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Santa Monica Daily Press
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Volume 11 Issue 109

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

SMC BRINGS BACK MEN'S SOCCER
SEE PAGE 3

THE PAY UP ISSUE

Developers facing new fee to fund transit projects

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The Planning Commission voted unanimously Wednesday to move forward a new fee that planners estimate could raise $60 million for transportation projects over the next 20 years.

It's one of the highest such fees anywhere in Los Angeles County outside of the coastal corridor, which includes Playa Vista, Marina del Rey and communities near LAX, said Jeff Tumlin, a consultant with the transportation planning firm Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates.

The transportation mitigation impact fee, as it's called in City Hall, would help pay for transportation improvements to make sure traffic, road conditions and other infrastructure doesn't worsen as more development comes to the city.

It would apply to most new building — including single family homes — and would vary based on what kind of development is approved and where in city limits it occurs.

Those two factors influence the total

SEE FEE PAGE 9

City Hall's pension costs to increase

Bad investment return means cities will pitch in more for retirement

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The organization that manages the majority of public pensions in California announced Wednesday that employers would have to kick in more money to cover employee retirement costs because of bad investment returns and falling inflation.

The California Public Employees Retirement System board approved a reduction in its discount rate from 7.75 percent to 7.5 percent, a move which means state and local governments will have to make up the difference for their employees.

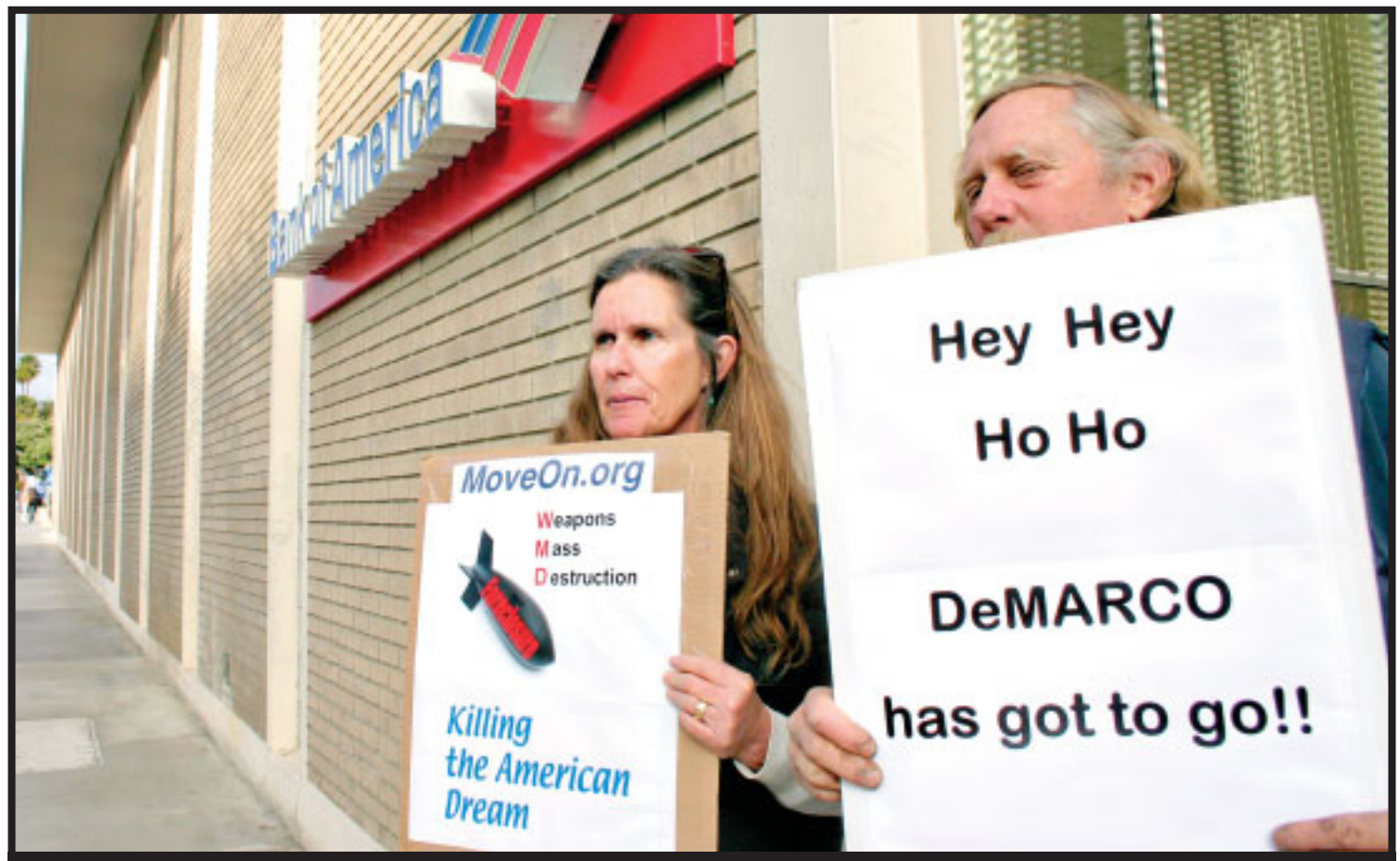
It's the first time the rate has dropped in a decade, and it will cost California $167 million per year, not counting impacts to local government, said CalPERS spokesperson Amy Norris.

Employer contributions for miscellaneous employees, which compose the majority of Santa Monica's public workforce, will go up between 1 and 2 percent by the 2013-14 fiscal year.

Contributions for police and fire will increase between 2 and 3 percent.

In a worst case scenario, that could equate to $2.8 million from the general fund, said Gigi Decavalles-Hughes, City Hall's finance

SEE PENSION PAGE 8



MAKING A STATEMENT

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

Members of Moveon.org protest bank lending tactics outside of Bank of America on Thursday. The gathering was part of a nationwide effort.

Rain storm on the way to Southern California

SUDHIN THANAWALA
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO A late winter storm that brought heavy rain and winds to Central and Northern California is expected to arrive in the Los Angeles area late tonight.

The upper-level, low-pressure system bringing the second storm was expected to deepen across California and bring widespread rain and mountain snow to the south end of the state.

Up to 16 inches of snow was expected in Southern California mountains above 6,000 feet, and even the Santa Monica Mountains rising above the Malibu coast could see a

SEE RAIN PAGE 10

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Friday, March 16, 2012

Discussing SMO
Santa Monica Airport
3223 Donald Douglas Loop South, 10 a.m. — 12 a.m.
The community is invited to discuss their concerns about the Santa Monica Airport. The aim of the meeting is to find out what residents would like to see done at the airport. The event will be held in the Administration Conference Room. For more information, call (310) 458-8221.

Yoga at the beach
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 PCH, 9 a.m. — 10 a.m.
Find your center during this regular yoga class at the Beach House. Ages 12 and up are invited. For more information, call (310) 458-4904.

Cooking with ladies
The Gourmandise School
Santa Monica Place at Third Street and Broadway,
8 p.m. — 10 p.m.
It's ladies night and the feeling's right — to get down in the kitchen. Bring your appetite and a passion to learn something new about cooking. Cost: $65. For more information, e-mail tracykontos@gmail.com.

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.

Saturday, March 17, 2012

Walk for art
Santa Monica Airport
3223 Donald Douglas Loop South, 12 p.m. — 5 p.m.
The Sixth Annual ArtWalk gives visitors a glimpse of the artistic community being fostered at Santa Monica Airport. More than 60 artists will open their doors, revealing their work to the world. There will also be activities for kids and tours of the Museum of Flying. Food trucks round out the offerings.
For more information, call (310) 434-2630.

All about unity
Virginia Avenue Park
2200 Virginia Ave.,
1 p.m. — 5 p.m.
For the sixth year, the Unity Resource Festival will showcase Santa Monica's diverse cultures. There will be music, dance and even a little food. This year's theme is "A Cultural Infusion."
For more information, visit www01.smgov.net/hsd/vap.htm.

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



COLLEGE SOCCER

Santa Monica College revives men's soccer team after long absence


PIERCE

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SMC It seems that soccer is a popular sport at Santa Monica College these days.

The school has resurrected its men's soccer program after nearly 20 years of not taking the pitch.

The decision to bring back the team came as student demand continued to pour in on questionnaires given to new students each year.

Consistently, it was the one sport that incoming students were most interested in playing that didn't already have a team, school officials said.

"There has always been tons of interest," said new head coach Tim Pierce. "There seems to be plenty of male soccer playing students already at the school."

The fact that President Chui Tsang is an avid soccer fan and player didn't hurt, either.

It was an easy decision for Tsang to make, once he saw the amount of interest there was in the sport.

"We've been looking at it for a while," Tsang said moments after a team of SMC faculty and staff defeated a team from the Santa-Malibu Unified School District on Wednesday at Santa Monica High School. "Soccer has a strong tradition in this community."

Once the move became official, Pierce immediately was interested in heading the program as it builds from the ground up.

Pierce, who won a national championship while playing for UCLA in 2002, said that his first order of business was identifying assistant coaches to help him tutor the newest Corsair team.

SEE **SOCCER** PAGE 9

Polling, campaign strategy forced tax initiative deal

JUDY LIN
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO In less than a week, Gov. Jerry Brown went from resignation over the prospect of facing multiple tax initiatives on the November ballot to announcing a key political merger with a competing proposal pushed by a teachers union.

The deal announced Wednesday will give voters a clear choice and make it easier for supporters to state their case to voters. The governor and his allies were fast-tracking the new initiative proposal to meet a June 28 deadline to qualify it for the general election ballot.

Efforts to strike a compromise intensified last week after a public opinion poll found that just a slim majority of likely voters supported the governor's plan. Yet at the same time, the California Federation of Teachers, the union pushing the competing millionaires' tax, could not persuade Democratic lawmakers or other key allies and financial backers to join their side.

Both sides say their desire for a unified initiative to temporarily raise the state's sales and income taxes ultimately came down to a shared interest to generate more revenue for schools and to help close the state's $9.2 billion deficit. They also wanted to avoid a messy political fight that would have confused and turned off voters.

"We were looking at a very difficult ballot, and you heard from us on that. You heard me say a circular firing squad because it just wasn't going to be something we were going to be successful in," said Brown's political adviser, Steve Glazer. "Unless we had a course change, we were vulnerable to failing to achieve the important goals we had set out to accomplish."

The Public Policy Institute of California found that just 52 percent of likely voters would support Brown's tax plan even before anti-tax groups waged their own opposition campaign. The next day, supporters of the millionaires tax promoted an internal poll showing their initiative had far greater appeal.

"I think No. 1, the governor and the legislative leaders saw that we were committed to this," said Joshua Pechthalt, president of the California Federation of Teachers. "We were not backing down."

The union is much smaller than the powerful California Teachers Association, which supported the governor's plan. The federation was joined in its effort, known as the Restoring California Coalition, by the advocacy group Courage Campaign.

The coalition took its internal poll to the Capitol but could not persuade Democratic lawmakers to join forces. Sen. Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, said lawmakers were concerned that money raised by the higher income taxes on millionaires would be dedicated solely to public schools and could not be used for other state-funded programs.

"They make a very strong case. They shared with us their polling; they shared with us how and why they designed it as they did," Leno said. "But our concern was, you may win, but we believe at great risk to health and human services, which I believe can't sustain much more assault."

Last month, a Field Poll found California registered voters were more likely to support the millionaires tax rather than Brown's proposal. The poll found that 63 percent supported the proposal to raise taxes only on millionaires.

SEE **DEAL** PAGE 8



HURLING IT

Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

Pacifica Christian's Keenan Pierandozzi-Howes delivers a pitch against Beverly Hills on Thursday. Pacifica hung close, but Beverly Hills won, 4-3. The Seawolves' record falls to 2-2.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Get rid of it

Editor:

I always thought Paul Conrad's "work of art" looked more like a pile of snakes ("Landmarks supports 'Chain Reaction,'" March 14, page 13). As our City Council bids farewell to the Christmas story display, so should they bid farewell to that dangerous, rusting mound of metal.

Don Wagner
Santa Monica

A few ideas

Editor:

Our normally greedy city is missing a real chance to make a buck.

I realize this cannot be done for awhile as we have to get the bicyclists trapped first. It is obvious the police have been told to leave the bicyclists alone. Maybe once every two or three weeks we will see where a bicyclist is cited for riding on the sidewalks. Just this morning I could have cited at least 10 in 20 minutes.

The city is spending hundreds of thousands of dollars for installing bike lanes, bike emblems, restriping center lines and installing bike lock-up posts all over town. The labor for this does not come free. What are the bikers paying for these services? Absolutely nothing. The autos pay for it all. Why?

How about city license plates for the bikes. Parking meters for the lock-up posts. Autos have to have smog tests. How about safety inspections for the bicycles with fines for those failing the inspections.

Let us ban all motor vehicles including delivery trucks from the city – say a Thursday of each week from Colorado Avenue to Wilshire Boulevard and from Ocean Front Walk to 18th Street. Bicyclists would be hard put to carry a package of any size.

Our City Council has gone bicycle nuts. Let's have photos of our exalted council members biking to all their meetings. All of them. These imposed rules demanded by the council members have worked for the smokers. Now see what can be enforced for the irresponsible bikers.

David Darling
Santa Monica



Your column here

Celia Carroll — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Living life to the fullest

MEL BLOCH, THE "PIED PIPER OF CHESS" at the Ocean Park Branch Library, passed away after an illness on Feb. 26, 2012. He was 65. Mel was a longtime fixture in Ocean Park, known to many for his prodigious intellect, wide-ranging interests, gentle spirit and eagerness to help others.

Certain neighborhoods in American art and literature resonate with a magnetism which attracts writers, artists, inventors, and entertainers. In Monterey, Calif. lies Cannery Row, which John Steinbeck implanted into the American consciousness with indelible characters in his novels. In Santa Monica, "quality of light" sparked the paintings and drawings called the Ocean Park Series, artist Richard Diebenkorn's best-known body of work.

With Mel's passing, Ocean Park has lost two of its iconic residents within the past two years, men Steinbeck would surely have loved to know. The second loss was Parke Meek, once a member of the famed Charles and Ray Eames design team. Parke passed away at age 86 in 2010. Mel had helped Parke manage his movie prop store, Jadis, and could be found there most Saturdays behind the counter.

I first encountered Mel in 2000 as a tall, bespectacled gentleman with a long gray ponytail when he applied for a library page job at the branch I managed, the Ocean Park Branch Library. To prove his strength for the job as "book-wrangler," on my desk he abruptly propped his body horizontally in the air supported only by his palms under his chest! Albeit a tad peculiar, it was nonetheless an impressive feat.

Physical prowess was one of many facets of Mel's remarkable personality. As a Yale graduate, a combat veteran of the Vietnam War, a road manager for such musicians as Frank Sinatra and Barry Manilow, and as an active parent in local schools, Mel brought many talents to the library. Prior to the advent of security staff at the branch, Mel often assisted with first-aid emergencies. He once comforted a dying man on the library's front lawn and at another time he stabilized an accident scene at which an injured cyclist lay in the roadway of Ocean Park Boulevard.

For me, Mel's most outstanding library accomplishment was his coordination of after-school chess clubs for children at Ocean Park and Fairview Branch libraries. He recruited interested families from an Ocean Park Farmer's Market booth on Sundays then welcomed them to chess games Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.

Mel was fascinated with the intellect of the children, and how that intellect could be developed in remarkable ways at the chess table. Several autistic children blossomed into confident chess players under his mentoring. Mel solicited donors among local store owners along Main Street for the numerous chess boards needed for 50 or 60 players who appeared each week.

Teen chess player and volunteer instructor Cody O'Connell wrote to the Santa Monica Daily Press on May 8, 2011: "Mel Bloch is one of the five great teachers I have had in my life and has done more good in the world than any other. He teaches people to play chess while making them smile, laugh and enjoy themselves. Amiable and knowledgeable, Mel is loved by almost all of the children and parents who came to the chess program."

Mel possessed one of the most amazing minds I've ever encountered. As a gifted storyteller, he could recall a joke for any topic or impart fascinating details of historical incidents. He loved rare and fine books, and was adept at determining their provenance with the aid of his trusted laptop computer! He had the utmost sense of integrity in all his dealings.

Mel Howard Bloch was born Nov. 27, 1947 in Frankfurt, Germany. He is survived by his son, Chiron H. Bloch, daughter-in-law Sara Bloch and grandson Max Hannibal Bloch, who is due to be born any day now.

Perhaps a poem Mel wrote and sent to many of his friends in 2010 can best sum up his approach to a life well-lived:

AS IN THE WORLD

By Mel Bloch

as in the world I am
yet of it seek not to be,
I this confession make...

for all loft of language,
my passports filled,
though I have stood before the Mona Lisa,
shaken the hands of kings and saints,
whistled Mozart on the Great Wall...
despite the wisdoms of my father's fathers' fathers in my veins
despite the visions of a hundred mothers in my eyes,
I was mostly in small towns raised
where food is love,
sorrow has company,
joy even more so,
a promise is a lifetime affair,
a hand offered is proffered
at no risk to the taker,
where permission to ask
is given without the asking,
where small truths, shared,
are the dreams we speak of in prayer.

no matter where these dreams and truths are transported
they remain small and beautiful; perfect.
...and therefore, all that matters.

CELIA CARROLL was the Ocean Park Branch Librarian from 1997 - 2010. Jack Neworth also contributed to this column.

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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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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Why the war against women?

LAST WEEK I TOOK ISSUE WITH RUSH Limbaugh's verbal attacks on law student Sandra Fluke and as a result I received a number of reader e-mails. Suffice it to say, the column stirred a hornet's nest. I would say a bee's nest but I'm not sure we have bees anymore. (To quote Alfred E. Neuman, "What, me worry?")

Oddly enough a majority of the e-mails were critical because I didn't call Bill Maher out on the carpet for an ugly epithet he used in describing Sarah Palin. (FYI, "call on the carpet" comes from the military where only senior officers had carpet in their offices.)

Maher's attack of Palin, however offensive to some, occurred during a comedy concert. His audience paid to attend and knows his reputation for, as he puts it, "having a potty mouth."

As a comedian, Maher was either being funny or attempting to do so, depending on one's point of view. Rush, however, was obviously serious when he called Ms. Fluke a "slut" and a "prostitute" and is also obviously not a comedian. (Though some consider him a clown, albeit a very rich one.)

Other distinctions: Ms. Fluke is a student while Palin is as public a figure as one can be. With TV and rally appearances, Palin sells books, and raises millions for her PAC which supports candidates for "real Americans," meaning she's quite an attacker herself. Just recall her self-description, "The only difference between a hockey mom and a pit bull is lipstick."

Limbaugh made his vile remarks over three broadcasts to humiliate Ms. Fluke, who only wanted to testify at a Congressional hearing to express her advocacy for female birth control medication to be included in health plans. And evidently that justified Rush calling her a "slut." Disgraceful.

The fact is I still can't understand how Darrell Issa's committee, which was dealing with women-related health issues, had only men testify. Issa said Ms. Fluke wasn't "qualified." (Because she didn't have a penis?)

For Rush, Ms. Fluke's second strike was that she had a different viewpoint than his and that's intolerable, especially when coming from a woman. Just examine his endless references to Nancy Pelosi as the "Botox queen." Attacking someone's appearance is pathetic but also hypocritical when the attacker looks like Rush. (Something about glass houses.)

Another distinction between Maher and Limbaugh's remarks is that Rush made his over public airwaves. A better comparison would have been Ed Schultz' 2011 reference to Laura Ingraham as a "right-wing slut" for which he was suspended by MSNBC for a week without pay. (That would have cost Rush a cool $1 million.) I watched Schultz' on-air apology and he seemed genuinely contrite. Rush's non-apology apology essentially blamed liberals. A bully's never sorry and it's never his fault.

But lost in all of this is the apparent right-wing war against women, which absolutely mystifies me. Rush's gutter style name-calling of Ms. Fluke and his repulsive suggestion that her sex tapes should be put online are hideous. (Ms. Fluke wasn't talking about birth control and sex but rather the preventative value the meds have for other female medical issues.)

Consider if Rush had been that vile in describing blacks (using the "N" word) or Jews, or just about any minority. He'd be in line at the unemployment office, or maybe he'd send his cleaning woman. (Meanwhile, Viagra has been covered in health plans since 1998 but female birth control isn't. Why?)

How did it become acceptable in 2012 to demean females or make crude jokes about the best birth control being aspirin between women's knees? Or, as Rick Santorum suggests, that all contraception is wrong. (If anything is wrong it's Rick's sweater vests.)

I feel like Rip Van Winkle waking up. Is the GOP right-wing purposely trying to alienate 51 percent of the voters to appeal to fundamentalists who think women's rights ought to be rolled back to the middle ages? (Or at least back to 1952.) That sounds like the Taliban. What's next, burkas?

Here's a slightly disturbing statistic. (Actually more than slightly.) In countries around the world with the highest percentage of females in national legislatures, the U.S. ranks 69th. That's shameful.

And just yesterday, Willard ("all math, no message") Romney said something just as disturbing: "Planned Parenthood, we're going to get rid of that." Planned Parenthood provides services to 3 million women, including vital breast cancer screenings.

With his never apologize approach, wars are very possible with Willard. Somehow there's always money for wars. But breast cancer screenings are breaking the budget. Willard also says the government can't help fund PBS anymore, so bye-bye Big Bird. The GOP bumper sticker for 2012 could read, "Contraception and Big Bird Are Bad."

As Rip Van Winkle might have said, "I'm going to go back to bed."

JACK can be reached at jnsmdp@aol.com.

The Q Line

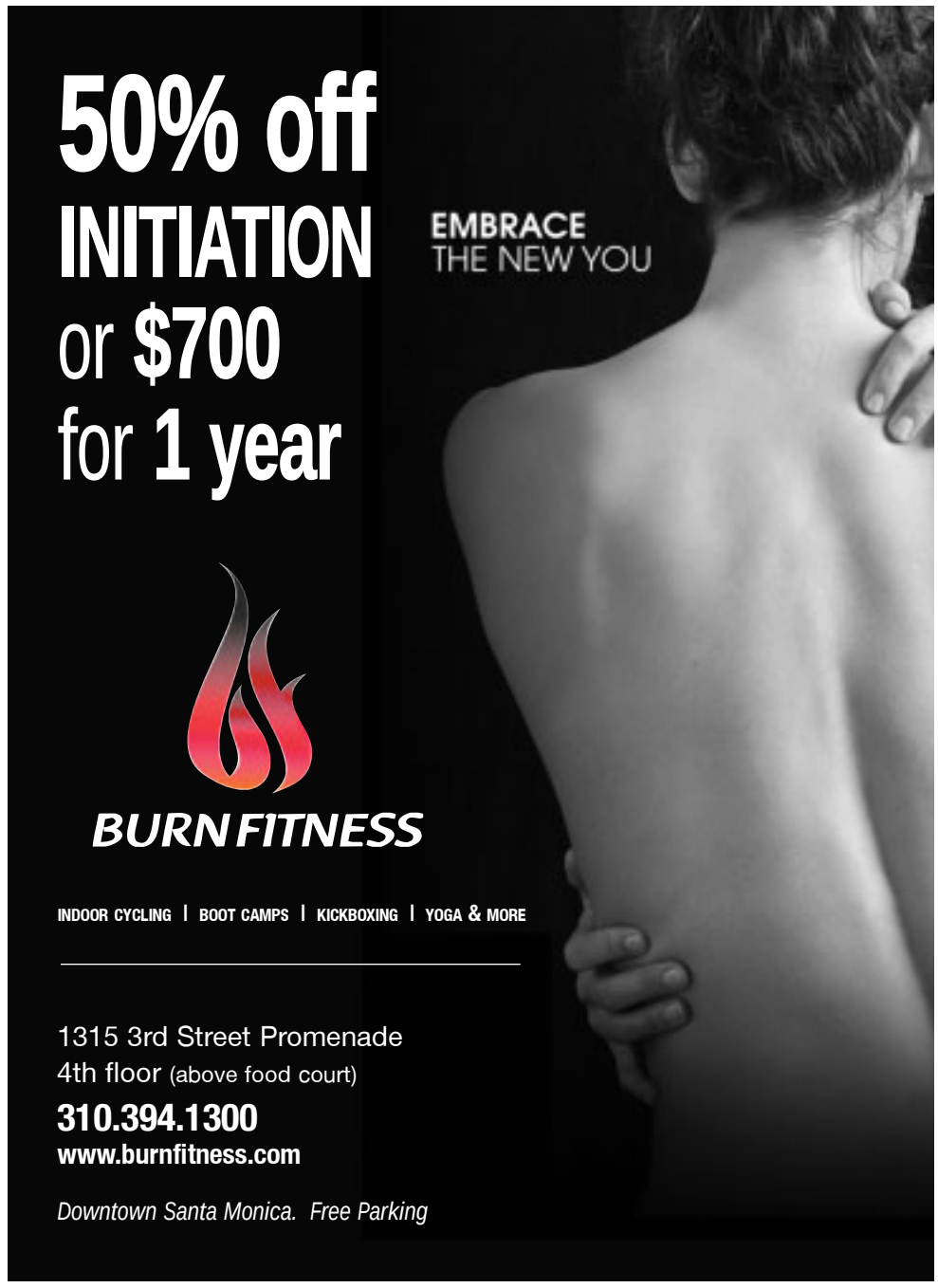
Worth the fight?

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**.







Water board OKs $3.6M PG&E toxic settlement claim

ASSOCIATED PRESS

HINKLEY, Calif. A Southern California water board has agreed to accept $3.6 million from Pacific Gas & Electric to settle claims that the utility failed to stem toxic chromium pollution in a Mojave Desert town that inspired the movie "Erin Brockovich."

The 3-2 vote Wednesday night by the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board came after objections by several residents.

As part of the settlement, in which PG&E did not acknowledge wrongdoing, half of the money will go toward developing a fresh water supply for the elementary school.

The water board claimed the utility failed to contain a plume of chromium 6 that polluted the Hinkley water supply. PG&E once used chromium 6 to reduce corrosion at cooling towers.

Kevin Sullivan, a PE&E engineer charged with the cleanup, said parents have voiced concerns about the water quality at the elementary school. The utility had been providing bottled water for teachers and students and planned to extend a pipeline to inject fresh water into the plume to keep it away from the school's wells.

Board chairman Don Jardine called the settlement "one small step, an incremental step."

"While we wish there were more, and more for the entire community, the school is the focal point of community, and the project will benefit the school," he said, according to a report by the San Bernardino Sun ((http://bit.ly/AFuXB7).

Board member Amy Horne, who cast the dissenting vote, said the school project "does not go far enough."

The chromium contamination was first publicized during a 1996 court case in which PG&E settled with more than 600 Hinkley residents for $333 million. The suit inspired the movie "Erin Brockovich."

In 2008, the plume of chromium began spreading. Despite efforts by PG&E to stem the problem, tests last year showed it was growing again. The reported chromium levels are low enough not to violate drinking water standards but residents remain concerned.

State home sales jump in February

ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO Home sales rose sharply in California last month as investors snapped up the lowest-priced properties, often paying cash, a research firm reported Thursday. Prices continued to fall.

There were 29,630 new and existing homes and condominiums sold in the state during February, up 8.5 percent from the same period last year, DataQuick reported. It was the highest February tally in five years, boosted by an extra day of sales because of leap year.

The median price in February was $239,000, down 2 percent from a year earlier. It is the 17th straight month that home prices registered a year-over-year decline.

"Distressed sales" continued to account for more than half of transactions for existing homes, DataQuick said. Properties that were foreclosed upon in the previous year made up more than one of every three existing-home sales. Short sales — in which the price was less than what the seller owed on the mortgage — accounted for more than one of every five.

In the San Francisco Bay Area, the number of homes sold for less than $500,000 jumped 14.9 percent from last year, while sales of homes costing more grew only 1.8 percent. The median sales price in the nine-county region was $325,500, down 3.6 percent from a year earlier.

Buyers who paid all cash — meaning no purchase loans were found in public records — accounted for 32 percent of Bay Area sales in February, the biggest portion since San Diego-based DataQuick began keeping track in 1988. Cash buyers paid a median price of $247,000.

Figures for Southern California, released Wednesday, mirrored the trend. Sales of homes less than $300,000 soared 9.5 percent from last year, accounting for the entire increase in the six-county region. Sales of homes between $300,000 and $800,000 slipped 0.8 percent, while transactions for more than $800,000 tumbled 12.6 percent.

Jason Hernandez, 32, paid $268,800 for a 1,600-square-foot home in San Diego's University Heights area. He said competition from other buyers grew significantly since he paid $130,000 for a San Diego condominium in 2010. This time, he lost bids on several other homes.

Hernandez plans to rent his condominium and move into his new home with his girlfriend.

"My new home has almost doubled in size and it's just where I'll be for the next five or 10 years," he said.

Roston Thomas, who paid $280,000 in cash for a home in Los Angeles' Mid-City area, is also looking to pad his income. He will rent the Los Angeles home that he purchased in 2009 and hopes to add another rental property within a year.

"The timing is definitely right for income properties," said Thomas, 40.

The state had 5.3 months' worth of unsold homes in February, down from 7.5 months a year earlier, according to the California Association of Realtors.





CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Cops track down burglary suspects

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

MONDAY, MARCH 5, AT 8 A.M.,
Officers responded to an apartment building located on the 2300 block of Sixth Street regarding a report of a residential burglary that occurred. When officers arrived, they spoke with a witness who said that while they were walking around the building they saw a first-floor apartment's window open. Knowing that no one was at the apartment, the witness went to investigate and saw that the apartment had been ransacked. During the investigation, a forensics specialist was able to lift some fingerprints. Detectives got a hit on the prints and went to Baldwin Park, Calif. on March 7 to arrest the suspect. While there, they took two men into custody and recovered several stolen items. Both suspects were transported to the Santa Monica Jail and booked for burglary. One suspect was identified as Moises Pedroza, Jr., 20, of Baldwin Park, Calif. His bail was set at $50,000. The other was identified as Alejandro Perez, 19, of West Covina, Calif. His bail was set at $80,000. He had an outstanding warrant, police said.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, AT 7:37 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 2800 block of Santa Monica Boulevard – Maya restaurant – regarding a woman trespassing. When officers arrived, they made contact with the woman, who told them that she was staying at the location with another friend. Officers gained consent to search the woman and her property and in doing so allegedly located heroin, Xanax, some drug paraphernalia and property connected to two burglaries, one in Santa Monica and another in Van Nuys, Calif. The suspect was placed under arrest for possession of stolen property, burglary tools, controlled substances, and another person's credit card, as well as for a probation violation. She was identified as Brittini Elizabeth Apicella, 23, of Long Beach, Calif. No bail was set.

THURSDAY, MARCH 8, AT 4:19 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 2300 block of Pico Boulevard regarding a report of vandalism. When officers arrived, they learned that two suspects were seen spray painting graffiti on a sign and then fled in separate directions. Officers detained one suspect, who was later identified by witnesses as one of the men responsible for the graffiti. He was placed under arrest for vandalism and identified by police as Deny Garcia, 19, of Santa Monica. His bail was set at $1,000. The second suspect was not located.

FRIDAY, MARCH 9, AT 12:47 A.M.,
Officers responded to the 500 block of Bay Street regarding a report of a disturbance. When officers arrived, they made contact with the person who called dispatch. She told police that she was in a relationship with the suspect and had asked him to leave her apartment because she was tired of his drug use. Officers spoke with the suspect and during their conversation allegedly found methamphetamine. Officers placed the suspect under arrest for possession of narcotics. He was identified as Jackie Young, 22, of Santa Monica. His bail was set at $10,000.

FRIDAY, MARCH 9, AT 9:02 P.M.,
Officers working the Third Street Promenade came across a man who was stumbling as if he was under the influence of alcohol. Officers made contact with the man and recognized him as someone they had arrested a week earlier for being drunk in public. Officers determined that he was drunk again and arrested him. While being booked, officers learned that the suspect was a sex offender who had allegedly failed to register with authorities. He was eventually booked for public intoxication and failing to register as a sex offender. He was identified as Saul Eatmon, 37, a transient. His bail was set at $20,000.

SUNDAY, MARCH 11, AT 4:21 A.M.,
Officers were on routine patrol in the area of Seventh Street near Lincoln Boulevard when they saw a woman riding a bike on the wrong side of the street, a violation. The cyclist then allegedly continued west on Olympic Boulevard and proceeded to ride on the sidewalk, another violation. Officers stopped the suspect to talk with her about the violations. During their conversation, officers obtained the suspect's permission to search her. They allegedly found a scale commonly used to weigh narcotics. The cyclist admitted that she had illegal drugs inside her backpack. A search of the backpack revealed several baggies of meth, glass pipes and other drug paraphernalia indicating the woman was selling the drugs, police said. She was placed under arrest and booked for possession of drugs for sale, transporting drugs and possession of drug paraphernalia. She was identified as Portia Kelker, 25, of Santa Monica. Her bail was set at $30,000.

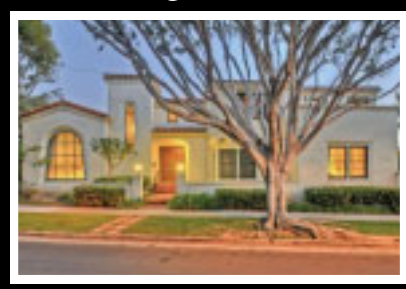
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Editor-in-Chief **KEVIN HERRERA** compiled these reports.

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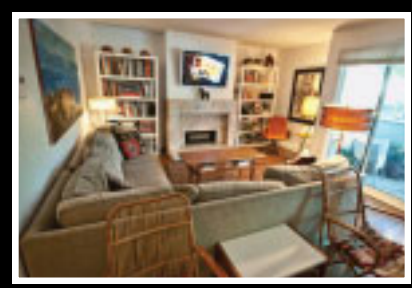
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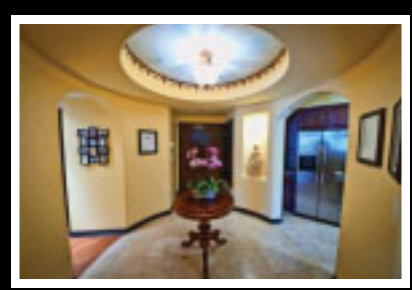
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PENSION
FROM PAGE 1

director.

It's not good news, but City Hall is better positioned to absorb the impact than it was a year ago when the reduction was first proposed, Decavalles-Hughes said.

Negotiations with the miscellaneous employees resulted in a two-tiered retirement system that promises a lighter package of benefits to new employees starting July 1.

Public safety employees, including police and fire, will begin contributing to their retirements for the first time on a graduated scale that will increase over the next three years from 1 percent to 3 percent.

It will save $5 million over five years, Decavalles-Hughes said.

City Hall also used a surplus to pay down unfunded liability to CalPERS, which will result in $800,000 in savings per year for the next two decades.

"Based on what we've done last summer and last fall, it's a testament to how city staff and the city in general can adjust," she said.

The adjustments came at a time when city budgets were strained and public benefits packages fell under intense scrutiny.

City Councilmember Bobby Shriver called public employee costs the "800-pound gorilla," and studies came out of Stanford University suggesting that CalPERS itself was fiscally unstable.

The economic collapse resulted in a $69.7 billion hit to its stock portfolio between Dec. 31, 2007 and Dec. 31, 2008.

It took two years for those losses to ripple through the system, and they already resulted in higher costs to cover promises to retiring employees.

The newest change only drives those up further.

Still, it's better than it could have been, Norris said.

CalPERS' actuarial proposed two avenues. The first brought the discount rate down to 7.25 percent, which would have given the investment portfolio a larger margin for error.

CalPERS' board chose to go with the gentler option to cut beleaguered state and local governments some slack.

"We're taking these steps to make sure that the fund remains stable," Norris said. "We don't want to lower the discount rate, reduce stability and drive employer costs higher."

The CalPERS board may also choose to phase the increases in over two years to reduce the stress on municipalities, but that has not yet been decided, Norris said.

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DEAL
FROM PAGE 3

Brown's plan had sought a half-cent increase in the state sales tax and raising income taxes on those making more than $250,000 a year.

He and Democratic legislative leaders announced Wednesday they had joined forces with the Restoring California Coalition on a new initiative that is a blend of the two previous proposals.

It seeks to raise the sales tax by a quarter cent for four years, instead of a half cent, starting in 2013. It also would increase income taxes on high earners by an extra 1 percent for individuals making more than $250,000, 2 percent for individuals making more than $300,000 and 3 percent for individuals making more than $500,000. The threshold doubles for joint filers.

The higher income tax brackets would last for seven years.

If passed by voters in November, the tax hikes would raise anywhere from $7.1 billion to $9 billion a year at their height, according to the state Department of Finance.

For the governor, it also was essential to funnel some of the new tax revenue to local law enforcement as a way to fund his realignment of the state prison system, which is sending lower-level offenders to county jails. The new initiative would be a constitutional amendment, meaning the Legislature could not redirect the portion of the tax revenue that would be preserved for local governments.

This week's compromise between Brown and the coalition led by the teachers union did not clear the election field entirely.

Californians also are likely to confront a competing ballot initiative that would raise income taxes on a sliding scale for nearly all wage-earners to help fund schools. That proposal is backed by wealthy Los Angeles attorney Molly Munger, who so far has refused to back away from putting her initiative on the fall ballot.

"I'd like to think that through private conversations she could join this new coalition," Leno said.



FEE
FROM PAGE 1

amount of new traffic each is supposed to generate, according to the staff report.

The fee splits Santa Monica into two areas. The first, titled Area 1, includes Downtown Santa Monica, a special office district and the Bergamot Transit Village.

Area 2 encompasses everything within city limits not in Area 1, and the fees are higher because there are more vehicle trips in that geographic boundary.

A new single family home built in Area 1 would pay an additional $7,600 as a part of this program. If the same home were built in Area 2, that amount would be $7,800.

Multi-family housing would be assessed $2,600 and $3,300 per unit respectfully.

Non-residential development including retail, office, medical office, hospital, lodging and industrial uses range widely with industrial uses coming in at a low of $1.20 per square foot in Area 1 and retail coming in the highest at $30.10 per square foot in Area 2.

Planners estimate the fee would cover $60 million of the $119 million in raw costs of the different transit-oriented projects slated for the next 20 years, including bicycle, pedestrian, parking, public transit, auto network and other traffic demand projects.

Other costs like engineering and design bring the total dollar amount of the projects up to $172 million, according to the staff report.

It's actually less than half the maximum that City Hall could charge developers under a traffic study that justified the new fee.

Assessing higher fees could lower the rate of return because fewer people would want to develop in the city, and it leaves less wiggle room for other fees for different purposes that City Hall may choose to impose later, Tumlin said.

"The highest fee would not necessarily result in the biggest revenue," he said.

Setting the fee is a careful calculus that balances cost savings to City Hall with legal requirements.

Previously, for every dollar of general fund money used on transportation, Santa Monica got $9 from outside sources. Those include grants, state and federal governments and, until Feb. 1, the local redevelopment agency.

Under the new scheme, the fee would provide 47 percent of Santa Monica's transportation project list.

That percentage might be almost 10 percent higher because several of the projects identified, most notably the bicycle portion, are already being paid for through grants or other allocations, Tumlin said.

That would give City Hall a lot of flexibility to use local funds to bring in outside money to pay for projects.

If, however, City Hall charged more than 100 percent of its costs through the fee, it would have to refund that money to developers, Tumlin said.

"That's something you don't want to do," Tumlin said.

To prevent that, the fee should be revisited every five years.

Commissioners and the public welcomed the fee, wishing only that it had come sooner.

"It's been a long time coming, and people are happy to see it," said Mary Marlow, of the Ocean Park neighborhood.

Commissioners also ensured that projects initiated by local government, religious institutions or for affordable housing would be exempted from the bill under most circumstances.

Notably, nobody from the development community came to speak at the hearing.

The City Council must approve the fee on first and second reading. It comes into effect 60 days after the second reading.

It is expected to go before the council on April 24.

ashley@smdp.com

SOCCER
FROM PAGE 3

He has decided to tap the current women's head coach Aaron Benditson as his primary assistant after years of serving in the same capacity with the ladies since 2004 when Pierce came on at the college as a physical education teacher.

Pierce will continue to help with the women in return for Benditson assisting him.

With the task of assembling his staff pretty much set, Pierce is currently scouring the school's soccer classes trying to figure out who has the makings of a college player.

To date, he has spotted at least 20 players in his classes that have a shot at making the team. He's also recruiting local high school players, especially at Samohi, where the boys' team won a state title in 2008.

In fact, a couple of players from that team are students at SMC. Pierce expects them to come out for the team when he holds tryouts later in the spring.

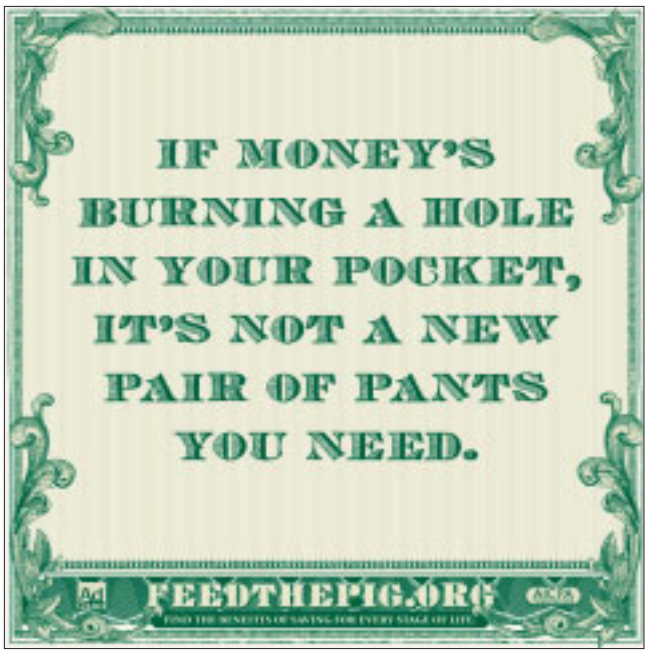
Once he has his team assembled, Pierce plans to instill in them a sound understanding of the fundamentals of the most popular sport in the world.

"I want our team to be competitive right away," he said. "I want us to develop a culture that is serious about soccer."

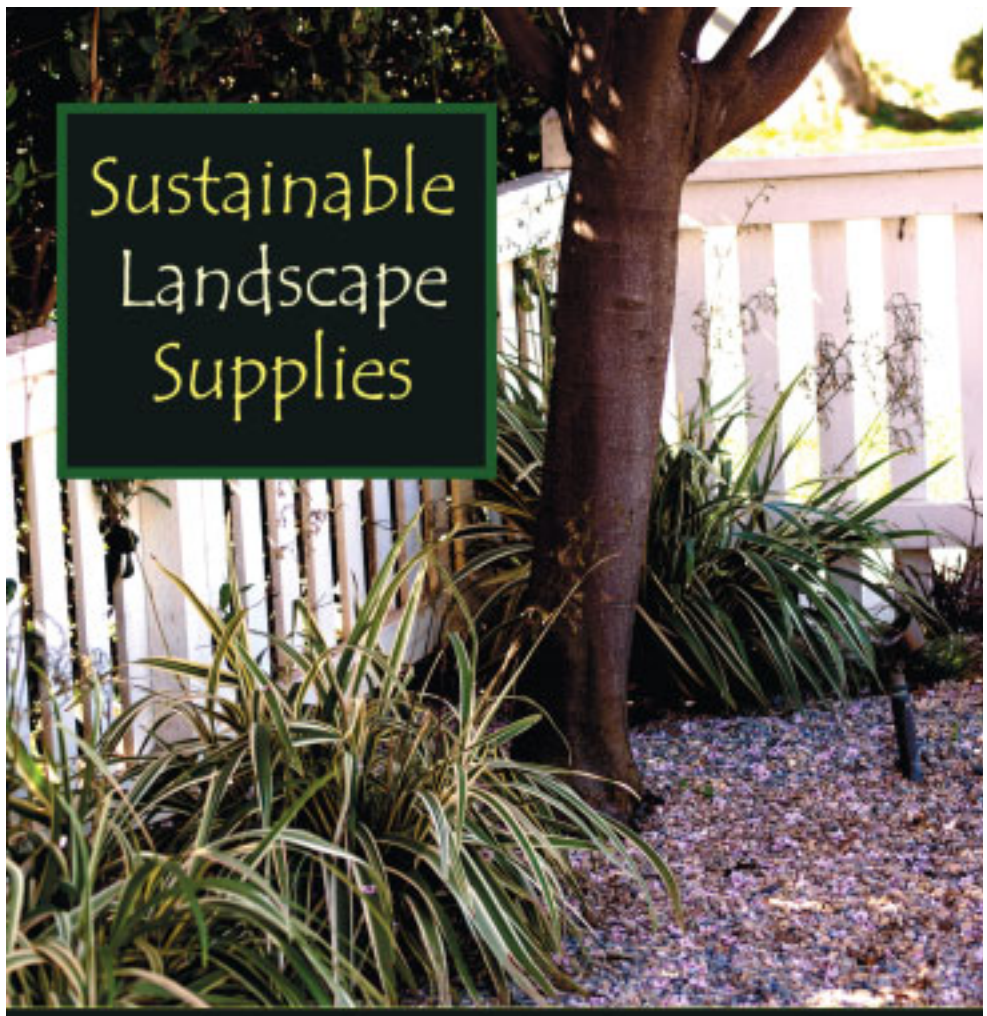
The team will play in the Western State Conference, with members stretching from Glendora to Santa Barbara.

The first official game is scheduled for August.

daniela@smdp.com







RAIN
FROM PAGE 1

light dusting, the National Weather Service said.

With heavy rains a possibility, the city of Pasadena announced that sandbags and sand would be available to residents at two fire stations. In Arcadia, Santa Anita Park officials postponed an important thoroughbred race, Sunday's scheduled $150,000 San Luis Rey Stakes, to March 25 out of concern that the track would be too soft.

A major storm would be a major turnabout for Southern California, where winter has largely fizzled. Downtown Los Angeles has recorded only 5.22 inches since the start of the rain-year on July 1. That's nearly 7? inches below normal by this time.

A fatality in Northern California Thursday occurred after two vehicles, including one carrying four people, crashed into a downed tree on Route 13 in Oakland, the California Highway Patrol said.

The driver of one vehicle pulled into the median area, where he and his passengers left the vehicle. The tree was then hit by a truck that went airborne, and the driver who had left his vehicle was fatally struck while a passenger was pinned under a portion of the tree and later freed.

CHP spokesman Sam Morgan said the passengers and truck driver suffered minor to moderate injuries.

In Santa Cruz County, the rain brought the San Lorenzo River dangerously close to the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, as the river cut through the sandy banks that normally separate it from the boardwalk on its path to the ocean.

Officials said they were concerned that river water would seep under the boardwalk, causing serious damage. Rushing water ripped apart a wooden staircase that goes down to the beach, causing several thousand dollars in damage.

Crews built up piles of sand and cut a new path for the river away from the boardwalk, the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

"We think we got it pretty much under control," Kris Reyes, a boardwalk spokesman, told the newspaper. "We're pretty much in wait-and-see mode."

The river was fueled by heavy rains in the Santa Cruz mountains, which saw almost 15 inches of rain, said National Weather Service meteorologist Matt Mehle. The mountains of Sonoma and Marin counties were also hit hard.

"Things (Wednesday) just happened to line up," Mehle said. "We had very moist air coming off the Pacific, and as it got pushed up and over the mountains, it got wrung out."

A winter storm watch is in effect for the northern Sierra Nevada from late Thursday night through Saturday afternoon, with heavy winds and snow bringing periods of near-zero visibility.

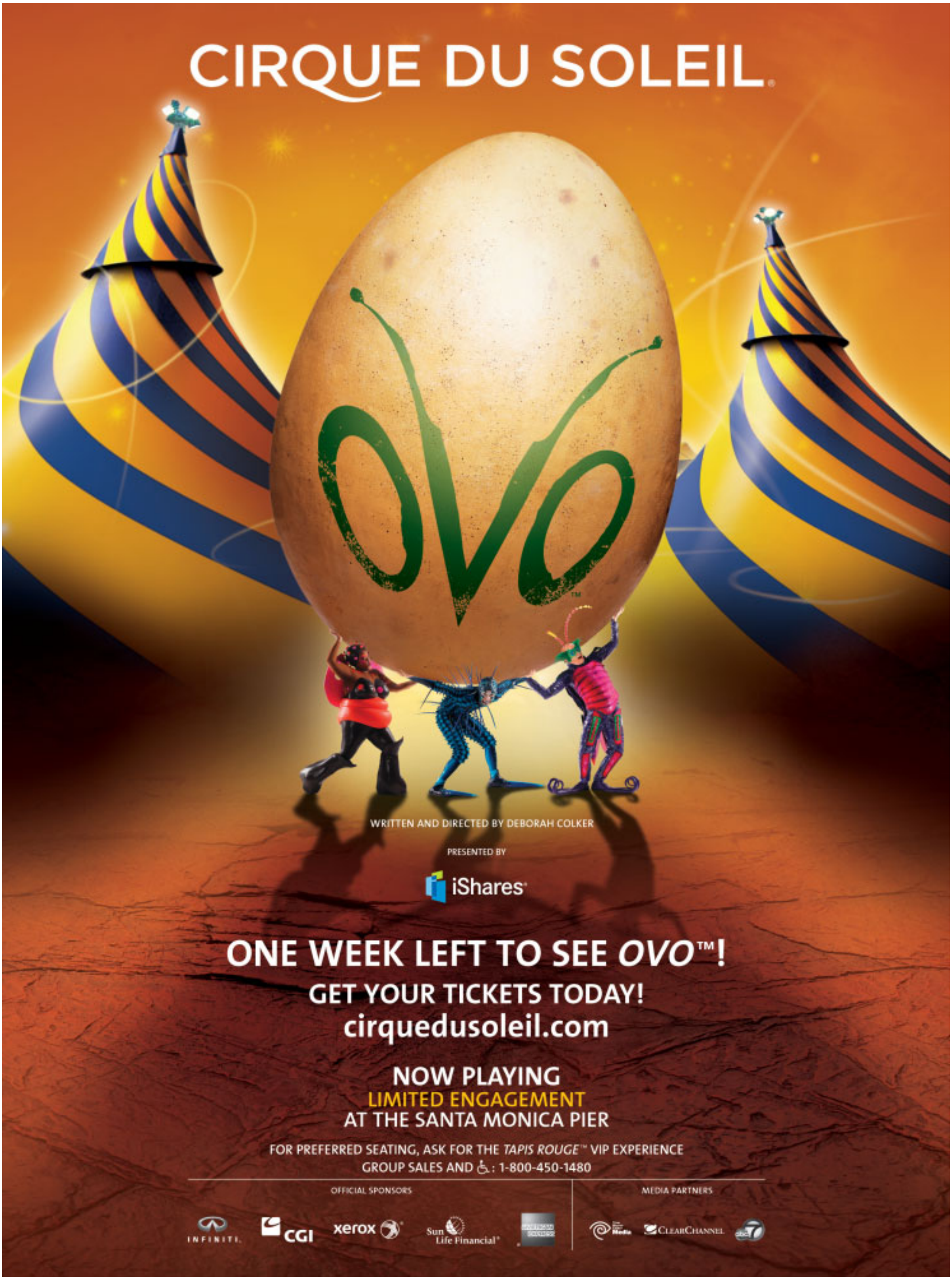
The snow level on Saturday were expected to drop to about 2,500 feet, meaning some of the mountains around the San Francisco Bay area could see a dusting. Thunderstorms and hail are also possible.

The rain and snow provided some good news for California, which has been well below its average precipitation totals for the year. The state's snowpack was 36 percent of normal as of Thursday morning, up four percentage points from two days earlier.

That number is expected to go up as the colder storm system moves in this weekend, said Maury Roos, with the California Department of Water Resources.

"We're hopeful that what seemed to be a pretty grim year is going to turn out OK, although still quite a bit less than average," he said.




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Clooney's Washington blitz on Sudan reaches Obama

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON Actor George Clooney's blitz of the U.S. capital to bring attention to the humanitarian crisis in border regions between Sudan and South Sudan arrived at the Oval Office on Thursday, and the actor said he came away from meeting President Barack Obama encouraged that there is high-level interest in doing more to help a region that soon could suffer mass starvation.

Clooney, whose visit to Washington has drawn outsized press coverage at every turn, said he was optimistic that Obama would press Chinese President Hu Jintao to join international efforts to bring peace to the ravaged region when the two meet this month on the sidelines of a nuclear security summit in South Korea.

"The good news for us is we feel like there's a commitment at a high level" to deal with the Sudanese situation, Clooney told reporters after his meeting with the president. He added that he sensed "great interest in working with China."

Clooney, just back from an eight-day trip to the northeastern Africa region, met with Obama for 15 minutes in the president's Oval Office.

The actor held out hope for cooperation from China on Sudan even though Beijing has protected the Syrian regime from censure by the U.N. Security Council. He said energy-hungry China receives about 6 percent of its oil from Sudan, giving it an economic incentive to work to bring peace to the region.

Oil-rich South Sudan and Sudan, the keeper of the pipelines, have been at odds over oil and profits. Exports have stopped, which is applying pressure on oil prices worldwide.

"Suddenly, this affects their economy," Clooney said of China. "This is a moment we can appeal to China."

Clooney said it was imperative for the world to move swiftly to open a humanitarian corridor to those in need.

"When the rainy season starts, it is impossible to get through," Clooney said. "There is a very, very great possibility of a lot of people starving in the next few months."

The A-list celebrity made clear that his role is to shine a light on the situation, not to solve it.

"I don't make policy," Clooney said. "All I really can do is amplify the situation and help to bring a spotlight to it."

The large contingent of reporters that gathered to hear the Oscar-winning actor at the White House was evidence that he was succeeding at that.

Clooney acknowledged it is "a very complicated time in the world" with lots of problems competing for attention.

But he said this was a "crucial moment" to bring attention to the plight of those suffering in Sudan.

Clooney was at the Congress Wednesday to testify about the same issues, and he turned up that night at the head table for the Obamas' state dinner honoring British Prime Minister David Cameron.

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INCOGNITO 2012

Santa Monica Museum of Art, 2525 Michigan Ave., G1
SATURDAY, 7 P.M. — 10 P.M.

INCOGNITO, SMMoA's legendary exhibition and art sale returns for its eighth year. With original artworks by 500 contemporary artists, INCOGNITO features work by luminaries including John Baldessari, Mark Bradford, and Judy Chicago, as well as a host of emerging talent. This spirited evening encourages attendees — from sophisticated art patrons to first-time collectors — to trust their instincts as they select treasures that speak to their unique aesthetic. Each piece is signed on the back and the artists' identities are revealed only after purchase. All artworks are the same size 8 inches by 10 inches and available for $350. For more information: (310) 586-6488 ext.116.

Nick Duran and Jmy James Kidd Debut New Dance Work

Highways Performance Space at 18th Street Arts Center, 1651 18th St.
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, 8:30 P.M.

Nick + James at Highways in a tribute merges two distinct yet eerily similar bodies in duet form. Nick Duran and Jmy James Kidd — two New York City transplants — fragment personal identity through the embodiment of dance iconography, mythology, and each other in this new dance work. Candles are lit, the plants are listening, Odeya Nini summons the audience, Andrew Felix sounds, Erin Beneze is born and Nick + James dance. Tickets: $20 general admission, $15 members/students/seniors. For more information: (310) 315-1459.

A Tribute to Dynamic Women of the Past — Talk & Exhibit

Santa Monica History Museum, 1350 Seventh St.
SUNDAY, 2 P.M. — 4 P.M.

As part of Women's History Month the Santa Monica History Museum presents A Tribute to Dynamic Women of the Past, a look at the significant women in Santa Monica's history. Arcadia Bandini is a key figure who in 1871 became one of the wealthiest women in California after the death of her first husband. Bandini married her second husband, Colonel Robert S. Baker, who co-founded Santa Monica, and Arcadia became one of Santa Monica's most influential citizens. In 1897, Arcadia and Santa Monica co-founder, Senator John P. Jones became the primary stockholders of a property holding corporation, the Santa Monica Land and Water company. These stockholders generously donated land for churches, public schools, Lincoln Park (Reed Park), the Woman's Club building, forestry station, Palisades Park and the grassy strip on San Vicente boulevard. They also donated land where the Veterans' Administration is located today. Arcadia is the first woman in Santa Monica's history to be officially recognized with a monument in Palisades Park. Discover more about Arcadia Bandini and other notable Santa Monica woman and explore the photo exhibit Women in Santa Monica History of the women being featured in this talk. Tickets: $5. Seats are limited. For more information: (310) 395-2290.

Jacaranda presents Chill Upon the Heat

First Presbyterian of Santa Monica, 1220 Second St.
SATURDAY, 8 P.M.; AND SUNDAY, 6 P.M.

Chill Upon the Heat presents music of Christopher Rouse, William Schuman, Leon Kirchner and Richard Rodney Bennett. The Calder Quartet will perform Rouse's incandescent "2nd Quartet," and the explosive "3rd" that the composer described as "a schizophrenic grand mal seizure." Each quartet is preceded by extraordinary music of three underappreciated masters. Tickets: Advance tickets online — $35 general, $15 students. At the door — $40 general, $20 students. For more information: (213) 483-0216.

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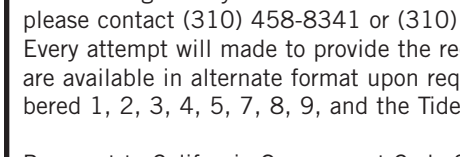
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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE SANTA MONICA CITY COUNCIL

SUBJECT: **Ordinance Amending the Sign Code**

APPLICANT: City of Santa Monica
LOCATION: Citywide

A public hearing will be held by the City Council to consider the following:

Extension of certain provisions of Ordinance 2359 (CCS), that Modified Section 9.52 of the Santa Monica Municipal Code to permit Temporary Portable Signs in the Main Street Commercial District.

DATE/TIME: **TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2012, AT 6:45 p.m.**

LOCATION: City Council Chambers, Second Floor, Santa Monica City Hall
1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California

HOW TO COMMENT
The City of Santa Monica encourages public comment. You may comment at the City Council public hearing, or by writing a letter. Written information will be given to the City Council at the meeting.

Address your letters to: City Clerk
Re: Sign Code Ordinance
1685 Main Street, Room 102
Santa Monica, CA 90401

MORE INFORMATION
If you want more information about this project or wish to review the project file, please contact Steve Traeger at (310) 458-8341, or by e-mail at steve.traeger@smgov.net. The Zoning Ordinance is available at the Planning Counter during business hours and on the City's web site at www.santa-monica.org.

The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact (310) 458-8341 or (310) 458-8696 TTY at least 72 hours in advance. Every attempt will made to provide the requested accommodation. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Santa Monica Big Blue Bus Lines numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and the Tide Ride serve City Hall.

Pursuant to California Government Code Section 65009(b), if this matter is subsequently challenged in Court, the challenge may be limited to only those issues raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City of Santa Monica at, or prior to, the public hearing.

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

Some schools to drop 'pink slime' meat

KATHY MATHESON
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA The lunch lady won't be serving up "pink slime" anymore at several school districts around the country.

Under a change announced Thursday by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, districts that get food through the government's school lunch program will be allowed to say no to ground beef containing an ammonia-treated filler derisively called "pink slime" and choose filler-free meat instead.

Several school systems said they will change their cafeteria menus when the move takes effect next fall. What's not yet clear is how much the switch might cost and whether it could lead to price increases for school lunches.

"Our district has long advocated for purity and disclosure in food products. And we will definitely be moving to the pure ground beef when that becomes available in the fall," said John Schuster, spokesman for Florida's Miami-Dade school system, the nation's fourth-largest district with 345,000 students.

He could not immediately speak to the cost, noting that the district is on spring break. An Agriculture Department spokeswoman did not return a call for comment.

The change came after a furious online campaign to rid school cafeterias of what the meat industry calls "lean, finely textured beef." The low-cost filler is made from fatty meat scraps that are heated to remove most of the fat, then treated with ammonium hydroxide gas to kill bacteria such as E. coli and salmonella.

It has been on the market for years, and federal officials say it is safe. The National Meat Association has also noted that ammonium hydroxide is used in baked goods, puddings and other processed foods

But the USDA announced that, in response to requests from school districts nationwide, it will offer schools a choice: 95 percent lean beef patties made with the filler, or less lean bulk ground beef without it.

The Philadelphia school district serves one product with the additive — a beef patty — in its high schools only, according to spokesman Fernando Gallard. He said he was unaware of any complaints.

"We have full confidence in the products that are given to us by the USDA," Gallard said. But given the choice next year, he said the 146,000-student district will consider the alternatives.

In New York City's 1.1 million-student school system, officials said they are working with food vendors to phase out pink slime products. They said they have heard concerns from parents and food advocates.

The Agriculture Department sets national nutritional standards for school meals, but districts make the decisions on what food to serve to meet the guidelines. On average, districts in the National School Lunch Program buy about 20 percent of their food through USDA, with the remainder coming directly from private vendors.

There are no precise numbers on how prevalent the filler product is, but one industry official estimates it is in at least half of the ground meat and burgers in the U.S.

Tony Geraci, executive director of child nutrition for the schools in Memphis, Tenn., said the 110,000-student district hasn't used the product at least since he arrived in October. Geraci said that while he understands the food industry doesn't want to waste any part of an animal, pink slime is "a horrible product" not fit for human consumption.

"Any time you buy something that is chunked, chopped or formed, you run the risk of problems with product integrity," Geraci said. "We buy whole-muscle stuff. We buy whole pork shoulders. We buy whole turkeys."

The USDA this year is contracted to buy 111.5 million pounds of ground beef for the National School Lunch Program. About 7 million pounds of that is from Beef Products Inc., which has gone on the offensive to dispel what it says are misconceptions about the product. ("Myth 4: Boneless lean beef trimmings are produced from inedible meat").

Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., said in a statement that the Agriculture Department should go a step further by requiring the additive to be listed as an ingredient on beef sold in supermarkets. But he praised the agency for the new options being given to schools.

"All it takes is a look at a picture of pink slime to understand parents' concerns that this product doesn't belong in our school lunchrooms — especially as we are encouraging kids to eat more fruits and vegetables," Menendez said.

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

U.S. factories help job recovery endure in March

CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON A resurgent U.S. job market that has lifted the economy appears to be enduring.

Factories in the Northeast kept hiring in early March. And the number of people applying for unemployment aid fell back to a four-year low. The economy is adding jobs at a time when inflation remains relatively mild outside of higher gas prices.

The upbeat government reports Thursday reinforced the message sent by last week's encouraging job figures for February.

Good economic news drove stocks higher, too. The Standard & Poor's 500 index closed above 1,400 for the first time since June 2008. The Dow Jones industrial average finished up for the seventh straight session at 13,252.76 — the highest close since the last day of 2007.

"More solid U.S. economic data pointing to a gradually improving labor market, a bounce-back in manufacturing and no material ... inflation pressure," Robert Kavcic, an economist at BMO Capital Markets.

Applications for unemployment aid dropped to a seasonally adjusted 351,000, the Labor Department said Thursday. That matched a four-year low reached last month. The four-week average, which smooths fluctuations, was unchanged at 355,750, also a four-year low.

Applications have declined 14 percent since October. When applications drop consistently below 375,000, it usually signals that hiring is strong enough to lower the unemployment rate.

The steady decline has coincided with the best three months of hiring in two years. From December through February, employers added an average of 245,000 jobs a month. The unemployment rate has fallen to 8.3 percent, the lowest in three years.

The figures "indicate that the labor market is steadily, if slowly, improving," said Steven Wood, an economist at Insight Economics. "Another month of 200,000-plus payroll employment in March is likely."

U.S. factories in the Northeast are likely to contribute to those March payroll gains, based on two surveys conducted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

The Fed banks said manufacturing in both regions is growing at a healthy pace in March. The Philadelphia Fed manufacturing index posted its highest reading since April 2011; the New York Fed index hit a 21-month high.

The two surveys also showed that factories in those areas are hiring more workers.

Factories have played a leading role reviving job growth. The Labor Department reported last week that manufacturing jobs grew by 31,000 in February. Over the past year, manufacturing added 227,000 net jobs.

Rising auto sales and increasing demand for heavy equipment, such as mining and agricultural machinery, have kept factories busy.

Still, there were some cautionary signs in the Fed surveys. Both showed that new orders and shipments slowed, indicating that output may decelerate in coming months.

Higher gas prices could also force consumers to cut back on discretionary spending. That could weigh on growth and slow hiring.

On Thursday, the average price nationally for a gallon of gas rose to $3.82, according to AAA. That's 51 cents higher than a month ago.

Rising gas costs drove U.S. wholesale prices up last month, according to a separate Labor Department report. But excluding the big jump in gas, inflation was mostly tame.

In the past twelve months, wholesale prices have increased 3.3 percent. That's the smallest year-over-year gain since August 2010.

The report "suggests that inflationary pressures are still contained," Paul Ashworth, an economist at Capital Economics, said in a note to clients. "More evidence that the U.S. economy could finally be on the right track."

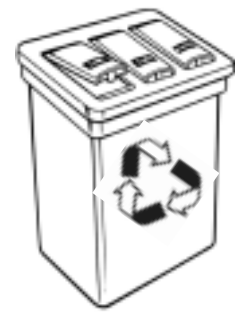
The Federal Reserve said this week that it expects oil and gas prices to temporarily boost inflation. But it predicted longer-term inflation should remain stable.

Fed policymakers sketched a slightly more upbeat view about the recovery after their one-day meeting, largely because of the surge in hiring. They said unemployment should continue to decline gradually as the economy expands. And they noted that consumer spending and business investment have picked up.

The central bank took no further steps to aid the recovery and repeated its plan to keep short-term interest rates near zero through 2014.

The job market has a long way to go to fully recover from the Great Recession. More than 12.8 million people remain unemployed. And the economy still has 5 million fewer jobs than before the downturn.

But the more robust job market has caused many so-called "discouraged workers" who had stopped looking for jobs to start looking again. The work force surged by 476,000 in February and by nearly 750,000 in the past two months.

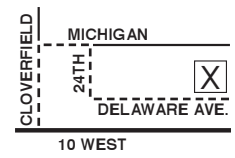


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City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

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

Wastewater Main Replacement / Upsize Project – Project 2 (Various Locations)
SP2128

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, 90401, not later than **2:30 p.m.** on **April 5, 2012**, to be publicly opened and read aloud after 3:00 p.m. on said date in City Hall Council Chambers. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Bids.

MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK:

NONE

PROJECT ESTIMATE: $1,200,000
CONTRACT DAYS: 150 Calendar Days
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $100 Per Day
COMPENSABLE DELAY: $600 Per Day

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's Finance website at: http://www.planetbids.com/portal/portal.cfm?CompanyID=15167#. The Contractor is required to have a **Class "A"** license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.

SURF REPORT



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

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 55.8°

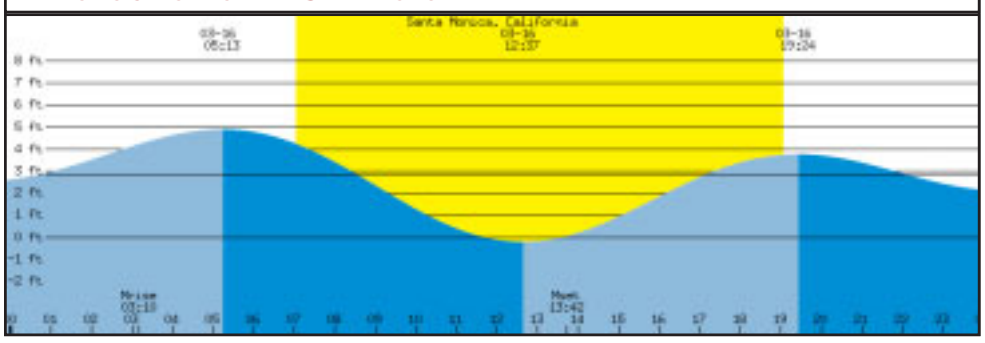
Swell Forecast

Looking at south facing breaks dropping to chest max, and west facing breaks waist to chest high.

Long Range Synopsis

Looking at NW swell filling into west facing breaks, around chest high. Conditions are questionable.

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 -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 22 / 16
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 12

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

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 Lechuza 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
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 21672 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
Cabrillo 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 Las 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 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	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

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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.

NBA

Sessions in, Fisher out with Lakers

GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES The Los Angeles Lakers acquired point guard Ramon Sessions from Cleveland on Thursday in a four-player trade sending Luke Walton and Jason Kapono to the Cavaliers.

The Lakers also got forward Christian Eyenga in the deal, while the Cavaliers will get Los Angeles' lottery-protected first-round pick in the upcoming draft and other considerations, according to the Lakers.

The Lakers have had an eye on Sessions for several months, and they made the deal shortly before dealing veteran point guard Derek Fisher to the Houston Rockets. Fisher is a five-time NBA champion and an unquestioned locker room leader alongside Kobe Bryant, but they're heading into the stretch run after effectively exchanging their starting point guard for the past five seasons for Sessions, a backup in Cleveland who joins his fourth NBA team in five years.

"We think Ramon will make an immediate impact," Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak said. "Despite Derek's presence, we felt that we needed more speed and more quickness in the backcourt. ... We didn't feel that we could get a better or more talented player than Sessions with a first-round draft pick in the 20s."

Kupchak is hopeful Sessions will be available for Friday's home game against Minnesota.

Sessions backed up Kyrie Irving in Cleveland, averaging 10.5 points and 5.2 assists this season. He was expected to opt out of his contract following the season to become a free agent, but he is likely to have a major role with the Lakers alongside Steve Blake, who has been Fisher's backup this season.

"Ramon is a true pro and approached his job in a way that showed that every day," Cleveland general manager Chris Grant said. "Our primary focus continues to center on building this team with our young core and, most importantly, through the draft as we develop a very talented group that can play and succeed together for many years to come."

The Lakers unloaded the albatross contract of Walton, a two-time NBA champion who has played almost no significant minutes for Los Angeles in the past three years. The son of Hall of Famer Bill Walton has spent his entire nine-season NBA career with the Lakers, but was hampered by injuries the previous two seasons before failing to crack new coach Mike Brown's rotation this year, playing in just nine games.

Walton is making $5.68 million this season and $6.1 million next season under a lengthy contract signed when he was still a contributor to the Lakers.

Kapono, who signed with the Lakers shortly before training camp last summer, returns to the team that drafted him out of UCLA in 2003. The 3-point specialist also hasn't played much for the Lakers, averaging 2.0 points this season.

The Cavs want to build around Irving, and another first-round pick could help the 19-year-old No. 1 selection. While the trade may help Cleveland's future, it may jeopardize its chances of making the playoffs this season.

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SANTA MONICA ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

DATE/TIME: March 19, 2012, 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street

PROPERTIES:

ARB 11-443	1123 12th Street: Residential
ARB 12-027	2515 Lincoln Boulevard: Automobile Dealership
ARB 12-037	717 Euclid Street: Residential
ARB 12-059	2344 Oak Street: Residential
ARB 12-090	1645 Lincoln Boulevard: Retail
ARB 12-100	1827 16th Street: Residential

More information is available on-line at http://santa-monica.org/planning/planning-comm/arbagendas.htm or at 310/458-8341 en espanol tambien). Plans may be reviewed at City Hall during business hours. Comments are invited at the hearing or in writing (FAX 310-458-3380, e-mail planning@santa-monica.org, or mail Santa Monica Planning Division, 1685 Main St., Rm. 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401). The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact 310-458-8701 or TTY 310-450-8696 a minimum of 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Big Blue Bus lines, 2, 3, Rapid #3, 7, & 9 serve the Santa Monica Civic Center and City Hall.

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MOVIE TIMES

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Silent comedy shorts with live musical accompaniment.
The Cure (NR) 31min
The Untamable Whiskers (NR) 3min
The Devil and the Statue (NR) 2min
Coney Island (NR) 25min
Easy Street (NR) 19min
Pool Sharks (NR) 15min
7:30pm

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

Hugo 3D (PG) 2hrs 07min
2:25pm, 7:45pm

Wanderlust (R) 1hr 38min
11:55am, 5:20pm, 10:30pm

Seeking Justice (R) 1hr 45min
11:30am, 2:15pm, 4:55pm, 7:40pm, 10:15pm

Being Flynn (R) 1hr 42min
11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

Silent House (R) 1hr 28min
11:50am, 2:10pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

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

Thousand Words (PG-13) 1hr 31min
10:50am, 1:10pm, 3:30pm, 5:50pm, 8:25pm, 10:45pm

John Carter in Disney Digital 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 19min
10:40am, 1:40pm, 4:45pm, 7:55pm, 11:00pm

21 Jump Street (R) 1hr 49min
10:45am, 11:45am, 1:45pm, 2:45pm, 4:40pm, 5:40pm, 7:30pm, 8:30pm, 10:30pm, 11:15pm

Safe House (R) 1hr 57min
11:15am, 2:20pm, 5:15pm, 8:15pm, 11:10pm

Project X (R) 1hr 28min
11:30am, 2:05pm, 4:40pm, 7:15pm, 9:50pm

Dr. Seuss' The Lorax 3D (PG) 1hr 35min
11:00am, 1:30pm, 4:05pm, 6:40pm, 9:15pm

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

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

Salt of Life (Gianni e le donne) (NR) 1hr 30min
3:35pm, 5:45pm, 8:00pm

Artist (PG-13) 1hr 40min
1:00pm, 10:10pm

Separation (Jodaeiye Nader az Simin) (PG-13) 2hrs 03min
1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:10pm, 10:00pm

Decoy Bride (NR) 1hr 29min
1:10pm, 3:15pm, 5:25pm, 7:40pm, 9:55pm

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

Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG) 1hr 35min
11:50am, 2:20pm, 4:45pm, 7:20pm, 9:55pm

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

Jeff, Who Lives at Home (R) 1hr 23min
11:55am, 2:30pm, 4:50pm, 7:15pm, 9:45pm

Friends With Kids (R) 1hr 40min
11:25am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Salmon Fishing in the Yemen (PG-13) 1hr 52min
11:15am, 1:55pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:10pm

Casa de mi Padre (R) 1hr 24min
11:45am, 2:10pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

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

Join a friend for TGIF, Leo

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Hedge your bets, but also follow your instincts. You will stay on top of work, a community effort or other situation. You'll see rewards come forward for a job well done. Don't hem and haw; instead, make fun plans. Tonight: A must appearance.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ A meeting helps center you. You see beyond the immediate. Through associates and detachment, you visualize a fuller picture. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. You feel so much more connected. Invite a friend to join you after work. Tonight: Let the good times roll.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★✷❑◆ are full of fun and life. You have a way of letting someone know exactly what your expectations are. At this moment in time, the response is likely to be positive and upbeat. Tonight: Spend time with a special person.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Someone feels strongly about you and what you have to offer. You could be confused about your options. Think carefully about what could happen if you just relax. Be aware that someone is giving you not-so-subtle hints. Tonight: Sort through invitations.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ You have a lot of ground to cover. Your follow-through helps a key person. He or she appreciates your respect and ability to get the job done. You could be up for a promotion or change of title. Tonight: Join a friend for TGIF.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Clearly, the weekend holds more interest than the present. Still, toss yourself 110 percent into whatever you are doing. You will feel better about yourself, and the results will reflect this intensity. Tonight: Christen the weekend in style.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ You might decide to take off early or work from home today, if you are not lucky enough to take the whole day off. You find a partner unusually appealing. Maintain your focus on what you must do in order to make more time for fun. Tonight: Head home and make some calls.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Open up to suggestions. Avoid screening calls, if possible. You will get more done than you thought possible. At the same time, catch up on others' news. An invitation to a late lunch could wind up being a good segue into the weekend. Let it happen. Tonight: Be open.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Be aware of the damages you might create by making an impulsive financial decision. Sometimes making a nurturing gesture can mean as much as buying an appropriate gift. Tonight: Try not to kiss self-discipline goodbye.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You are in your element right now, so zero in on an important matter. Others are much more likely to come forward and express their support. You could be hard to stop. Tonight: The action surrounds you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Once more, count on your sixth sense. Others might have different opinions. The problem lies in that each of you is sure you are right. Be less rigid, and work with different ideas. Tonight: Make the most of the moment.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Zero in on what is important. Please don't sell yourself short. Investigate an opportunity or offer. Return calls. You might be delighted by how upbeat others are. You finally can have a discussion that you have been putting off. Tonight: At a favorite spot with favorite people.

Happy birthday

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

This year you visualize and, for the most part, manifest your desires. Make sure you really want what you wish for; otherwise, there could be a problem. You have a unique gentleness about you that attracts many people. If you are single, you could be dating a lot and could meet someone special in the next six months. If you are attached, as a couple you need to visualize a long-term goal. The process of making it real will bond you even more closely. Count on CAPRICORN.



MYSTERY PHOTO

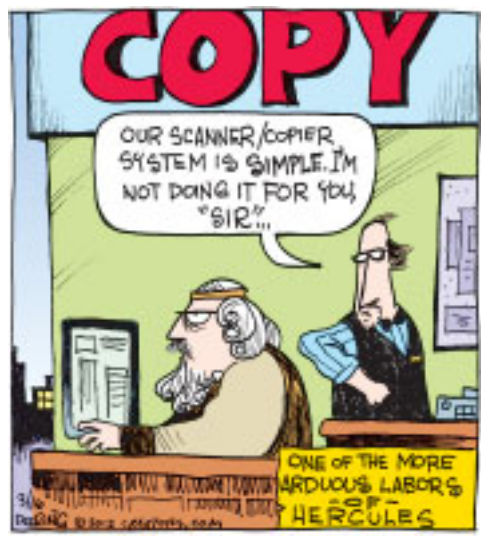
Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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



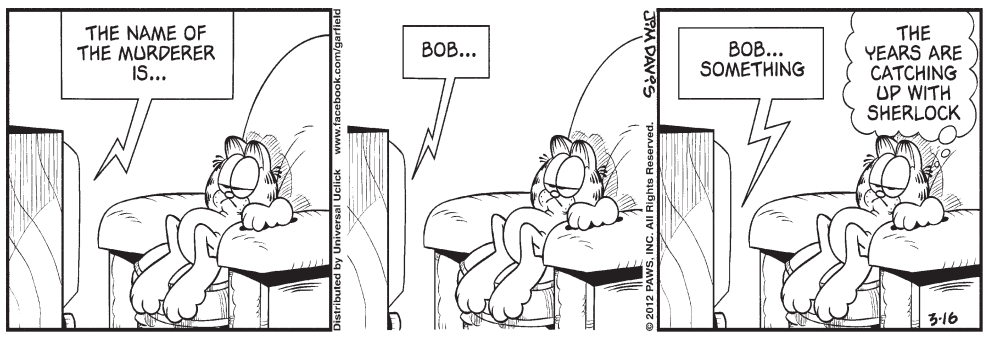
Strange Brew
By John Deering



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 ★★★★

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

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

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Thurman's "Gattaca" co-star
6 Informal greeting
11 Longed
12 Square
13 Laundry problem
14 Throw with effort
15 Golf bunker
17 Ollie's pal
18 "Lohengrin" lady
20 Without repairs
22 Nogoodnik
23 Short solo
26 Phoenix birthplace
28 "Nonsense!"
29 Everest experts
31 Look over
32 Lip
33 Storage spot
34 Gangsters' guns
36 Enterprise crewman
38 Love affair
40 Deserve
43 Hero with a sword
44 Hostess Mesta
45 To date
46 Panache

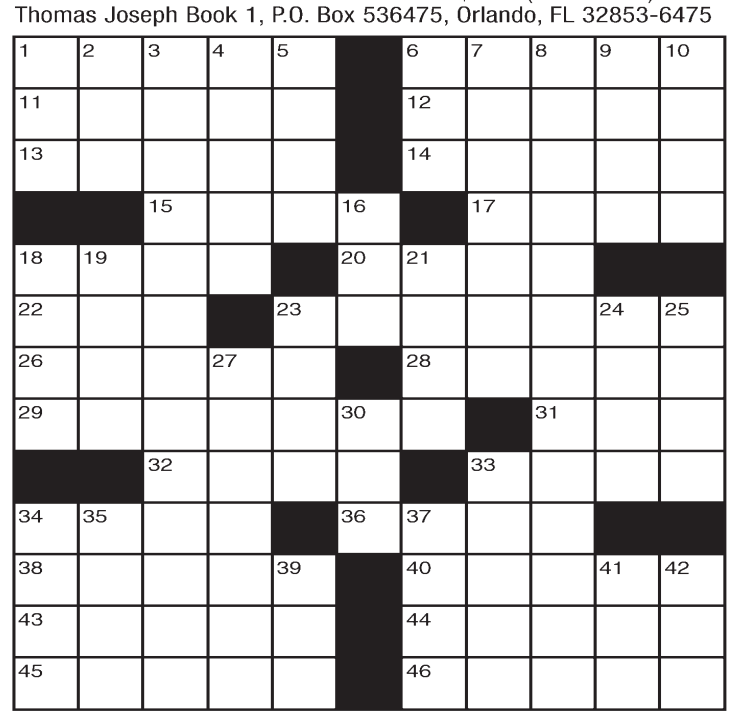
DOWN

1 Holds
2 Drama division
3 Question to a suspect
4 Knightley of "Atonement"
5 Writer Ferber
6 "I didn't catch that"
7 Tot garments
8 Question to a speeder
9 Singing star
10 Start the bidding
16 Course goal
18 Important times
19 Whip
21 Tries the wine
23 Pharaoh symbols
24 Diggs of "Chicago"
25 Blown away
27 Sign of error
30 Cart puller
33 Winter weather
34 Strip in the Mideast
35 Novelist Oz
37 Strike callers
39 Go bad
41 Suffering
42 Kickoff aid

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

Yesterday's answer

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



3-16

ARITHMO™

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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.

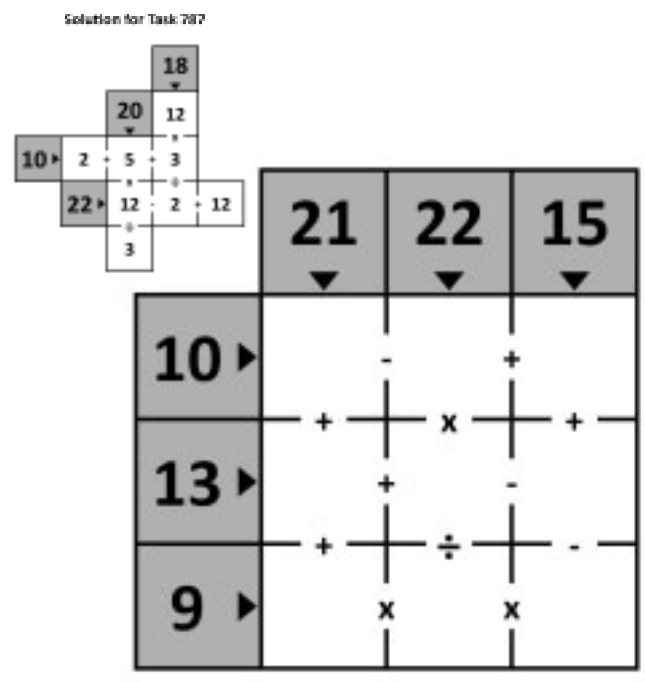
• Each empty square dictates the math operation that must be performed to meet the demands.

• 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:

1, 3, 3, 6, 8, 8, 10, 11, 12



DAILY LOTTERY

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Draw Date: 3/13
2 8 30 36 48
Meganumber: 31
Jackpot: $200M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 3/14
28 32 33 34 45
Meganumber: 21
Jackpot: $12M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 3/15
1 19 20 23 37

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 3/15
MIDDAY: 4 9 8
EVENING: 8 1 3

SANTA ANITA PARK
Draw Date: 3/15
1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 07 Eureka
3rd: 12 Lucky Charms
RACE TIME: 1:46.23

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In an incident reported in February by the Indo-Asian News Service, a Pakistan International Airlines captain made a revenue-enhancing decision for his full flight PK 303 from Lahore to Karachi. Two overbooked passengers would not have to make alternative arrangements if they accepted seats for the 640-mile flight in the plane's restrooms.

■ Real estate reassessments hit Pittsburgh like a bombshell in December when county officials announced enhanced estimates of property value in order to raise needed tax revenue. In the first wave of assessments (which engendered criticism countywide, according to a Pittsburgh Post-Gazette story), a real estate attorney who lives in the Mount Washington neighborhood was stunned to find his condominium apartment had jumped $55,000 in value, now "worth" $228,700 and, worse, his private parking space on the ground floor of the building, previously valued at $5,000, now "worth" $287,800.

■ In December, National Geographic lamented that the number of South Africa's rhinoceroses killed by poaching increased by a third in 2011, to 443, as a response to the booming street price of rhino horns. MSNBC reported that the horns' market price "soared to about $65,000 a kilogram, making (them) more expensive than gold, platinum, and in many cases, cocaine." The reason for the price is an escalating, though science-free, belief in Asia that rhino horn powder can cure cancer.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1802 - The Army Corps of Engineers is established to found and operate the U. S. Military Academy at West Point.

1818 - Second Battle of Cancha Rayada – Spanish forces defeated Chileans under José de San Martín.

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1.
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Santa Monica Daily Press

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