Affairs Writer



BULGER

BOSTON Mobster James "Whitey" Bulger may have written two autobiographies, according to prosecutors, who have notified his lawyers that they may use the memoirs against him at his upcoming trial.

Bulger, the former leader of the Winter Hill Gang and a longtime FBI informant, was captured last year in Santa Monica after 16 years on the run. He is charged with participating in 19 murders and is awaiting trial.

In a status report filed in court Tuesday, federal prosecutors said they found one document, entitled "My Life in the Irish Mafia Wars," at a South Boston home in 1995 and a second document at the apartment in Santa Monica where Bulger was captured

SEE BULGER PAGE 13



Kevin Herrera *kevinh@smdp.com*

IN ACTION: **Brenden McEneaney of the Office of Sustainability and the Environment speaks to news cameras in front of the Santa Monica Main Library Tuesday, which was held up as a model for sustainable building practices during a press conference organized by Environment California.**

Energy efficiency will save Californians money

Santa Monica's Main Library highlighted for its green features

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

MAIN LIBRARY Environment California released a new report Tuesday that showed families could save beau-coup bucks on electricity bills if lawmakers continue to push toward bold efficiency goals for buildings in the Golden State.

The report called for steady improvement to the building codes, investment in retrofits to existing buildings to increase efficiency by 30 percent and supporting financing to create public and private investment in building efficiency.

Sean Carroll, a federal field associate with Environment California, was joined by Jessica Lass of the Natural Resources Defense Council and Brenden McEneaney of City Hall's Office of Sustainability and the Environment in front of the Santa Monica Main Library, which was held up as a model for sustainable building practices.

The library has a white roof to better reflect sunlight, insulation that covers walls from door jamb to door jamb and air conditioning that cools from underneath the floor to reduce energy needs, McEneaney said.

"We're already finding other strategies to reduce energy use," McEneaney said, including motion sensors in rooms and lighting changes in the parking structure.

Simple steps to achieve greater efficiency in existing homes and tightening building codes for new buildings could put as much as $450 back in the pockets of Californians, according to the report.

Heating, cooling and powering buildings consumes 40 percent of the energy used in America, according to Environment California. Much of that energy comes from "dirty" sources, like coal, oil, natural gas and nuclear power.

Improving efficiency would reduce projected energy use by 25 percent by 2030 and prevent the emission of 17.49 million tons of pollution every year. That's the equivalent of taking 12.6 million cars off the road.

California has long been a leader in green building.

New building guidelines will reduce 300,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions and prevent the need to build eight or more new power plants over the next 30 years, Lass said.

That will create up to 3,500 jobs annually.

"Once the standards are in full effect in 2014, California will save at least $100 million a year in the form of lower electricity

SEE GREEN PAGE 10

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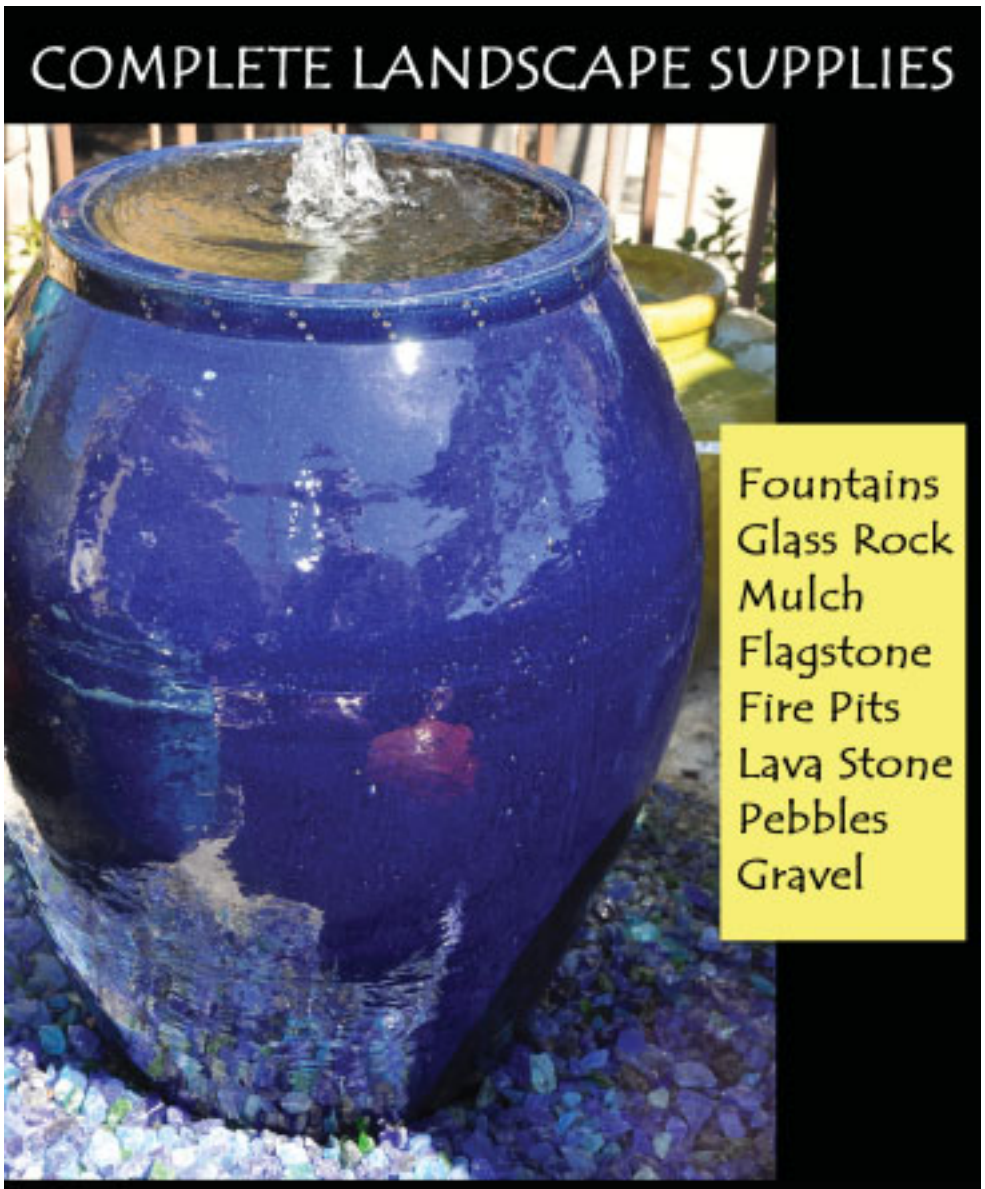

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, March 14, 2012

District vs. district
Santa Monica High School
601 Pico Blvd., 4 p.m.
Catch representatives from Santa Monica College and the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District as they battle it out on the soccer field. See who ends up schooling who. Cost: free.

The sea on film
Santa Monica Pier Aquarium
1600 Ocean Front Walk,
2 p.m. — 5 p.m.
The California Ocean and Coastal Amateur Photography Exhibit features everything from birds in flight to happy kids on the seashore. The exhibit will be open to the public Tuesday through Sunday. For more information, visit www.healthebay.org.

Revolutionary woman
Main Library, Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m.
Barbara Foster appears at the Main Library to discuss her book, "A Dangerous Woman: The Life, Loves and Scandals of Adah Isaacs Menken," a biography of the 19th century American actress and poet, who was as much a revolutionary as she was a lost soul. Cost: free. For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

Paradise lost
Montana Branch Library
1704 Montana Ave.,
7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
This month's Mystery Book Club compares and contrasts Raymond Chandler's "The Long Goodbye" and Ross Macdonald's "The Underground Man," both of which use crime fiction to provide subtle social commentary in southern California: Macdonald using fire as a metaphor for environmental and human damage, and Chandler managing to fuse culture clashes with autobiographical hurt in a way that makes this among his most personal works. Cost: free. For more information, call (310) 458-8682.

Thursday, March 15, 2012

Have camera, will travel
Broad Stage
1310 11th St., 7:30 p.m.
Experience the life of a National Geographic photographer — and meet a pioneer who figured out how to balance work and family. One of the society's first female photographers, Annie Griffiths has worked on every continent except Antarctica, while raising two children. After her talk, there will be a book signing in the lobby. For more information, call (310) 434-3200.

Balance is key
Santa Monica Family YMCA
1332 Sixth St.,
12 p.m. — 1:30 p.m.
Susan Leonard, MD, UCLA geriatrician, will share tips on how to avoid falls that can be dangerous, especially for older people. Cost: free. For more information, call (310) 393-2721 ext. 129.

Chamber music in the canyon
La Senora Research Institute
565 Dryad Rd., 7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
La Senora Research Institute opens its music season with the thrill of presenting young artists (the youngest — already a violin virtuoso who has performed at Carnegie Hall — is 9 years old). The institute encourages families to bring children older than age 8. For more information, call (619) 436-7161.

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



‘Homeless Hotspot’ stunt stirs debate at music conference

JAKE COYLE
AP Entertainment Writer

AUSTIN, Texas A charitable marketing program that paid homeless people to carry Wi-Fi signals at South By Southwest has drawn widespread debate at the annual Austin conference and around the country.

BBH Labs, a unit of the global marketing agency BBH, gave 13 people from Austin’s Front Steps Shelter mobile Wi-Fi devices and T-shirts that announced “I am a 4G Hotspot.” The company paid them $20 up front and a minimum of $50 a day for about six hours work, said Emma Cookson, chairwoman of BBH New York.

She called the experiment a modernized version of homeless selling street newspapers. All of the money paid for Wi-Fi — an often difficult thing to find at SXSW — went to the participants, who were selected in partnership with Front Steps. ($2 was the recommended donation for 15 minutes of use.)

But many have called the program exploitive. Wired.com wrote that it “sounds like something out of a darkly satirical science-fiction dystopia.” Technology blog ReadWriteWeb called it a “blunt display of unselfconscious gall.” The topic became one of the most popular in the country on Twitter by Tuesday.

Critics have claimed the experiment turned homeless people into inanimate objects for the benefit of well-heeled techies. In an online op-ed, The Washington Post wondered “Have we lost our humanity?”

Cookson took pains to say BBH was listening to criticism of the experiment, which ended Monday. It had been meant to begin

SEE **HOMELESS** PAGE 13

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CITYWIDE

Tips to stay green after St. Patty’s Day

Environmental watchdog Heal the Bay wants people to stay green after St. Patrick’s Day by following a few simple steps. Here are their suggestions:

• Use a designated driver: When you carpool or take public transit to your local pub you reduce harmful emissions that foul the environment. If you’ve been imbibing, you also keep the roads safer.

• Beware of six-pack rings: Guinness may not use them, but plastic rings from other brewers can entangle and trap marine animals after they get in the waste stream. Cut them up before you throw them out.

• Keep your trash to yourself: If you’re out on a night on the town, reduce your impact. Keep trash off the street and out of storm drains, lest all that parade and party debris end up in the ocean. Cigarette butts remain the No. 1 item that volunteers find at beach cleanups.

• Sack the plastic bag: Loading up on corned beef, cabbage and potatoes? Bring your own reusable shopping bag to the grocery store. Plastic bags create loads of unnecessary litter and choke waterways. (Ireland, by the way, has decreased plastic bag use by 94 percent since introducing a levy on plastic bags in 2002.)

• Hold onto balloons: All those helium-filled, shamrock-shaped balloons may be cute, but they can blow away to the sea and harm animals. Always pop balloons and put them in the trash.

• Don’t be a drip: Too much green beer means more trips to the loo. Use water wisely by turning off the faucet when you don’t need it and installing low-flow toilets. Conserving water helps sewage treatments plants do a better job.

KEVIN HERRERA

Dead kite surfer identified

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES A 28-year-old Los Angeles kite surfer who died after being pulled unconscious from the ocean off Topanga State Beach has been identified.

The Los Angeles County coroner’s office says Dante Torres of the San Fernando Valley was pronounced dead at Santa Monica UCLA Medical Center. An autopsy will determine the cause of death.

Sheriff’s investigators say a lifeguard at the county beach east of Malibu was watching Torres and another kite surfer Monday evening when Torres hit the water. His rig went airborne but Torres stayed down.

City News Service says the lifeguard paddled out and found Torres face-down in the water. The kite surfer was brought to shore and the lifeguard tried to revive him before paramedics arrived and took him to the hospital.



TAKE THAT

Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

Santa Monica High School's Dane Keckin (center) spikes the ball past a pair of Torrance defenders during a 3-1 win at home on Tuesday. The win improves Samohi's record to 5-8.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Light rail no panacea

Editor:

Does our fine Santa Monica planning staff really believe that adding 173 apartments for a grand total of 498 for the Bergamot Transit Village will really reduce traffic ("Residents want a reduce Bergamot Transit Village," March 13, page 1)? Do they hang out with our school board members who believe increasing enrollment will reduce the student/teacher ratio?

Any new commercial or residential development near light rail only makes sense if builders are banned from providing parking spaces. Think about it: Want to build to zoning capacity? Fine. No cars allowed. What's the problem? It's a transit village, right?

We are already far beyond auto traffic capacity in Santa Monica and West Los Angeles. There is no hope for light rail to reduce traffic and increase quality of life if city planners allow more behemoth parking garages with offices or apartments attached.

The city's Colorado/Cloverfield/Lincoln/Fifth Street corridors are about to face years of gridlock, construction hassles, pollution and delays as the vaunted train gashes toward the beach. Once operating, our very own Expo Line trains will crush cars and kill pedestrians with the same shocking regularity as experienced with the Metro's Blue Line. And what's our benefit for enduring all this?

A massive "transit village" development and thousands of more cars?

Mark Shepherd
Santa Monica

Daylight-saving not safe

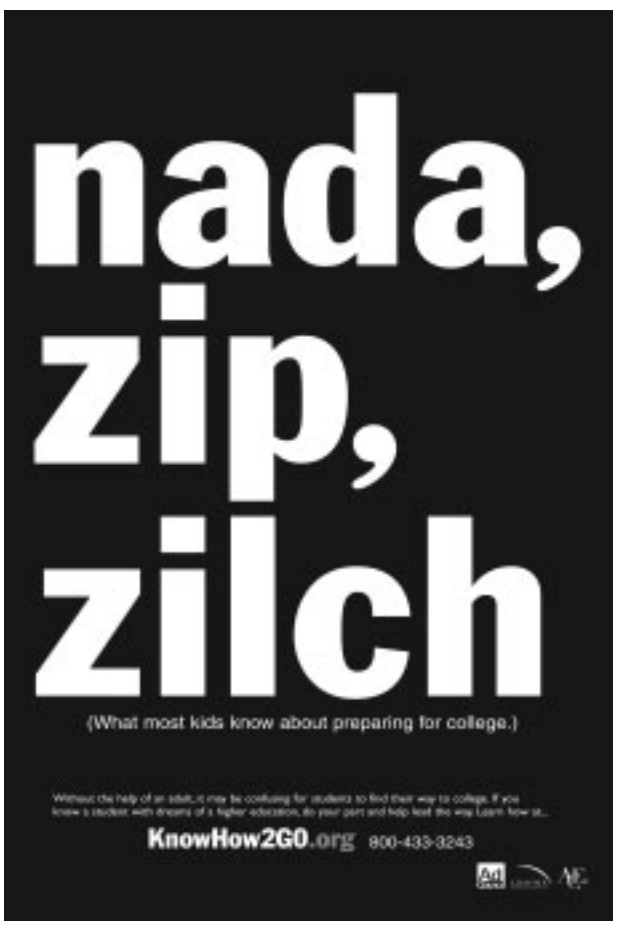
Editor:

Sunday evening's extra daylight was marvelous! But we paid the price for moving the clocks ahead one hour on Monday morning, when we had to arise for work in the dark. Jumping ahead to daylight-saving time before the spring equinox — when there are equal amounts of daytime and night — results in dark mornings.

The problem is the safety of our children walking or biking to school as the rising sun shines into commuters' eyes. It's dangerous. It is even worse in the fall when we wait until six weeks after the autumn equinox before changing the clocks back to standard time.

We should synchronize our daylight savings with the Earth and sun's natural rhythms, starting daylight-saving time at the spring equinox, March 21, and ending with the autumn equinox, Sept. 21.

Bruce Joffe
Piedmont, Calif.





Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

I am nobody without my fans

NOBODY'S PERFECT. AT LEAST THAT'S what everyone except me says in order to feel better about their own faults. I never tell myself that no one is perfect. Because I am. Perfect, that is.

I mean, sure, I didn't get the Pulitzer Prize for Commentary — again — last year. (The New York Times' David Leonhardt won "for his graceful penetration of America's complicated economic questions, from the federal budget deficit to health care reform." Blah, blah, blah.) But I wasn't overlooked because my writing isn't good enough. The board was just literally blinded by the startling glare of my perfection when it was put before them in black and white.

Regular readers of this column have long let me know that my extraordinary prose is the cure to what ails them. My pieces are thought-provoking, sophisticated, moving and generally groundbreaking. I type a few words, and I change lives. I write an entire column, and there is a perceptible shift in the wind. NASA has put a team in place to research and prepare for the effect I'll have on the solar system when my book is published.

Which, of course, comes as a surprise to no one. Take, for instance, the column I wrote earlier this year, "The pleasure of nitpicking." A fan named Jonathan e-mailed me to wax poetic about how I've inspired thoughts of love in his own life: "Your editorial on your eight years with your husband makes me glad I'm single. Why men put up with women like you, I will never know. Maybe the drive to reproduce is just that great."

I never thought I could feel more gratified than when receiving comments like that. Then I started writing for Babble, which is Disney's online parenting magazine. And in 16 months, the outpouring of adoration has been monumental.

One piece, "My Take on Breastfeeding: Just Do It, But Discreetly," inspired Lola to comment, "This is amazingly ignorant and incredibly shameful."

Another reader also marveled at my tremendous ability to help others through my work: "You suck Meredith!"

As is so often the case with those who adore my writing, a woman named Becka couldn't help but speak in superlatives, particularly on a piece I wrote, "The False Heroes of Childbirth: Women Who Don't Get Epidurals?"

"I think this is about the dumbest article I've ever read," she effused.

Robin also couldn't find an equal in terms of my talent: "This is the most ridiculous article I've read recently. Hypocritical, judgmental, selfish, and quite frankly, completely uneducated and proud of it."

It's not uncommon for me to come across admirers who assume my outer beauty must necessarily match the glory of my inner spirit. Like a reader called dnate, who commented with embarrassing sweetness on a piece I wrote titled "Ivanka Trump Poses as a Pregnant Bunny: Who Does That?"

"If you do an image search of Meredith Carroll you will get why this article was written with such hollow condescension."

One devoted follower actually keeps score of how many times I knock one out of the park, most recently via a piece I penned called "World Record Set for Most Women Breastfeeding in Public. Um, Who Cares?"

Kaycee gushed, "Meredith Carroll strikes again. You are the worst and most offensive writer."

It's a touching sentiment I've grown accustomed to hearing. When I wrote, "The 2 Reasons I Would Never Switch to Cloth Diapers," Jessica commented enthusiastically, "Your piece reeks of bitterness."

On the same piece, Angelica said admiringly, "Gosh, what a ghastly woman Meredith Carroll makes herself appear to be — vain, lazy and vapid. Are you paid to be this bratty?"

BMommy couldn't help but agree: "What a negative, nasty and uninformed piece.

ANOTHER READER ALSO MARVELED AT MY TREMENDOUS ABILITY TO HELP OTHERS THROUGH MY WORK: 'YOU SUCK MEREDITH!'

Maybe it was supposed to be funny, but you missed the mark."

Chelsea also chimed in lovingly, "You sound like one lazy woman."

The gracious and supportive comments were seemingly endless:

"You are incredibly ignorant and uneducated."

"You're completely selfish and ignorant."

"Wow … get off your high horse. Rude, smug, ignorant, blah blah blah."

"What an obnoxious, prissy, immature sounding piece."

It's not just the ladies who love me. I get it from the men, too, even though I write over and over about my husband. Still, some men just can't help expressing their frustration that I am, indeed, taken.

When I wrote "The 7 Habits of Highly Annoying New Dads," Nic was hopeful he could attract my attention: "You sound bitter and condescending."

As was Clark: "Wow, could you complain any more?!"

And Vanse wrote as if he had a bad case of puppy love: "I think you stupid!"

Because I write for a parenting website, I inevitably hear from readers about my enviable parenting style. On "10 Things I Want (or, Rather, Don't Want) for Christmas," Bella Rosa commented supportively, "You're a lousy parent."

It was a charming sentiment echoed by Catronia: "I feel sad for your family and friends."

I always have a few fans who worry themselves sick over my well-being. After all, it's to be expected that painstaking craftsmanship like mine must eventually take its toll.

On "The 7 Lamest Parenting Inventions of All Time," thehumngbrd commented with concern, "Dang! Are you just an angry, unimaginative person, or do you just need a few good hours of sleep?"

Kimberly also sounded the alarm about my overall health: "Clearly the person who wrote this is an idiot."

But I'm OK. In fact, I'm perfect. I simply write, and I change lives. I expect mine will be changed, too, when the Pulitzers are announced next month. This is my year. I can feel it. As can my legion of fans, clearly.

More at www.meredithcarroll.com.

PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Ashley Archibald
ashley@smdp.com

CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Bill Bauer, David Pisarra, Meredith Carroll, Jack Neworth, Lloyd Garver, Ron Hooks, Taylor Van Arsdale, Merv Hecht, Cynthia Citron, Tom Viscount, Michael Ryan, JoAnne Barge, Katrina Davy

NEWS INTERN
Colin Newton
news@smdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERN
Ray Solano
news@smdp.com

VICE PRESIDENT–BUSINESS OPERATIONS
Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

JUNIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Chelsea Fujitaki
chelsea@smdp.com
Justin Harris
justin@smdp.com

ADVERTISING TRAFFIC COORDINATOR
Rebecca Martinez
admin@smdp.com

OPERATIONS COORDINATOR
Michele Emch
michele.e@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Darren Ouellette
production@smdp.com

PRODUCTION DESIGNER
Alejandro Cantarero
production@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Osvaldo Paganini
circulation@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
We have you covered

1640 5th Street, Suite 218
Santa Monica, CA 90401
OFFICE (310) 458-PRESS (7737)
FAX (310) 576-9913

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The Taxman

Jon Coupal
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Gov. Brown's hypocrisy on pension reform

IN HIS STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS, Gov. Jerry Brown acknowledged the dire need for pension reform in California. But the immediate question on the minds of political insiders was two-fold: First, whether the governor would support substantive reform (as opposed to just window dressing) and, second, how much, if any, political capital he would expend to see his plan enacted into law.

On the first point, Brown surprised us by proposing a fairly detailed 12-point plan that even his harshest critics had to concede was substantive. But, regrettably, as we predicted, the answer to the second question of how much effort he would use to see the plan to fruition was, simply, not much.

That Gov. Brown would not push pension reform is really not all that surprising. First, labor brought him to the governor's office and he is on a short leash. Second, the Democrat dominated Legislature isn't about to do anything that hurts the primary source of their political power and campaign funds.

But it is one thing to say that you are for pension reform and not really mean it and entirely another thing to actively sabotage meaningful pension reform in those places where it is actually happening — at the local level.

In February, the California Public Employee Relations Board (PERB) ruled that a pension reform measure that is to appear on the June ballot in San Diego is an unfair labor practice. Over 115,000 voters signed petitions to qualify an initiative, which would provide a private sector style 401(k) plan to new employees. Government employee union bosses, objecting to any change to the guaranteed benefit system that has nearly bankrupted the city, sent out "goon squads" to try to "influence" petition signers, but voters refused to be intimidated.

Failing to block reform from going on the ballot, the unions sought the help of the friendly PERB that is stacked with Brown appointees. Their argument, with which the board agreed, is that because the ballot measure is supported by San Diego Mayor Jerry Sanders and City Council members Kevin Faulconer and Carl DeMaio, the measure is de facto city-sponsored, and therefore San Diego is violating the requirement that officials meet and confer — negotiate with the unions — prior to any changes to the pension system.

Fortunately, the unions' move to prevent the pension reform initiative from going before the voters was rejected by Judge William Dato, who said there is no established case law that would allow him to block the measure from going to the ballot based on the PERB's findings. (Kudos to City Attorney Jan Goldsmith who vigorously fought the union effort).

The upshot is that San Diego voters will indeed have the opportunity to vote on pension reform this June, assuming that any further legal challenges by the unions and Brown's handpicked PERB members get the judicial rebuff they so richly deserve.

But, hypothetically, what if the governor's cronies on PERB succeeded in their legal challenge so that Sanders and the City Council members were found to be officially representing the city rather than themselves as private citizens? Wouldn't this also mean that Gov. Brown is actually representing the state of California, rather than himself, as an advocate for his tax increase initiative? After all, not only is he is listed as the official "proponent" of his plan to increase both the income and sales tax, he readily admits that he has been working the phones to raise money for the proposal and also to dissuade competing measures from appearing on the ballot.

The State Constitution, as amended by Proposition 13, is clear. For the state to raise taxes, it must receive approval from two-thirds of each house of the Legislature. Even to place the measure on the ballot for voter approval requires a two-thirds vote. But Brown is totally bypassing the Legislature and, therefore, by the logic of the PERB members that he appointed, isn't he in violation of the law?

The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association has never maintained that an elected official gives up his or her right to endorse or support a ballot measure by virtue of holding office. However, if the governor's appointees persist in maintaining that a legitimate local ballot measure, qualified through the efforts of over a hundred-thousand voters, is null and void because it is also supported by local officials, we might have to rethink our position.

In the end, Gov. Brown can do what he wants, as can the local officials in San Diego and other municipalities where officials are actually demonstrating leadership to address a serious issue. But the actions of his PERB members make it abundantly clear: Jerry is a labor guy and he, like the Democrats in the Legislature, will do nothing to anger or upset their most valued constituency.

JON COUPAL is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association -- California's largest grass-roots taxpayer organization dedicated to the protection of Proposition 13 and the advancement of taxpayers' rights.

The Q Line

Worth the fight?

The residents of Village Trailer Park have reached out to the Environmental Protection Agency to try to stop the demolition of trailers by an owner that wants to ultimately redevelop the property. This protracted fight has even included an attempt to landmark the park to stop the project from moving forward.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think that it's worth fighting for or should residents just accept the property owner's intentions and move on quietly?

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**.


Kate Bransfield
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LOS ANGELES

Fire chief comments on response time concerns

Los Angeles' fire chief says changes in the way response times are calculated should have been explained to city officials, instead of letting the department seem speedier than it actually was.

City News Service reports Fire Chief Brian Cummings also defended the city's decision to change its standard of reporting at a news conference Tuesday.

The previous standard had been to report the percentage of times firefighters arrive on the scene within five minutes of a call, per national recommendations.

But Los Angeles fire officials changed that standard to six minutes or less, and last year told city officials that emergencies were responded to within the standard 86 percent of the time.

City fire actually responds within five minutes of a medical emergency call 64 percent of the time.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Schools look to cut salaries to save programs

The Los Angeles Unified School District board has approved a 2012-13 budget plan that calls for $220 million in salary cuts to pay for adult education and preschool programs.

The vote came as several hundred employees demonstrated outside district headquarters Tuesday.

Superintendent John Deasy said at the meeting that most of those programs could continue if labor unions agree to a one-year, across-the-board pay cut.

He says he's also looking at charging fees for a portion of the adult education program.

Under the budget plan, elementary arts education would be largely eliminated, although schools could share some teachers.

Teachers union President Warren Fletcher says the teachers are being held hostage.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Judge pares down 'Housewives' lawsuit with ruling

A judge has pared down Nicollette Sheridan's wrongful termination case by ruling that jurors won't consider a battery claim against her boss.

The verdict will now focus solely on whether jurors believe Sheridan was fired from the show because she complained about a dispute with series creator Marc Cherry.

Defense attorney Adam Levin says he was pleased with Tuesday's decision by the judge.

Sheridan's attorney Mark Baute says it will simplify deliberations while allowing his client to recoup punitive damages if she wins.

Testimony ended Tuesday and the jury will receive its instructions before closing arguments begin.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Depp, Streep join call to lower 'Bully' rating

More Hollywood heavyweights are joining the call for a lower rating on the teen-focused documentary "Bully."

The Weinstein Co. says Johnny Depp, Meryl Streep and New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees are supporting the film, which will be released March 30.

Lee Hirsch's documentary on bullying in American schools has been rated R for language. Distributors appealed the decision, but it was upheld by the Motion Picture Association of America, which oversees movie ratings.

That prompted a Michigan teenager to start an online petition calling for a lower rating for the film so more young people can see it. She met with MPAA officials and delivered the 200,000 signatures she collected, but the group declined to change the rating.

The MPAA did not respond to calls and emails seeking comment Tuesday.

AP

LENNOX

Little League to return donation from strip club

A cash-strapped Little League in Los Angeles County is returning a surprise donation from a strip club.

League President Roberto Aguirre said the league's board of directors met late into the night on Monday. They finally decided to return the $1,200 donated by the Jet Strip gentlemen's club two weeks ago.

The league needs the money to rent fields from the Lennox School District, which doubled fees to play on its baseball diamonds.

As news of the strip club's donation spread, contributions came from around the country.

Aguirre tells the Torrance Daily Breeze that the league still needs help.

Lennox is a poor, unincorporated neighborhood near the Los Angeles International Airport.

The league offers a payment plan so families can afford the annual $85 per-player fee.

AP

SACRAMENTO

Bill would ban violent fans from pro sports

A bill has been proposed in the California state Assembly in an effort to prevent violence such as last year's near-fatal beating of a San Francisco Giants fan at Dodger Stadium.

The proposal would call for the nation's first sports "ban list" and would block unruly fans from attending professional games anywhere in the state for up to five years.

The Sacramento Bee reports that the ban would apply to those convicted of felonies, such as assault.

Less serious crimes, such as abusive heckling and throwing beer, would not fall under the bill's domain.

The proposal would not apply to college or minor league teams. Democratic Assemblyman Mike Gatto of Los Angeles introduced the measure.

AP

States allow politicians to change votes

JULIET WILLIAMS
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO Lawmakers in California's Assembly will hit the campaign trail this year, touting their votes on all manner of bills. Can we believe them? What they say may not be a true reflection of the stand they took when the bill was being debated.

California is one of at least 10 states in which some lawmakers can change their votes after a bill has passed or failed.

While the original outcome of the bill isn't altered, the practice gives lawmakers a chance to change their minds, grab some political cover or varnish their official record when they were afraid or unwilling to take a stand on legislation before a vote.

In January and February, Assembly members used the option more than 400 times, an Associated Press review found.

In Ohio, lawmakers became so concerned about the number of altered votes that they changed their rules to make it more difficult. In North Carolina, the House speaker set a new policy after a colleague changed his vote two weeks after a bill passed.

"They can be accused of flip-flopping and not making up their minds," said North Carolina Republican state Sen. Tom Apodaca, chairman of the rules committee. "You put yourself at risk."

Some lawmakers in California who are among the most prolific users defended the practice. They said they often don't have adequate time to read legislation before voting or use the rule as a tactic to work with other lawmakers.

Lawmakers sometimes hold out to see if a bill passes or fails because they are angry at a colleague or want to see if they actually vote for their bill before voting on the colleague's legislation, Democratic Assemblyman Tony Mendoza of Artesia said.

"Sometimes it's very political," he said.

In California, Assembly members frequently add their vote to bills that were taken up while they were not on the floor or change their votes after the final tally has been announced in the chamber.

The vote-switching and vote-adding is allowed only in the 80-member state Assembly, and it cannot change whether a bill passes or fails. The 40-member Senate allows only the Democratic and Republican leaders to add their votes, but it is seldom used.

The AP review found lawmakers switched their votes or added their name after the total vote was read aloud at least 419 times since January. The vast majority were Assembly members who added their votes after a bill had passed or failed.

Peter Scheer, executive director of the First Amendment Coalition, said both practices let lawmakers off the hook from making difficult decisions when they matter. He said lawmakers who switch votes are either doing so out of stupidity because they did not understand the legislation or to deceive their constituents.

Those who add votes "might as well be absent," Scheer said. "Your vote is superfluous. It's worse than superfluous, because you're only adding it when it's safe, and you're wasting your constituents' time."

Mendoza has added his vote to bills after they had passed or failed 17 times this year, the sixth-highest number in the Assembly. He said he often waits to add votes because lawmakers are making revisions until the last minute.

"Some bills, I don't even want to vote on. I don't like them," Mendoza said. "Sometimes you don't feel good about it, but the author wants you to add on to it because it makes it look good when it goes to the Senate side."

While lawmakers in the Assembly generally accept the use of the rule, legislators in at least nine other states that allow vote-changes or -adds do not appear to employ it so liberally. Most of the other legislative houses allow lawmakers time to change their votes or delay votes before the final tally is announced, but few lawmakers make changes after the vote is recorded.

One exception is North Carolina, where lawmakers in the Legislature can change their recorded votes after the fact.

In the Senate, they must do so on the same legislative day. In the House, there is no time restriction written into the chamber's operating rules. Last year, members changed their votes more than 400 times, often to account for what they said were genuine mistakes.

Last June, Republican Speaker Pro Tempore Dale Folwell raised eyebrows when he asked to change his vote from yes to no on a contentious consumer finance bill two weeks after it passed. Folwell said he changed his mind on the bill's contents.

Soon after, Republican House Speaker Thom Tillis set a policy allowing vote changes within 24 hours of the original vote in "an effort to protect the sanctity of the voting process," spokesman Jordan Shaw said.

When Florida lawmakers change votes, it's usually not for political or tactical reasons because Republicans have overwhelming majorities in both chambers, Democratic Rep. Alan Williams said. More often, it's due to confusion, particularly in the last hectic days of a session when hundreds of bills are voted on.

On the second-to-last day of this year's session, Williams cast a yea vote after the 110-8 roll call on a $371,851 claims bill for the children of a man who died when a Palm Beach County sheriff's deputy slammed into his car after falling asleep at the wheel. Williams then changed his vote to nay before changing it back to yea.

"I stepped off the floor," Williams recalled. "I didn't know what was going on."

The Ohio House has prohibited a practice similar to that in California, where representatives are allowed to change their votes by the end of the day's business. The practice was changed about 10 years ago after it became so widespread that lawmakers and the media frequently were unsure about the vote totals, former House Clerk Laura Clemens said.

"That was making everybody confused," said Clemens, who served in the clerk's office from 1995 until earlier this year.

"It was also being used, quite frankly, rather strategically," she said. "So people would give a vote, thinking they'll vote yes. But when they realized they didn't really need to, then they could change their vote."

Since the crackdown, the House must vote to reconsider the entire bill for lawmakers to change their position, something that is seldom done.

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Stocks record biggest gains of year; Dow gains 218 points

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Bank stocks turbocharged a rally across the financial markets Tuesday, and all three major stock indexes posted their biggest gains of the year. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 218 points and closed at its highest level since the last day of 2007.

The Nasdaq composite closed above 3,000 for the first time since December 2000, when dot-com stocks were collapsing.

There was already plenty of good news driving the market higher Tuesday: Retail sales in February increased the most since September, and the Federal Reserve said it expected the unemployment rate to keep falling.

Then the market soared in the final hour after JPMorgan Chase, the country's largest bank by assets, announced that it plans to buy back as much as $15 billion of its stock and raise its quarterly dividend by a nickel to 30 cents per share.

JPMorgan said it was acting with the blessing of the Federal Reserve, which was preparing to announce the results of a review to make sure banks have enough cash to withstand a financial crisis worse than what happened in 2008.

"That's what really made the day," said Jeffrey Kleintop, chief market strategist at LPL Financial.

JPMorgan Chase stock soared 7 percent, and other banks followed. Citigroup and Goldman Sachs gained 6 percent. Banks were easily the best-performing stocks in the market, gaining almost 4 percent as a group.

The Fed had planned to release the results of its review, known as a stress test, for 19 financial institutions Thursday after the market closed. After JPMorgan Chase made its announcement, the Fed pulled a surprise.

The central bank released its stress test results a half-hour after the markets closed Tuesday — two days ahead of schedule. JPMorgan Chase and 14 other financial institutions passed. Four, including Citigroup, failed.

Citigroup stock was down 4 percent in after-hours trading following the Fed announcement.

The Dow finished at 13,177.68, its highest close since Dec. 31, 2007. Tuesday's close put the Dow within 1,000 points of its record, 14,164.53, set in October 2007. All 30 stocks in the Dow closed higher, the first time that has happened this year.

The Nasdaq composite index rose 56.22 points, or 1.9 percent, to 3,039.88.

On Dec. 11, 2000, the last time the Nasdaq closed above 3,000, it was in the middle of a horrifying slide — from a peak above 5,000 in March 2000 to just above 1,100 in October 2002.

At the beginning of 2000, the peak of the dot-com frenzy, investors valued stocks in the Nasdaq composite index at an astronomical 175 times their per-share earnings.

Google was not yet a public company, and the iPod didn't exist. Apple made about $800 million that year. Many Nasdaq companies were Internet startups with high stock prices but big losses.

And many of them failed, taking the Nasdaq down with them.

Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at Harris Private Bank, said the key difference between the Nasdaq then and now is that the technology companies that dominate the index only promised profits 12 years ago.

"The Nasdaq hasn't done much of anything for 12 years, but it's had a huge rally in earnings," Ablin said.

Today, the profits are real. The Nasdaq composite, which includes more than 2,500 companies, trades at about 24 times earnings, according to Birinyi Associates. Apple's profit last year was almost $26 billion.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index closed up 24.87 points, or 1.8 percent, at 1,395.96, its highest level since June 5, 2008. The S&P has gained 11 percent since Jan. 1, more than an average year. The S&P is a 12 percent rally from its record of 1,565.15.

Brian Gendreau, market strategist at Cetera Financial, said stocks could still go higher. Investors are paying roughly 14 times the past year's earnings for the S&P 500 index. The long-term average is closer to 15, and it's not uncommon for stocks to trade higher than the long-term average and for many years.

"Valuations are still very cheap," he said.

The dollar rose against the euro and hit an 11-month high against the Japanese yen after the Federal Reserve assessment. The euro fell to $1.3073 late Tuesday from $1.3150 late Monday. The dollar soared to 83.08 yen from 82.26 late Monday.

The retail sales report showed a gain of 1.1 percent last month. Some of it reflected higher gas prices, but Americans also spent more on cars, clothes and appliances. Department stores had their biggest gains in more than a year. The government also revised its estimates higher for December and January.

A reading of confidence among small business owners also rose in February for the sixth month in a row. The National Federation of Independent Business optimism index reached its highest level in a year, helped by an increase in expected sales.

The rally gained strength in the afternoon when the Federal Reserve said it saw signs of an improving economy and expected the unemployment rate to keep falling. The Fed also said strains in the global financial markets have eased.

The combination of strong retail sales and the Fed announcement dampened hopes that the Fed would buy more bonds to stimulate the economy, and traders dumped U.S. Treasury debt. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note climbed as high as 2.12 percent, its highest since October.

Among companies making big moves:

• Great Wolf Resorts jumped 27 percent to $5.13. Apollo Global Management said it has agreed to buy the indoor water park operator for $5 a share.

• Urban Outfitters dropped 5.3 percent, the worst drop in the S&P 500 index. The retailer reported earnings that fell below what analysts were expecting after it had to mark down prices on women's clothing at its Anthropologie and Urban Outfitters stores.

• Carmike Cinemas soared 17 percent. The Georgia-based movie theater chain reported earnings and sales that far outpaced what Wall Street analysts had expected.

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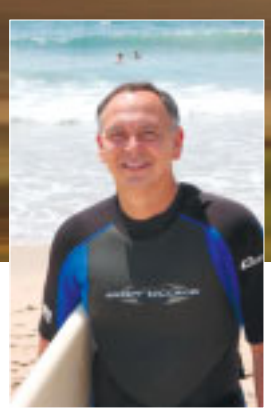
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GREEN
FROM PAGE 1

bills," Lass said.

Green building policies are a double-edged sword for those in the building industry.

KB Home of Southern California builds ultra-efficient communities in subdivisions that include solar power and other amenities at relatively low cost.

They can do that because of the scale on which they build, said Steve Ruffner, the company's division president.

"It's easier for us to do it," Ruffner said. "We're a production builder, and we have a price on sun power that no one can beat."

The company uses that to market to consumers in an attempt to woo them from KB's biggest competition — foreclosed homes.

"The majority of the resales are lower cost than the competition," Ruffner said. KB hopes to sell their homes based on the cost of home ownership, which they say is lower than an old home.

While green standards can be a boon to companies that have embraced them, they can also hurt builders trying to compete in a tough housing market.

California just ended its third worst consecutive housing year since 1955, said Silvio Ferrari, a legislative advocate and engineer with the California Building Industry Association, and adding to the cost of building homes won't help.

The building code in California has gotten so strict that it's begun costing $100 for every 1 percent increase in efficiency standards, Ferrari said.

"It makes it difficult to continue to be able to get your money back on reduced utility bills over the life of a dwelling," he said.

The association is completely on board with retrofitting old homes, however.

Right now, there are 13.4 million existing homes in the state. Of that, 9.1 million or about 68 percent were built prior to the energy code coming into effect, Ferrari said.

"We've been telling them for years that you guys need to spend more time addressing the existing housing market," Ferrari said.

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DINNER
FROM PAGE 1

with the emotional and legal aftermath.

It bothered Laurel Lewis, a registered nurse who, in her capacity at the Santa Monica Hospice, deals with death upfront and personal every day.

"I was concerned that people were uncomfortable talking about it," she said. "Why can't it be more like this, a regular conversation about death in a non-stressed out environment."

Last Sunday, Lewis held her 16th Death and Dying Dinner at the Santa Monica Hospice location on Ocean Park Boulevard, a potluck affair served up with a side of mortality.

A dozen people attended, seated at a long table, covered in white linen, fine china and silverware worthy of Emily Post.

The room was softly lit with flickering electric candles, and a magnificent spread of largely homemade foods in casseroles and artistic serving trays covered all surfaces of the table.

After each assisted in passing food counterclockwise around the table, the discussion commenced, a loosely-guided conversation exploring whatever participants choose to bring to the table that day.

Suicide became the focus of one meal, sudden death another, Lewis said.

"It's about bringing death and dying to the dinner table," she said.

ORIGINS

As with so many things in popular culture, the Death and Dying Dinner Party began with Oprah Winfrey.

The media maven put out a call to the general public to give her ideas for shows to populate her new network, OWN.

Lewis had returned home after a day of nursing feeling enlightened by an experience with a large family finding reconciliation with a dying loved one.

She opened her laptop and captured a video she later submitted to the network about this idea she'd been mulling about a venue where people could speak about one of the most difficult topics in our culture: Death.

"It's just me, talking about this idea of death and dying in America, and people's reluctance to look at it," Lewis said.

Oprah never called, but Lewis, inspired by the concept, decided to start it up anyway.

"I hadn't considered starting where I was," Lewis said. "I don't need Oprah to back me in hosting a dinner party."

The first Death and Dying Dinner took place in the home of an administrator. The food was catered by friends, and servers were hired.

Over the course of a year and a half, the concept of the dinner evolved into a community-sourced offering with people feeding others and taking inspiration from their food, their ideas and their words.

"First, I had a lot of my friends supporting me in this work. Now there are people coming I don't know," Lewis said.

THE PARTICIPANTS

People like Doug Binzak, a current hospice volunteer and first-time attendee of the Death and Dying Dinner, and Christopher King, a five-time veteran of the dinners.

Binzak, a former entertainment executive taking classes to become an ordained minister at the Chaplaincy Institute for Arts & Interfaith Ministries in Berkeley, Calif., wasn't sure what to expect when he walked into the conference room at the hospice on Sunday.

He knows the place as the location of stapling and collating documents, not intimate conversations over flickering pseudo-candlelight.

"I'm the type of person who doesn't usually pay attention to the paintings on the wall," Binzak said. "The meal was served on fine china, the lighting, candles and the food was so good. That really far exceeded my expectations. It helped set the mood."

Mood is critical to a gathering of strangers discussing things that most people avoid talking about with their dearest friends and family members. So were the rules with which Lewis prefaced the dinner.

First and foremost, confidentiality. The night began with each attendee standing to acknowledge their acceptance of that rule to create a space safe enough to express whatever ideas came to mind.

People were also asked not to talk over other speakers, to refrain from giving advice unless specifically asked and to avoid treating the evening as "therapy."

The diversity of attendees and the candidness with which they approach the meal brings up a host of topics and opinions that otherwise don't get voiced in polite society.

That's why King keeps showing up.

"What I get out if it most is that my experience is different," King said. "I'm going to keep going until there's redundanc[y]. Oh this is like the third dinner, or this is like the last. So far, and being at five of them, none of them have been the same."

IMPORTANCE

If talking about death and dying doesn't seem like a fun or useful way to spend your Sunday night, Jeannette Meyer would beg to differ.

"It's something we do wish people would think more about," said Meyer, the clinical nurse specialist for palliative care at the Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center.

Giving thought to the inevitability of death may be difficult, but a frank conversation now saves pain later as family members struggle to decide what to do in the final moments of a person's life.

It's critical to let your family know through conversation and through advance directive forms what you want out of care, and when they should let you go, Meyer said.

"I have sat both of my children down and had the discussion with them about what is most important and what quality of life I would tolerate," Meyer said. "Have the discussions early, now, while you're healthy … It's the greatest gift you can give them."

And having a comfort level with death, like that fostered by the dinners, certainly makes that conversation easier.

"Sometimes to have a safe space that you can share and have discussions with like-minded individuals in a supportive atmosphere is important," Meyer said.

For more information about the dinners, visit www.hospicepartnerssc.org

ashley@smdp.com



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HOMELESS
FROM PAGE 3

Friday but rain delayed its full implementation until Sunday.

"It gives a personal interaction, a connection for homeless people with regular folks with whom they don't often connect and get walked past," says Cookson, who declined to give financial totals but said it was "more than we anticipated."

She said BBH doesn't currently have plans to continue the plan, and that "lots of lots of questions have been raised." Still, she called it "a big success just in terms of getting attention for the issue and getting debate going."

One of the participants, Dusty White said that the experience of talking with SXSW attendees and earning some cash "made me feel proud."

"I felt like it was a positive thing," said White. "They could have done this with anyone."

Mitchell Gibbs, director of development and communications at Front Steps, said he was initially skeptical after being approached by BBH, but was won over by previous work they've done with the homeless. He put the offer to participants in the shelter's Case Management Program, a step-by-step program to move people out of shelters and off the streets.

"Everybody was educated and aware about the process," said Gibbs. "Everybody was excited by the opportunity to make some money."

Gibbs said the shelter's participants roundly enjoyed the experience.

"We've had more community conversations about homelessness, affordable housing, employment opportunities and shelters than we've had in I can't tell you when," said Gibbs. "We count that as a win."

Said White: "I would do it again."

BULGER
FROM PAGE 1

last year with his girlfriend.

Prosecutors say it's unclear whether Bulger wrote the document found in South Boston. They say the document found in California "appears to be autobiographical."

The government included descriptions of the documents in a list of evidence prosecutors have turned over to Bulger's lawyers. Prosecutors informed Bulger's lawyers that they may use the document found in 1995 "as evidence in (the) case-in-chief and/or to impeach the defendant" at his trial, which is scheduled to begin Nov. 5.

Bulger's lawyer J.W. Carney Jr. did not immediately return a phone call seeking comment on Tuesday. A spokeswoman for U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz declined to comment.

In the new court documents, prosecutors list hundreds of pieces of evidence they say they have turned over to the defense, including: surveillance photos and video of various locations frequented by Bulger and other members of his gang; crime scene and medical examiner photos of people Bulger and his gang are accused of killing; and statements made by Bulger, including those included in his FBI informant file. The list of evidence was filed in court ahead of a March 19 status conference in the case.

Bulger, who gave the FBI information on the rival New England Mob, fled Boston in late 1994 after being tipped by his former FBI handler, John Connolly Jr., that he was about to be indicted. Connolly later was convicted of racketeering for warning Bulger about the impending indictment.

Bulger, now 82, has pleaded not guilty. His girlfriend, Catherine Greig, 60, is expected to plead guilty Wednesday to charges she helped Bulger evade capture during their 16 years on the run together.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CITY HALL

Landmarks supports 'Chain Reaction'

The Landmarks Commission voted Monday to support the request that City Hall give supporters of the controversial "Chain Reaction" statue six months to find outside funding for repair and conservation.

Commissioners also asked for staff to put the 20-year-old statue on a future agenda, at which point they could choose to file an application for landmark status.

The application does not guarantee that the commission will try to landmark the statue, but would initiate a process to get more information on the work and its potential value as a landmark.

There are no other landmarked statues in Santa Monica, said commission liaison Scott Albright.

"Chain Reaction," a statue made of fiber glass, steel and copper links, was created by Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist Paul Conrad. It was installed on the Civic Center lawn in 1991.

Last year, a building and safety official noticed children playing on the statue, and further analysis showed that it had considerable wear and tear that might cost up to $400,000 to fix and conserve.

Activists have asked for an additional six months to raise the money rather than allow the piece to be donated to an outside group.

The City Council is scheduled to consider its fate March 20.

ASHLEY ARCHIBALD











Neighbors fret about plan for fabled 'Field of Dreams'

RYAN J. FOLEY
Associated Press

DYERSVILLE, Iowa Should we build it, and would they come?

Those are the questions being debated in the Iowa town where the "Field of Dreams" movie was filmed as it considers a $38 million proposal to turn the farmland around the famous cornfield diamond into one of the nation's largest youth baseball tournament and training complexes.

An Illinois couple has announced plans to buy the farmhouse and baseball field featured in the 1989 film, along with surrounding land, to build the "All-Star Ballpark Heaven," a complex of 24 baseball and softball diamonds, an indoor training facility and lodging that would draw teams from all around to compete in major tournaments.

While the project could provide an economic jolt and breathe new life into Dyersville's most valuable asset, it has unleashed fierce emotions that have pitted neighbors against each other and raised difficult questions for leaders of the town of 4,000. Should the city extend water and sewer service to make the project viable? Would enough people come to make it succeed? And if so, would the development ruin the nostalgic, country feel that made this part of rural Iowa a draw in the first place?

"This is one of those projects that has a high risk, but a high reward," said Jim Heavens, a cattle nutritionist who has been the city's part-time mayor for nine years. "If everything goes according to Hoyle, it would be a boom for the town and a boom for the state and do something nice for youth. If it doesn't work out, there's going to be a lot of pieces to pick up."

Dyersville, surrounded by lush farmland in the hills 30 miles west of Dubuque, has barely grown in recent decades and some residents say that's fine. The town has low unemployment and low taxes.

Since the movie was filmed, about a farmer who builds a baseball field that attracts the ghosts of Shoeless Joe Jackson and other White Sox players banned for throwing the 1919 World Series, the farm has attracted a stream of visitors despite few amenities: a house that is usually closed and a well-kept baseball field surrounded by corn. One of the most popular activities is a simple game of catch at the site. But some businesses and attractions, such as the National Farm Toy Museum, got used to the tourism and were hurt when it began to drop in recent years. Two years ago, owners Don and Becky Lansing put the farm up for sale.

The most vocal opposition to the proposed development comes from a small group of the farmers who raise cattle and pigs and grow corn and soybeans nearby. They worry the 193-acre project, expected to draw caravans of players and families every year, would disrupt their rural life. They worry about driving farm equipment in the traffic, and whether they'll face regulations on spraying crops and spreading manure with so many children nearby.

Wayne Ameskamp, whose family sold its portion of the movie site to the Lansings in 2008 after years of feuding between the families over its use, has spoken out in public and private meetings with city officials and neighbors. "Don't let them build these baseball diamonds out in the country and take our farmland out of production and ruin our piece of heaven," he told the city council recently. He worries his family would no longer be able to peacefully gather around a fire at its private campsite, nicknamed "Hillbilly Heaven."

Jeff Pape, whose family farm dates to 1851, said he worries the development, if done incorrectly, could "totally destroy" years of work by farmers to reduce runoff and pollution in a creek running through the site.

Investors Mike and Denise Stillman came up with the idea for the baseball complex in 2010 after Mike, a lawyer, and his son, then 8, stopped to play catch on the way home from a Minnesota Twins game. As planned, it would join a handful of such complexes in the U.S., including one near the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y.

The site would create hundreds of jobs in restaurants, lodging and recreation in a six-county region, according to a study commissioned by developers. Up to 1,500 families of players aged 8 through 14 would trek to the site weekly for camps and tournaments, the study said.

Many neighbors are skeptical about those figures. And some employers who already have difficulty finding workers wonder about the impact on the labor pool.

"I have to take the Stillmans' word that these people are really out there," Pape said. "If they do come and tourism comes back, they'll be heroes."

For the Stillmans, who watched "Field of Dreams" on one of their first dates, the neighbors are one of many hurdles. The couple is lobbying for a bill to allow the site to keep the sales tax charged on merchandise for 10 years — up to $16 million. Some lawmakers oppose the plan.

The Stillmans say they need to raise $18 million to make the development viable, and have an approaching deadline to decide whether to exercise their right to purchase. If they move forward, Dyersville would need to annex and rezone land and build water and sewer lines to the site. Heavens said that project could cost $7 million, more than initially expected.

Denise Stillman, who quit her health care consulting business to run the development startup, Go the Distance LLC, said she's confident about the project. "There's too many stars aligned for it to not happen," she said.

Jacque Rahe, a neighbor who leads the Dyersville Economic Development Corporation, calls the project "a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity" that has been disparaged by misinformation.

"No one realized what the movie would mean to us and it has far exceeded our expectations," said Rahe, whose husband was a member of the Ghost Players comedy troupe that performed at the farm. "Now, almost 25 years later, it's time for a boost. There's a whole new generation of people who don't have a strong connection to the 'Field of Dreams' and need to be introduced to it."



NCAA BASKETBALL

Howland to stay on at UCLA

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Coming off what he calls the most disappointing season of his coaching career, Ben Howland said Tuesday that he's intent on changing the culture of the once-storied UCLA basketball program, which staggered through a year that included an NCAA snub and the dismissal of standout player Reeves Nelson.

"This is UCLA, the expectations are higher than anywhere," Howland said. "The success, both in terms of championships and wins and success off the floor, is second-to-none in college basketball. I know the expectation level and no one has higher expectations than me. This has been very disappointing for me."

The Bruins finished fifth in the conference for the second straight year and lost in the quarterfinals of the league tournament, giving them a 19-14 record. They were left out of the NCAA tournament and even the NIT didn't take them, though it did take four other Pac-12 teams.

It was the third consecutive season in which the Bruins recorded double-digit losses following three consecutive trips to the Final Four.

Nelson was suspended twice before being kicked off the team in December for bad behavior.

UCLA's struggles were magnified by a Sports Illustrated article that anonymously quoted former players and staff members from the past four UCLA teams saying Howland had allowed an influx of talented but immature recruits to undermine team discipline and morale. The story suggested the program that boasts a record 11 national championships had been damaged by fights among players and alcohol and drug use by team members.

Howland has posted a 205-96 record in nine seasons at UCLA and remains under contract through 2015.

UCLA athletic director Dan Guerrero issued a statement earlier Tuesday saying he had reviewed the program and decided that keeping Howland was best for the future of the Bruins.

"Obviously, we are aware of the recent criticisms of our men's basketball program; Ben understands full well that the management and oversight of the program needs improvement," Guerrero said in the statement. "He has assured me that, going forward, both the character and performance among our student-athletes will reflect the University's values and the basketball program's storied tradition. I believe that his overall record and performance proves he is more than capable of delivering on these assurances."

Despite the recent turmoil, Howland still maintains the support of his current players.

"I knew people were talking about it, but I never thought his job was in jeopardy," sophomore forward David Wear said.

NCAA BASKETBALL

Pac-12 moving men's tourney to Vegas

OSKAR GARCIA
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS The Pac-12 men's basketball tournament is moving to Sin City for the next three years.

Commissioner Larry Scott announced the deal Tuesday at the MGM Grand hotel-casino in Las Vegas, standing poolside near a site known for boxing, not basketball.

Scott said the move, combined with moving the women's tournament to Seattle, will generate buzz and create atmosphere for the conference's fans.

The Pac-12 tournament running March 13-16, 2013, will be the fourth conference tournament in Las Vegas, along with the Mountain West, Western Athletic Conference and West Coast Conference.

"For hardcore basketball fans, this is going to be like Disneyland," Scott said.

Rossi Ralenkotter of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority said the tournament will establish Las Vegas as the town where March Madness begins, with the tournaments generating $27 million in spending in the city — excluding gambling.

"It's a win-win for all of us," Ralenkotter said.

Roughly one-third of Las Vegas' 39 million tourists last year came from California. Four of the Pac-12's schools are in the Golden State.

All the tournament's games will be televised under a 12-year deal with ESPN, Fox and the newly created Pac-12 Network. Scott said ESPN would air three tournament games, including the championship, next year.

Sin City won out over other places including Salt Lake City, Seattle and Los Angeles in bidding to host the tournament, Scott said.

Stanford coach Johnny Dawkins praised Scott for the move.

"He's looking to continue to try to forge ahead with making this conference the type of conference that he envisions and that we envision — and that's one of the best conferences in the country," Dawkins said.

Washington coach Lorenzo Romar said Las Vegas will be more convenient for the Pac-12's teams.

"It's not spread out at all, just about everything is right there at everyone's fingertips," Scott said. "I can see this taking us to the next level as a conference with national exposure."

The tournament will be the first time the MGM Grand Garden Arena has hosted basketball. It's world-famous for hosting top prizefights, and regularly hosts exhibition NHL hockey, concerts, awards shows and other corporate events. Last month, it hosted a swanky, star-studded bash to celebrate Muhammad Ali's 70th birthday.

Scott Sibella, the MGM Grand's president, said the arena would hold 14,000 to 15,000 fans for basketball.

"It's a 3-year deal but we're going to prove to them that they're going to be here a lot longer than three years," Sibella said.

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smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office **(310) 458-7737**

SURF REPORT



RIPCURL LIVE THE SEARCH
1451 THIRD STREET PROMENADE • SANTA MONICA, CA • 310-656-2875

SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP:** 56.3°

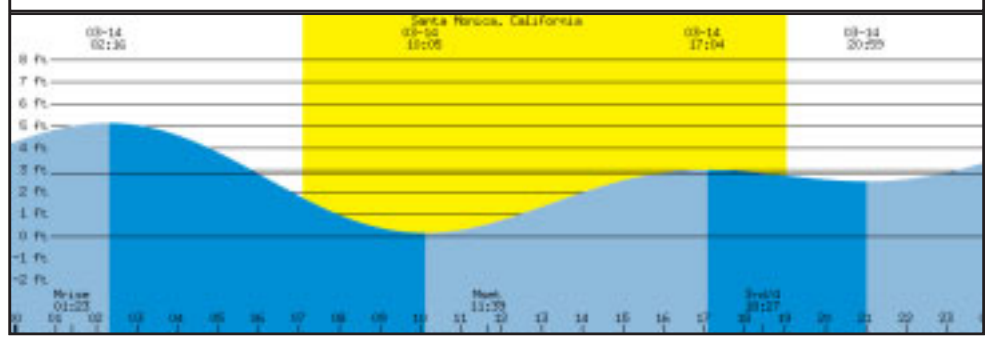
SWELL FORECAST

West facing breaks are looking at chest max. South facing breaks should see SW swell start to build, bringing chest high sets early, then slightly bigger in the afternoon.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

SOUTH FACING BREAKS ARE LOOKING AT AN INCREASE TO SHOULDER HIGH OR BETTER.

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 **March 7, 2012**

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 -- 8
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 8
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 22 / 25
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 25

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Goodbrook Family Foundation, simplehuman, LazerGUY, 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
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	B	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Los Alisos creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A	ns
Pearce State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pearce Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A	ns
Surfrider Beach (beach location) - daily.	F	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	B	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19648 PCH stairs.	B	ns
Pena Creek at Los Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17208 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	ns

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

LEGEND

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

Heal the Bay is a 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.

MOVIE TIMES

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

The Lady Vanishes (NR) 1hr 37min
7:30pm

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

Vow (PG-13) 1hr 44min
1:55pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:05pm

Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (PG) 1hr 34min
1:35pm

This Means War (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
1:40pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Tyler Perry's Good Deeds (PG-13) 2hrs 09min
4:15pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

Chronicle (PG-13) 1hr 23min
1:45pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

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

Thousand Words (PG-13) 1hr 31min
11:50am, 2:30pm, 5:10pm, 7:45pm, 10:15pm

Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG) 1hr 35min
1:25pm, 4:05pm, 6:30pm, 9:00pm

John Carter in Disney Digital 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 19min
11:30am, 2:50pm, 6:10pm, 9:30pm

Safe House (R) 1hr 57min
11:20am, 2:00pm, 4:40pm, 7:40pm, 10:30pm

Act of Valor (R) 1hr 51min
12:30pm, 3:30pm

Dr. Seuss' The Lorax 3D (PG) 1hr 35min
11:45am, 2:20pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

Metropolitan Opera: Ernani Encore (NR) 3hrs 55min
6:30pm

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

Boy (NR) 1hr 27min
1:00pm, 3:10pm, 5:30pm, 7:50pm, 10:15pm

Perfect Sense (NR) 1hr 28min
1:10pm, 3:20pm, 5:40pm, 8:00pm, 10:15pm

Salt of Life (Gianni e le donne) (NR) 1hr 30min
1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:20pm, 7:40pm, 10:00pm

Artist (PG-13) 1hr 40min
1:55pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 9:55pm

AMC Criterion 6
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG) 1hr 35min
11:30am, 4:35pm, 9:30pm

Hugo 3D (PG) 2hrs 07min
12:30pm, 3:40pm, 6:45pm, 9:40pm

John Carter (PG-13) 2hrs 19min
12:20pm, 3:40pm, 7:00pm, 10:15pm

Wanderlust (R) 1hr 38min
11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

Friends With Kids (R) 1hr 40min
11:30am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Dr. Seuss' The Lorax 3D (PG) 1hr 35min
1:55pm, 7:00pm

Silent House (R) 1hr 28min
11:55am, 2:20pm, 4:50pm, 7:20pm, 9:55pm

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

Try a new place, Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You will try anything once -- within reason. Remain sensitive to financial matters that offer provocative options. Be smart about your choices. Tonight: Remain upbeat. Try a new place.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Everyone, including you, likes to be indulged. At times, it might be difficult to say "thank you." Let someone express his or her ideas about an important situation before you choose how much you want to reveal. Tonight: Be a duo.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Remain responsive, but be careful when choosing your cause. You might not be able to cover all your bases; therefore, decide what is most important or instrumental to your success. Tonight: Say "yes" to the moment.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Make and act on a long-overdue resolution. You know you need to follow that path; the time is now. Understand what is happening. You have spirit and energy behind your words and actions. Tonight: Flow with the moment.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Your enthusiasm helps you cross the thin line between impossible and possible. Often, others watch your antics in amazement. If you choose to take a risk, be aware of the potential damages. Tonight: Face the facts: You cannot do everything and be everywhere.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Stay centered and know exactly what you are doing. Listen to someone's rendition of events. Remember that whatever people inadvertently choose to see could vary, and they might not even be conscious of their mental filters. Tonight: Buy a favorite treat on the way home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ You communicate the essence of your thoughts without difficulty. Others enjoy the special touches of your style as well. A discussion involving a primary personal issue is well-timed. Tonight: Speak your mind.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Remain sensitive to a change in an offer that has been presented to you in the past. This could make quite a difference in the overall experience and its results. Explore your options as you express your gratitude. Tonight: Indulge a little.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You have the energy and wherewithal to nail down a situation to your liking. Others appreciate you including them, yet a respected individual could push too hard to have you follow his or her way of doing things. Communication soars. Tonight: Wish upon a star. It could work.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Much is going on beyond the obvious. You sense this fact and pull back. Your decision shows an innate wisdom, and in the long run, it will help. Zero in on your observation skills. Tonight: Take some much-needed personal time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ A meeting makes you more aware of a potential goal. Is this goal realistic? Conversations point to many different opinions. You discover that someone has a more direct path to the same end. Tonight: With friends, perhaps making a new friend.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Someone's leadership might be OK with you but not with another person you care a lot about. You could be between a rock and a hard place. You probably need to focus on your goals and priorities. At that point, you will know what to do. Tonight: Could be late.

Happy birthday

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

This year Lady Luck appears and could impact your life financially and/or emotionally. You will encounter trouble when you go to extremes. Self-discipline is a must, or you could overindulge and take away from your good fortune. Your immediate circle changes, as you meet people with similar goals. If you are single, you will have more than one opportunity to change your status. Take your time choosing the right person. If you are attached, you find your sweetie to be provocative and full of information. He or she also could have quite a temper. SAGITTARIUS can be a challenging boss.



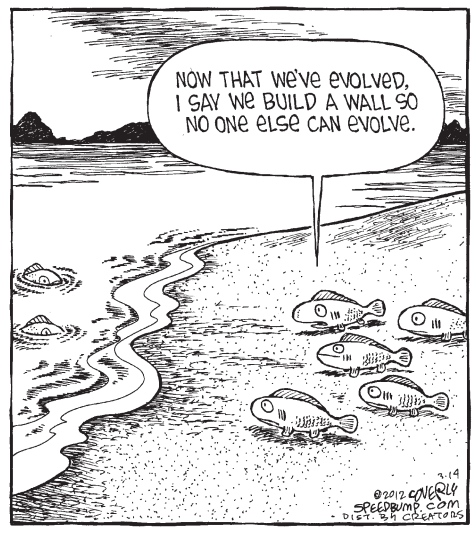
MYSTERY PHOTO

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.

Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



Strange Brew

By John Deering



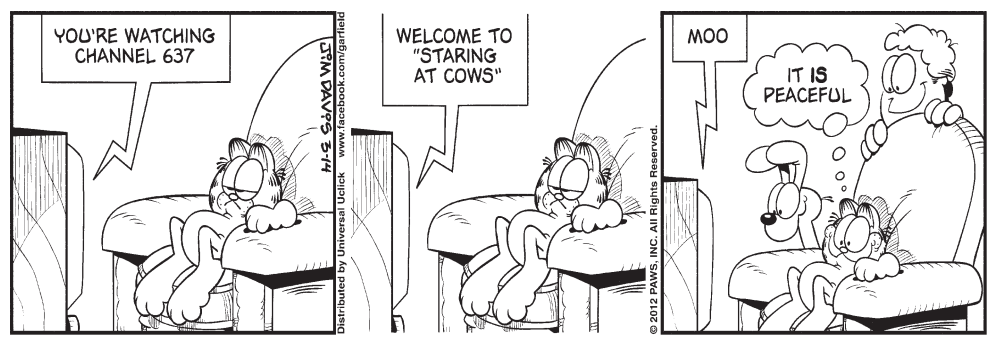
Dogs of C-Kennel

By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



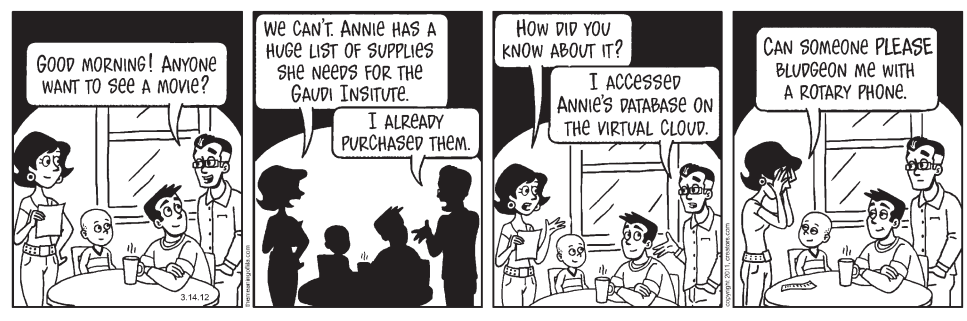
Garfield

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 ★★★

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

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Exercise choice
5 Letter strokes
11 Creative work
12 Like apples and oranges
13 Cubicle fixture
14 Prayer aid
15 Tiny worker
16 Water bearer
17 Pol's concern
19 Seaman
22 Make void
24 Hot room
26 Miseries
27 Check mate?
28 Baffled
30 Rapper Elliott
31 "You betcha!"
32 Verne specialty
34 High point
35 Quick bite
38 Obstructed
41 Goose egg
42 Individually
43 Tag-sale label
44 Wild ones
45 "You there!"

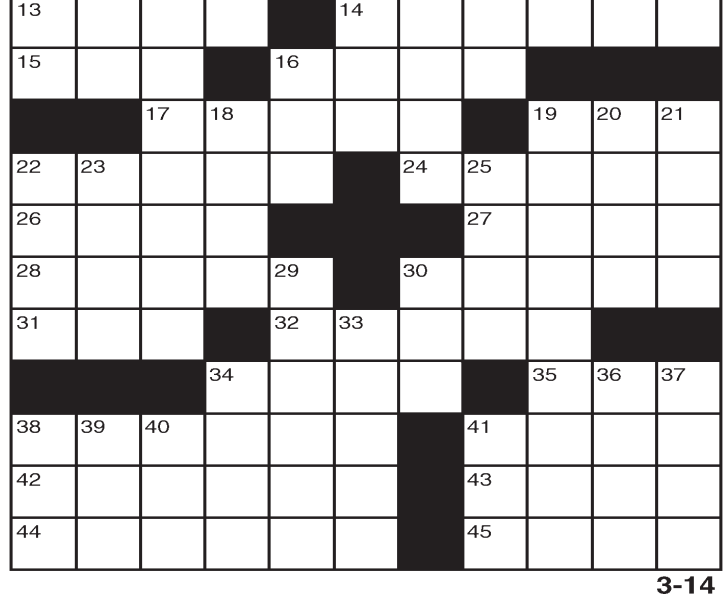
DOWN

1 Luke's teacher
2 Start the bidding
3 Windy quality
4 Demand
5 Parsley serving
6 Skips a ceremony
7 Trick
8 Lyricist Gershwin
9 Remote
10 Crafty
16 Bud
18 Inspiration
19 Courageous quality
20 Responsibility
21 Pampered one
22 Not at home
23 Jot down
25 "Like that'll happen!"
29 Mien
30 Dance tape
33 Hands over
34 Iowa State setting
36 Eye part
37 Fence part
38 Boxing poke
39 Big galoot
40 Farrow of films
41 Ray-gun sound

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

Yesterday's answer

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



3-14

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• Insert the given numbers in the empty squares so when they are calculated in threes from left to right and top to bottom they satisfy the demands in the shaded boxes both horizontally and vertically.

• Each empty square dictates the math operation that must be performed to meet the demands.

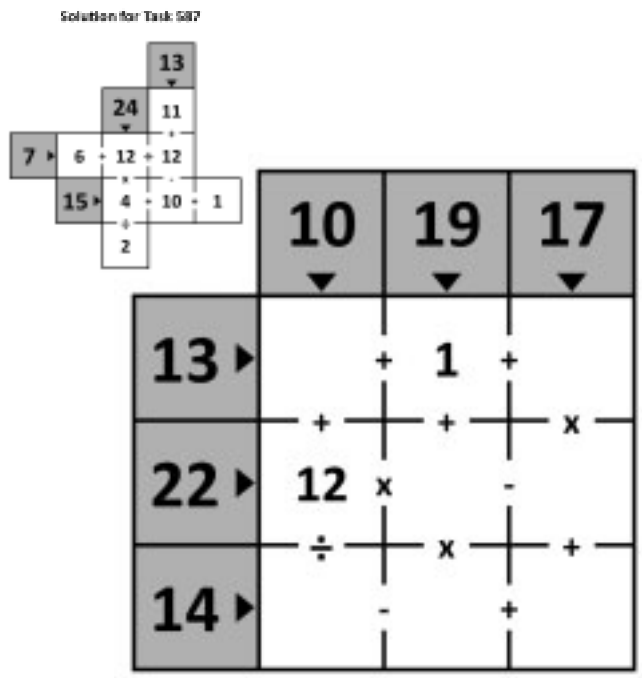
• Remember to multiply or divide before you add or subtract.

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

2, 2, 3, 9, 9, 11, 12

Solution for Task 587



DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date:
Meganumber:
Jackpot:

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 3/10
14 24 28 35 40
Meganumber: 19
Jackpot: $11M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 3/13
8 12 25 30 36

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 3/13
MIDDAY: 8 5 7
EVENING: 5 0 7

SANTA ANITA PARK
Draw Date: 3/13
1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 04 Big Ben
RACE TIME: 1:49.56

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

■ **Bipartisanship:** White supremacist Richard Treis, 38, was arrested in February in St. Louis, along with his alleged partner, black gang member Robert "Biz" Swinney, 22, and charged with running a huge methamphetamine operation. The two, who had met at a prison halfway house, had allegedly meshed their unique talents -- Treis as a meth cook and Swinney as a skilled street seller who recruited people to buy restricted pseudoephedrine products from pharmacies. Said a deputy, "They put away their differences to get the job done."

■ **Can't Possibly Be True:** "(A) growing number of scientists" are at work on biocomputer models based on movements of slime to solve complex-systems problems, according to a December report in London's Daily Telegraph. Though slime molds are single-cell organisms lacking a "brain," said professor Toshiyuki Nakagaki of Japan's Future University Hakodate, they somehow can "organize" themselves to create the most direct route through mazes in order to find food. Said professor Atsushi Tero, of Kyushu University, ordinary computers are "not so good" at finding such ideal routes because of the quantity of calculations required, but slime molds seem to flow "in an impromptu manner" and gradually find the best routes.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1964 – A jury in Dallas, Texas, finds Jack Ruby guilty of killing Lee Harvey Oswald, assumed assassin of John F. Kennedy.

1967 – The body of President John F. Kennedy is moved to a permanent burial place at Arlington National Cemetery.

1972 – Italian publisher and former partisan Giangiacomo Feltrinelli is killed by an explosion near Segrate.

WORD UP!

astringent
\ uh-STRIN-juhnt \ , adjective;
1. Sharply incisive; pungent.
2. Medicine/Medical. Contracting; constrictive; styptic.

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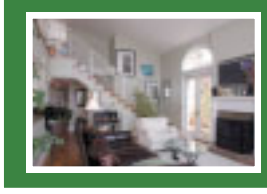
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