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Santa Monica Daily Press
MARCH 22-23, 2014
Volume 13 Issue 108

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

RESIDENTS SOUND OFF ON E-CIGS
SEE PAGE 5

THE GIVING IT UP ISSUE

First new movie theatre in decades gets OK

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

SM PLACE Proposals for Santa Monica's first new movie theater in decades is a step closer to approval.

The Planning Commission earlier this week voted unanimously in favor of theater plans that could add up to 13 screens and 1,500 seats to the third level of the Santa Monica Place mall.

Some commissioners were leery of the added height and of the location but ultimately acknowledged Santa Monica's dire need for state-of-the-art theaters and recommended the project, with some additional suggestions, for City Council's review in the next few months.

ArcLight Cinemas announced earlier this year that they'd signed an agreement with Macerich, the Santa Monica-based commercial real estate giant that owns the mall, to operate the theaters.

There is agreement among city consultants that newer theaters are greatly needed in Santa Monica. In 2012, AMC pulled its

SEE MOVIE PAGE 10

Bulger's defense costs top $3M

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOSTON The costs of defending Boston gangster James "Whitey" Bulger have topped more than $3 million, according to documents filed in federal court Friday.

The documents submitted to U.S. District Judge Denise Casper show that Bulger's defense lawyers have been paid a little over $2.7 million by the government for their work. When the costs of experts, paralegal services and transcripts are added in, the taxpayer-funded total reaches slightly over $3 million.

Bulger, 84, was convicted in August of a host of crimes in a racketeering indictment, including playing a role in 11 murders while he led a violent gang. Bulger is now serving a life sentence in federal prison.

He is appealing, so the legal costs are expected to go even higher. During his trial, Bulger was represented by attorney J.W. Carney Jr. and several lawyers at Carney's Boston law firm. He was also represented by attorney Hank Brennan.

Court officials determined that Bulger was indigent and unable to pay for his own defense after he was captured in Santa Monica in 2011 following 16 years on the run, when he was one of the nation's most wanted fugitives. His assets, including more than $800,000 in cash found in his apartment, have been seized by the federal government.

Bulger's lawyers and a spokeswoman for federal prosecutors did not immediately return calls seeking comment on the defense costs.

editor@smdp.com



GREEN MILE

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

A new green bike lane has been installed along Main Street. The lanes are part of a citywide effort to make sharing the roads less dangerous by creating safe routes for cyclists. Ocean Park Boulevard was the first to receive the bright colored lanes. If only he had a helmet ... and shoes!

Candidates square off in 1st supervisor debate

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

WESTSIDE The gloves stayed on during the first debate between Los Angeles County Supervisor candidates, except around the topic of campaign finances.

Four candidates vying to replaced current termed-out Third District Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky met to discuss key issues in front of an audience on the UCLA campus Thursday night.

Former Santa Monica Mayor Bobby Shriver, who's part of the Kennedy clan, defended his recent decision to donate $300,000 of his own money to his campaign,

SEE DEBATE PAGE 7

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, March 22, 2014

Run and stretch
Santa Monica Pier, West End
8 a.m.
Like to run? Like to strike a pose with yoga? Why not combine them for a morning dedicated to your mind and body. For more information, call (310) 458-8901.

He wishes he was a real boy
Promenade Playhouse
1404 Third Street Promenade
11 a.m.
Twinkle Theatre for babies and toddlers presents "Pinocchio." Learn about love, true friendship and the importance of being honest in this classic story of the boy built out of love. Only the fun parts with no scary adventures are in this version. Sing, clap and have fun with the boy made out of wood in this 30-minute song-driven show that is ideal for babies and toddlers and first-time theatre goers. For more information, call (310) 804-0223.

Alice is at it again
Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 Fourth St., 12:30 p.m.
Follow Alice in "Alice and the Wonderful Tea Party" as she accepts an invitation to visit the wonderful Wonderland characters of her youth and returns to find her old friends — the Queen of Hearts, the Cards, the Tweedles and some new ones, too, all as silly as ever. Will Alice prevail or are the cards stacked against her? For more information, call (310) 394-9779 ext. 2.

Sneak peek
Keyboard Concepts
3232 Santa Monica Blvd., 5:30 p.m.
If you missed Elton John's spectacular Million Dollar Piano revue at the Colosseum in Las Vegas, now's your chance to see it in Santa Monica. Santa Monica piano retailer Keyboard Concepts is inviting area Elton fans to an exclusive free screening of a 20-minute, behind-the-scenes look at the making of the film on the revue and the piano, during a special wine and cheese event. Seating is limited. Call 800-22-PIANO to reserve a spot.

Sunday, March 23, 2014

Love story
Santa Monica Playhouse
1211 Fourth St., 3 p.m.
Do you believe in love at first sight? Do you believe in soul mates? Do you believe in eternal love? By the time the final curtain falls on "Raise Me Up," you'll believe. This is a true story about a "moonstruck" couple's forbidden love, the hilarity and drama from their deeply passionate Italian-Greek families, and how they spent their last day on Earth together. Tickets: $25 general admission; $22.50 students, teachers, seniors and members of the military; $17.50 for groups of eight or more; $15 for children under 12. For reservations, visit http://SantaMonicaPlayhouse.com or call the Playhouse Box Office at (310) 394-9779 ext 1.

An afternoon with the father
William Turner Gallery
2525 Michigan Ave., 3 p.m. — 6 p.m.
Father Gregory Boyle, founder of Homeboy Industries, talks about his journey at a fundraiser for the Westside Center for Independent Living, which helps people with disabilities and seniors remain in their homes. Actor and singer/songwriter James Paige Morrison ("24," "Those Who Kill") will be performing some of his original songs. Jazz artist Howlett "Smitty" Smith will be playing his and other songs. Catering will be by Pati Zarate. Tickets: $75. For more information go to www.wcil.org/ For tickets visit www.eventbrite.com

Requiem
Samohi's Barnum Hall
601 Pico Blvd., 4 p.m.
The New West Symphony will present Giuseppe Verdi's "Messa da Requiem." New West Symphony music director Marcelo Lehninger will lead three performances of the program with soprano Lesley Leighton, mezzo-soprano Rebecca Ringle, tenor Casey Candebat and bass Raymond Aceto as guest soloists. The New West Symphony Chorus and the Los Robles Master Chorale will supply the choral forces for the performances. Tickets priced from $25 to $98 available at the box office. Visit newwestsymphony.org for more information. Pre-performance discussion about the music begins at 3 p.m. for all ticket holders.

More music
The Broad Stage
1310 11th St., 4 p.m.
The Santa Monica College Symphony Orchestra, under the sponsorship of the Westside Music Foundation and MTAC Santa Monica Bay, will present a special concert featuring Russian music and an annual highlight of the SMC Symphony programs; guest performances by outstanding youth soloists from Santa Monica High School and Crossroads School for Arts & Sciences. Tickets are $10. A modest service charge applies. Advance tickets may be purchased online at www.smc.edu/eventsinfo or by calling (310) 434-3005. Tickets may also be purchased at the door up to 45 minutes before the concert's start time. Free parking available on the premises.

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

New group pushes for enviro safety at Malibu schools

BY MELISSA CASKEY
Special to the Daily Press

MALIBU A group of disaffected parents and community stakeholders has launched a new independent group, Malibu Unites, in an effort to push for further public transparency and comprehensive safety assessments as the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District grapples with issues of environmental safety at Malibu High, Middle and Juan Cabrillo Elementary schools.

Another group formerly known as Malibu Parents for Healthy Schools has also merged with Malibu Unites.

"The organization's first goal is to advocate for the parents and community members to execute a comprehensive plan with the district to identify and remove any toxic substances present at Malibu High/Middle Schools and the adjacent Juan Cabrillo Elementary School," according to a statement issued by Malibu Unites.

Both groups formed in the wake of environmental controversy at Malibu High School and Middle School when a group of teachers came forward with several health concerns last October, including three suffering from thyroid cancer. Controversy further erupted when it was revealed that toxic soils were found at Malibu High in 2010 and the school district did not notify parents about the situation.

The district performed numerous tests on the campus and found that the levels of PCB, a cancer-causing substance, in the dust and caulk samples were high enough to trigger oversight from the state and federal governments.

Jennifer DeNicola, president of Malibu Unites and a local parent who became heavily involved in advocacy for safety when the health scare first broke, said Malibu Unites plans to hire its own consultants and experts to assist in work already being contracted out by the school district.

The school district recently signed a contract with the firm Environ to conduct all campus testing and cleanup. The cost of the contract has yet to be revealed, but the district has already spent around $500,000.

"Our hope is to work side by side with the school district," DeNicola said.

The organization's Advisory Council includes recognizable names such as Cindy Crawford, Emilio Estevez and City Councilman Skylar Peak, along with other respected scientific and medical experts.

"The Advisory Council is made up of doctors, medical professionals, scientists … that actually do study this every day," DeNicola said. "These are the top minds across the country that deal with toxins and how they affect the human body."

STATE AGREES TO COMPREHENSIVE SOIL TESTING

The state Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has agreed to propose testing of soil samples at all three campuses involved in the health scare.

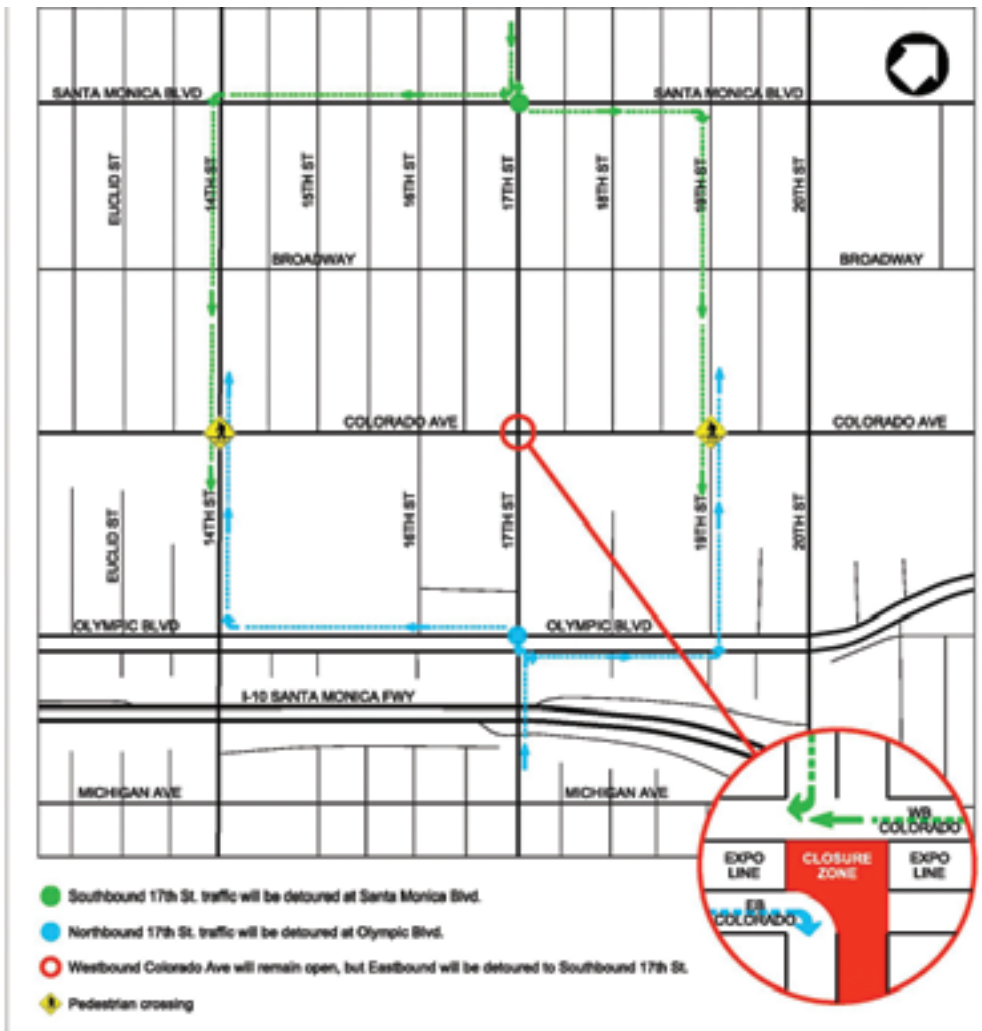
Parents first began pushing for comprehensive soil testing last October when it was discovered that the district had removed more than 1,000 tons of potentially contaminated soil from the high school and middle school.

According to an e-mail sent to the group by Maria Gillette of DTSC, the agency "is proposing to conduct a Preliminary Environmental Assessment (PEA) for the soil at the entire Malibu HS Campus (including the Middle and Elementary Schools)."

editor@smdp.com

This article first appeared in The Malibu Times.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS



COLORADO AVE

Extended street closure starts Saturday

The contractor building the Exposition Light Rail Line will be closing 17th Street at Colorado Avenue for at least 11 days to install rails in the street, officials with Metro said.

The closure will begin Saturday, March 22 at 1 a.m. Westbound Colorado Avenue will remain open.

Crews will be working around the clock to complete the installation by April 2.

TRAFFIC IMPACTS:

• Northbound 17th Street will be closed to through traffic at Colorado Avenue and will be detoured at Olympic Boulevard. Left and right turns onto Colorado Avenue will be prohibited.

• Southbound 17th Street will be closed to through traffic at Colorado and will be detoured at Santa Monica Boulevard. Right turns onto Colorado will be allowed, but left turns will be prohibited.

• Eastbound Colorado will be closed at 17th Street and traffic will be detoured to southbound 17th Street.

• Pedestrians crossing Colorado Avenue north of the closure will be detoured to 14th Street or 19th Street. Pedestrians south of the closure will be directed to westbound Colorado Avenue to 14th Street.

• Local access in the closure areas will be maintained at all times.

Advisories:

• Electronic message boards, directional signage and flaggers will be used to direct vehicles and pedestrians around the construction zone. Please refer to detour map and follow detour signs for alternate routes.

• Parking restrictions will be strictly enforced at all times and signage with specific restrictions will be in place in all construction areas.

• Noise levels will be monitored to ensure compliance and the work area will be watered down to minimize dust.

• Please obey all posted construction signs and do not enter the construction work zone.

For additional information, contact the Santa Monica Public Works Department at (310) 458-8736.

– KEVIN HERRERA

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Bring back the trainers

Editor:

I've been meaning to write for awhile, but today's well-written article by David Mark Simpson gave me the final inspiration to actually do so ("Fitness ordinance keeps Palisades Park quiet," march 20).

I've been a Los Angeles resident for many years, but only moved to Santa Monica a year ago. One of the best discoveries after becoming a resident and going out every morning to exercise was that many people had the same idea, and many had enlisted the services of trainers to train them in the beautiful surroundings of Palisades Park. Although I've never joined one of the exercise groups, just being able to walk past them and see how hard they worked actually helped me with my own exercise routines. It also lent a safe and healthy feeling to the park which, honestly, without the trainers, can feel pretty spooky at times.

So, when I heard of the new fees and restrictions being levied on trainers, I was irritated. Perhaps I don't know the whole story, but from my experience, I just couldn't imagine what harm the groups of exercisers could be doing (aside from wear and tear on the grass), contrasted with how much good they were doing – helping people get healthier, helping the park feel safer, inspiring casual observers like me to pursue my goals.

I think the idea of registering the trainers and having them buy reasonably priced permits is good, but not imposing fees so high that most can't afford to hold classes in the park. At a time when people should be embracing all efforts to make our population healthier, I think Santa Monica went the opposite direction in this case. I'm glad to learn it's a trial period, and I truly hope the people who make these kinds of decisions will realize the error of their ways and make the park more friendly to trainers again. (And no, I don't own a training business, or have any vested interests in one). Thank you.

Robert Wait
Santa Monica



Your column here

Maria Fotopoulos

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

World Water Day: a look at man's massive impact

WITH THE CONTINUING RISE IN WORLD population comes more energy needs, meaning ever-more demand on water resources. That's the message coming out of World Water Day (March 22), a day created by the United Nations to build awareness of a range of water issues.

This year the UN campaign for World Water Day focuses on the nexus of water and energy. Alarming statistics come out of this intersection that should give us all pause as to the growth track of humanity.

By 2035, global energy demand is expected to increase by one-third. Producing energy requires lots of water. Fossil fuel production uses large amounts of water and contaminates an estimated 15 to 18 billion cubic meters of freshwater resources each year. Put in more accessible terms, to make one gallon of gasoline, 3 to 6 gallons of water are needed. Even large solar arrays need water; to achieve maximum efficiency, they need to be kept clean.

In the U.S., steam is used to generate 90 percent of our electricity from thermoelectric power plants that use coal, nuclear, natural gas and oil. It takes almost a gallon of water for every kilowatt of energy, and Americans actually use more water running lights and appliances than running their faucets. But energy is required too to run those faucets; it's needed to pump water to users and treat it after it's used.

Through its energy consumption, a U.S. family of four uses approximately 400 gallons of water daily, enough to fill a bathtub seven times.

Energy and agriculture are the biggest users of water in the U.S., but pause to think why. All that output is going to keep our laptops and iPhones powered, our houses warmed or cooled, refrigerators humming, and keep us fed and watered. U.S. population currently is nearing 318 million. Depending on assumptions of low or high immigration, by 2050 the country might have as many as 450 million people — only through zero net immigration would we stay near today's numbers. Multiply that 400 gallons of daily water use for a family of four by the additional population growth expected by 2050, and you get a very big number.

Worldwide, continuing, aggressive growth is increasingly stressing our ground water. Many countries are extracting water faster than it can be replaced — China by 25 percent, India by 56 percent. In the U.S., the Ogallala Aquifer of the Great Plains provides about 30 percent of the ground water used for irrigation in the country and also provides drinking water for several million people. Parts of the aquifer now are empty, and water depletion is accelerating. It's estimated that it would take 100,000 years to replenish the aquifer through rainfall. The current natural recharge rate is very slow, and it's believed that much of Ogallala Aquifer's water was from the last ice age.

Water use has been growing at more than twice the population increase in the last century. Today, 700 million people live in water-stressed countries, and by 2025, two thirds of the world population could be under water stress conditions. A lot of those people will be looking for ways to escape their situations for what they perceive to be more hospitable places.

(A) U.S. FAMILY OF FOUR USES APPROXIMATELY 400 GALLONS OF WATER DAILY, ENOUGH TO FILL A BATHTUB SEVEN TIMES.

Overwhelmed by the numbers yet? Wait, there are more.

An estimated 2.5 billion people live without basic sanitation; 1.1 billion live without clean drinking water; 1.3 billion live without electricity, and 1.02 billion are hungry. Today, 70 percent of the global water withdrawals go to agriculture. With world population, now at 7 billion people, expected to rise to 9 billion in 2050, we will need to increase food production globally by 60 percent, which will require more water.

To frame that last one differently, between now and 2050, we're going to have to produce more food than we did in the last 8,000 years.

The gist of the messaging for the United Nations-sponsored awareness event is to move away from inefficient energy production and traditional crop irrigation methods, and to stop over-extraction of groundwater. Those all are things that should be pursued, but will be insufficient if we don't get growth under control.

MARIA FOTOPOULOS is a senior writing fellow for Californians for Population Stabilization (capsweb.org). Contact her at caps@capsweb.org.



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The Santa Monica Daily Press is published six days a week, Monday through Saturday.

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2013. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West LA. Members of CNPA, AFCP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

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The Q Line

Up in vapor

A tenants' rights group in Santa Monica is asking city officials to ban e-cigarettes, a relatively new technology that delivers nicotine in the form of a vapor instead of smoke.

This past week, Q-line asked:
Do you think e-cigs are dangerous and why?

Here are your responses:

"THE LIBERALS ARE BEHIND THIS useless ban. Blame them for infringing and trying to regulate people's personal freedoms. They're scum!"

"THESE E-CIGARETTES ARE HARMFUL, OR they would be allowed to sell them to children. They should be banned indoors."

"YES, THEY ARE DANGEROUS. CONSIDERING e-cigarettes come in a variety of flavors including chocolate and gummy bear, it's obvious they are being marketed to kids. No wonder the number of teens using them doubled in the short span of just one year. They contain nicotine, which is very dangerous to the teenage brain, and they contain heavy metals, and chemicals like formaldehyde. E-cigarettes are just the latest gimmick of the tobacco companies to encourage a life-long dependence on tobacco, and the act of smoking in general. And from what I understand, the group is not asking to ban e-cigarettes, but to include them in the existing city smoking ordinances, and keep them a certain distance from schools."

"I THINK THEY'RE HARMLESS, HELPFUL IN cutting down secondhand smoke, and a good alternative to regular cigarettes."

"FORCED TO INHALE YOUR E-CIGARETTE nicotine vapor? No thank you!"

"I BELIEVE THAT E-CIGARETTES ARE dangerous. All of the reports find that there is nicotine and known hazards. I believe we should regulate them like regular cigarettes."

"I LIVE IN A SENIOR BUILDING WHERE MOST people are on their last journey. I find it amusing that people can smoke in a senior building. Do you get the irony? They can smoke in a senior building, but they can't in a bar. It's really sad."

"I DO THINK THEY ARE DANGEROUS. IT creates a form of secondhand noxious smoke. I have had my asthma exacerbated when I've been around them. I hope the city of Santa Monica bans them in all the places they've banned cigarettes."

"I THINK ALL CIGARETTES, ELECTRIC OR tobacco, are dangerous. Anything that affects your lungs or your psyche to the point where you get so anxious that you can't function with out it is dangerous."

"NOT ONLY DO I THINK E-CIGARETTES ARE dangerous, but I think it would be absolute foolishness for them to allow cigarettes around. Pretty soon children will be smoking regular cigarettes and they will lead them to smoking marijuana. Pretty soon they will be doing all kinds of drugs and taking heroin."

"ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES ARE DANGEROUS. In the so-called vapor that comes off the end there are toxins, metals and ... cancer causing chemicals, which are very, very serious. The major tobacco companies have all purchased electronic cigarette companies and they are marketing them without restrictions and they are not telling the truth."

"I DON'T SMOKE AND I DON'T LIKE BEING around people who smoke. But everyone who has any purpose being in Downtown Santa Monica can tell you that existing laws prohibiting smoking in certain public areas, for instance the promenade, bus stops and the back and front of the Main Public Library, these laws are seldom if ever enforced. The lack of enforcement now is encouraging the brazen, open smoking of pot in the very same public areas that prohibit smoking in the first place. Now the City Council plans to pass a ban on e-cigarettes. Well, who is going to enforce it? The phantom enforcers of the other non-smoking laws in Santa Monica? Come on now."

"I HAVE MIXED FEELINGS ABOUT THE vapor cigarettes. They may induce younger people to smoke but, at least, the smoker is only getting the addictive substance, not a bunch of cancer-causing chemicals through secondhand smoke. Frankly, I wish my next door neighbor smoked vapor cigarettes instead of the old fashion kind, which leach smoke and odor into my apartment such that I can smell it. At night she opens her windows to let the day's smoke escape into the night and into my open windows. The secondhand smoke exacerbates my asthma and I cannot sleep in my bedroom since she and I share that wall and the wall of my bathroom. I cannot use the cabinet under my bathroom sink because that is where the stench of stale smoke is greatest, so the cabinet is sealed off. The notion of smoke-free housing by attrition is a long, drawn out process with plenty of chronic and terminal illness before it comes to pass. I say let them smoke vapor cigs and ban cigarette, cigar and pipe smoking in apartment units now."

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$24.5M penalty proposed for Edison over windstorm

BY MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES One of California's largest utilities has agreed to pay a $24.5 million penalty for safety violations uncovered after a 2011 windstorm left more than 400,000 customers without lights and a power-line failure electrocuted three family members, state regulators announced Thursday.

The proposed decisions by the California Public Utilities Commission staff said Southern California Edison also violated rules by failing to preserve evidence needed to investigate power-pole collapses that occurred during the storm.

An agency investigation found that Edison failed in numerous cases to maintain poles or other power equipment that were factors in both cases.

The company said in a statement that the settlement is "in the public interest." Edison has submitted a joint motion with the commission's Safety and Enforcement Division seeking approval of the agreement.

The commission is not expected to consider the penalty until at least May. If approved, funds for the agreement would come from company shareholders and would not impact customer rates, Edison said.

On Nov. 30, 2011, powerful Santa Ana winds generated gusts nearing 100 mph, leaving hundreds of downed trees and tangled high-voltage power lines that blocked streets, keeping repair trucks from reaching many hard-hit areas. Uprooted trees remained on sidewalks and in gutters days afterward.

Edison officials later called the crisis caused by the storm unprecedented and apologized to customers for delays restoring power.

The CPUC said Edison gave inaccurate information on power restoration and violated safety standards during the storm, which left 440,000 customers without power.

Among its findings, the investigation found 248 wooden electric poles were damaged and broken. At least 21 poles did not meet safety requirements, for factors including termite damage or extensive rot. In addition, the probe found Edison's emergency procedures were not kept up to date.

The utility was also blamed for an electric-pole conductor that fell to the ground, killing a man, his wife and their son. The investigation found that the Jan. 14, 2011 deaths in Acacia, in San Bernardino County, were caused by Edison's "failure to properly maintain its electric system in compliance with state law and commission regulations."

The probe found "similar conductor failures have been occurring for the past six years on the same circuit and in the proximity of this incident. However, SCE did not take appropriate measures to prevent such recurrences."

Calif. unemployment rate falls to 8 percent

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. California's unemployment rate dropped to 8 percent in February, as a net gain of 58,000 positions prolonged steady improvement in the job market, state officials reported Friday.

The jobless figure was down slightly from January but remains well above the national average of 6.7 percent. California's 7.9 percent unemployment rate in September 2008 was the last time it fell below 8 percent.

The latest numbers came from separate surveys of employers and 5,500 households.

The state Employment Development Department reported that California businesses added 61,600 nonfarm jobs in February, with a quarter of those positions in health care and education.

The increase followed a bleak January report showing there were 32,000 fewer jobs in the state, even though unemployment ticked down to 8.1 percent.

The unemployment rate in California was 9.4 percent in February 2013.

Since then, the fastest growing sectors have included professional and business services, with 92,800 new jobs, and construction, adding 38,800 jobs.

Other sectors that added jobs included trade, transportation and utilities, information, pleasure and hospitality, government, and other services.

Manufacturing posted the largest decrease last month, losing 2,600 jobs in a month. The sector's year-over-year net job loss is 1,900.

The recent figures account for seasonal swings in employment expected after the holidays.

California now has 1.5 million unemployed residents, or 245,000 less than a year ago. The labor force, which does not include people who have stopped looking for work, has stayed about 18.6 million in that period.

The employment department reported that 1.2 million new jobs have been created in California since the economic recovery began in February 2010. The unemployment rate was then 12.4 percent.

San Francisco, San Mateo and Marin counties posted the state's lowest unemployment rates last month, hovering around 5 percent. Rural Imperial and Colusa counties have jobless rates above 20 percent.

Court OKs massive development north of LA

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES A California court has cleared the way for a massive housing development in the Santa Clarita Valley.

The Los Angeles Times reports Thursday's decision by the 2nd District Court of Appeal restores a permit issued by the Department of Fish and Wildlife that granted the Newhall Land and Farming Co. permission to alter the Santa Clara River as part of construction.

The court found that an environmental report adequately analyzed the project's potential impact on endangered fauna and flora and Native American cultural artifacts.

The newspaper says the ruling does not end the legal challenges. Jason Weiner, an attorney with the nonprofit Wishtoyo Foundation, says an appeal to the California Supreme Court is likely.

The Newhall Ranch project includes a planned community of 60,000 residents about 35 miles north of Los Angeles.

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Robert Lemle

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DEBATE
FROM PAGE 1

thereby removing spending limits for the other candidates.

Shriver, whose uncle was former President John F. Kennedy, got into politics at the age of 50 after a dispute with City Hall over the his hedges. Shriver said that his narrative is less well known than more seasoned politicians in the race.

"I want to be able to tell my story in an effective way," he said.

He further defended the decision to spend big explaining that the money is coming from him, not a third party seeking political favor.

"He certainly hasn't evened the playing field," responded former State Senator and Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl.

Kuehl, a long-time Santa Monica resident, announced her intentions to run for supervisor early last year.

"I have nothing against inherited wealth," she said. "I just think that the funding of politics should be much more spread out and not just belong to people who can write themselves a check."

Former Malibu Mayor Pamela Ulich issued a challenge to the other candidates asking them to set aside 10 percent of their campaign chests to be donated to county charities after the election.

Yaroslavsky is on his way out after serving 20 years on the Board of Supervisors. His replacement would represent the 2 million people in the Westside, Bel-Air, Beverly Hills, Brentwood, Pacific Palisades, Universal City and almost the entire San Fernando Valley.

The county Board of Supervisors is one of the most powerful elected bodies in the nation. Los Angeles County — 4,000-square miles, 88 cities, 10 million residents — is more populous than 42 individual states.

The board is in charge of implementing almost all federal, state and county programs, including food stamps and the Affordable Care Act. Its decisions affect public health, social services, welfare, education, law enforcement, jails, emergency response, environmental protection, housing, and other aspects of daily life.

It manages the county's foster care system, probation system, juvenile halls, animal shelters, senior centers, as well as beaches and the coroner's office.

The board's five members also serve as leaders at the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which runs the mass transit system.

West Hollywood Councilmember John Duran labeled himself a moderate after forum moderator Warren Olney called all four candidates liberal Democrats. Duran made clear that he is pro-business and spoke about making the hard decisions at council meetings despite constant vocal opposition.

"I have to protect the other 37,000 people from these same 50 people because they're not the voice of the community," he said. "Most of the community, they're working hard trying to get by. They want us to make right decisions. Sometimes that means standing up to some of the neighborhood groups who want to sort of rule the roost but to our economic detriment."

An audience member asked about protecting the Santa Monica Bay from pollution, to which Shriver noted that regulations enacted by Santa Monica have already made great strides in the fight.

"It has taken the beach next to Santa Monica Pier from being the most polluted beach in Southern California to be one of the OK beaches," he said. "You don't get sick when you swim there anymore. They still have significant problems with birds but we've done a pretty good job of solving it."

Shriver said that the same changes could be made countywide.

Kuehl said that polluted stormwater is caused by all 88 municipalities in the county but that the consequences are placed on the shoulders of the beach cities.

The Third District encompasses a large swath of the San Fernando Valley, which Kuehl and others said needs better transportation.

"What they really want more than anything, and there's a consortium of associations and organizations meeting, is a train that goes from the valley to LAX underneath the Sepulveda Pass," she said. "What a dream. What a vision. And yet, what a possible dream and vision."

Shriver said that regulations out in the valley are hurting manufacturing jobs.

"What the Valley wants … in addition to transportation funding and good jobs, is respect," he said. "I think that's what they'll get from me because I will go out there every day."

The candidates touched on other issues, including how to correct mismanagement in the Sheriff's Department.

The primary election is scheduled for June 3.

dave@smdp.com

PACIFIC PALISADES
Candidate's forum

Candidates hoping to replace Zev Yaroslavsky on the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors will square off in the second debate of the election season this Saturday, March 22, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Pacific Palisades Woman's Club.

The debate is hosted by the Pacific Palisades Democratic Club. Admission is free. Snacks will be served and donations are welcome. There is free parking on the street and on-site.

Candidates who plan to attend are: West Hollywood City Councilman John Duran; former State Senator Sheila Kuehl; TV writer and producer Eric Preven; former Santa Monica Mayor Bobby Shriver; and former Malibu City Councilmember Pamela Conley Ulich.

The primary election is set for June 3. A candidate needs to secure over 50 percent of the vote. If not, the two who secure the most votes will participate in a runoff election in November.

The woman's club is located at 901 Haverford Ave., in the Pacific Palisades.

With term limits kicking in for the first time ever, Yaroslavsky is on his way out after serving 20 years on the Board of Supervisors. His replacement would represent the 2 million people in the Westside, Bel-Air, Beverly Hills, Brentwood, Pacific Palisades, Universal City and almost the entire San Fernando Valley.

The board is in charge of implementing almost all federal, state and county programs, including the food stamps and Affordable Care Act. Its decisions affect public health, social services, welfare, education, law enforcement, jails, emergency response, environmental protection, housing, and other aspects of daily life.

It manages the county's foster care system, probation system, juvenile halls, animal shelters, senior centers, and even beaches and the coroner's office.

The board's five members also serve as leaders at the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which runs the mass transit system.

For more information on the forum, visit www.palisadesdemclub.org

– KEVIN HERRERA



Breakfast foods are getting pricier

BY STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK Breakfast is now being served with a side of sticker shock.

The price of bacon is surging and the cost of other morning staples, like coffee and orange juice, is set to rise because of global supply problems, from drought in Brazil to disease on U.S. pig farms.

And it's not just the first meal of the day that's being affected. The cost of meats, fish and eggs led the biggest increase in U.S. food prices in nearly 2 1/2 years last month, according to government data. An index that tracks those foods rose 1.2 percent in February and has climbed 4 percent over the last 12 months.

While overall inflation remains low, the increases in food prices are forcing shoppers to search out deals and cut back.

Denise Gauthier, 54, a screenwriter in North Hollywood, Calif., calls the rising prices "shocking and outrageous." To cope, she has become more frugal, hunting for discounts and buying less food overall.

"I will look for things that are on sale and adjust my menu for that," says Gunthier, who now stocks up on her favorite coffee when it goes on sale for $4.99.

Even though food companies use a range of cost-cutting methods to limit the effect of higher food costs, consumers will likely feel the "ripple effects" of rising commodity prices, according to the Grocery Manufacturers Association, a trade organization for more than 300 food, beverage and consumer product companies.

Here's a rundown of why breakfast food costs are rising, and why they could keep going up.

BACON

Bringing home the bacon is costing more.

The price of lean pork in the futures market is at record levels and is up 52 percent since the start of the year, to $1.31 a pound. Traders are concerned about a deadly virus in the U.S. hog population.

That could further boost bacon prices, which were already rising after farmers cut pig production because of higher feed costs. Those cost climbed after a drought in 2012.

The average price of a pound of sliced bacon in U.S. cities was $5.46 in February, up from $4.83 a year earlier and $3.62 five years ago, government data shows.

The retail price of pork is projected to climb by 2.5 percent to 3 percent this year, according to government forecasts.

"You should expect to see very high prices for your ground beef, your other meat cuts, all the pork cuts will be higher this year," Donnie Smith, CEO of Tyson Foods, said in an interview with CNBC on March 12.

U.S. pig herds have been hit by a virus called porcine epidemic diarrhea, or PED, which causes vomiting and diarrhea in the animals. After the first case in the U.S. was confirmed in May, the virus spread through hog herds during the cold winter. While the disease doesn't affect people and is not a food safety concern, it can lead to mortality rates of between 80 and 100 percent in newborn piglets. That's raising concerns of thinner herds as the U.S. heads toward the summer grilling season, when demand typically picks up.

Traders don't know exactly how badly the virus will impact pork production because it's the first time that PED has been detected in U.S. herds, says Dennis Smith, a commodity broker at Chicago-based Archer Financial Services.

COFFEE

Coffee futures have surged 57 percent this year and this month rose above $2 a pound for the first time in two years. Coffee growing regions of southern Brazil, the world's largest coffee producer, have been hit by drought. Analysts are forecasting that Brazil's crop could shrink by about 20 percent this year.

Shoppers should be prepared to pay more at grocery stores, if the current trend continues for more than a month, says Dan Cox, the president of Coffee Analysts, a company that tests coffee quality for retailers.

"Whether it's by the can or the bag, consumers should probably expect to pay 50 cents per pound more, fairly soon," Cox says. The average price of coffee for U.S. cities was $5 a pound in February, although that was little changed from a month earlier, according to government data.

Caroline Krajewski, a spokeswoman for Kraft, which owns the Maxwell House coffee brand, declined to comment on the company's pricing plans.

The price impact will be less noticeable at coffee stores. That's because the cost of beans makes up only a fraction of the final price, compared to other costs like rent and staff wages, says Alon Kazdan, 40, the owner of Cafe Noi, a small chain of coffee shops in New York. Espressos at the cafe cost $2.40; Americanos are $3; lattes go for $3.60.

He says prices should also remain in check because of competition between the companies that roast the beans into the coffee. As for rising commodity prices, he puts that down to speculation.

Of course, people who need to get their caffeine fix won't be put off. Plus, coffee prices were at their lowest level in about seven years before they started climbing.

Starbucks customers also shouldn't worry. They won't be paying higher prices even if the cost of the beans keeps going up, says CEO Howard Schultz. The company has locked in its coffee bean prices for the next year using futures contracts.

ORANGE JUICE

Say squeeze when you pass the OJ.

Orange juice futures are up 12 percent this year, and climbed as high as $1.57 a pound March 6, their highest price in two years.

To be sure, moves in retail food prices won't match the wild jumps in commodities markets, says David Garfield, a consultant at AlixPartners who advises food-makers. The reason: food companies worry about losing market share and will absorb some of the higher costs rather than risk losing customers.

"People would be up in arms, if every time they went to the grocery store the prices of their preferred items were jumping up and down," says Garfield.

The price of a 12-ounce can of frozen orange juice edged up in February to $2.43 from $2.41 in January, according to government data.

A series of problems are driving the increases. Florida's orange crop is forecast to be the worst in almost a quarter of a century. A citrus greening disease, which is transmitted by tiny insects that feed on the leaves of oranges, is damaging the harvest. Infected trees start to produce bitter green fruit. The problem was first detected in the U.S. in September 2005 and the Florida orange juice crop is down by almost a quarter since then.

No cure is known, and the only solution is to cut down the tree.

Add weather to the orange juice problem. A dry spell last year stunted the growth of orange trees in Florida and is hurting production this year, says Michael Smith, president of T&K Futures and Options, based in Port St. Lucie, Florida. In South America, drought is raising concerns about the size of the crop in Brazil.

The orange crop in Florida, one of the world's biggest orange-growing regions, could fall this year by about 15 percent to 114 million boxes, according to government forecasts. That would be the smallest crop since 1990.



Tour De Feast

Michael 'Snacks' Ryan — Send comments to editor@smdp.com



Michael Ryan *michael@smdp.com*

GOTTA GIVE IT UP: Quinoa power salad, which contains quinoa, kale, fennel, mint, white beans, avocado, almonds, and currents, with a citrus vinegar dressing.

No meat? Don't Lent it get you down

POPE FRANCIS' MESSAGE OF HUMILITY and tolerance has certainly sent a jolt through the Catholic Church. It's true; the progressive Pope is making it cool to be Catholic again.

And with the Lent season in full swing, millions of said Catholics worldwide (including a large contingent here in Santa Monica) are looking to cut the meat out of their diet during this 40-day span.

Growing up Catholic in Chicago, Lent brings back memories of cheese pizza and pepper and egg sandwiches. Of course tastes tend to be a bit healthier here on the Westside. But whether the decision to go meat-free is a lifestyle choice or comes from a higher calling, the Veggie Grill is a popular pick for vegetarians, vegans, carnivores, Catholics, Hindus, Buddhists, Beleibers, Trekkies, whomever!

"We don't have any big signs promoting Lent, but we thought to ourselves, we are the perfect place if you're giving up meat," Greg Dollarhyde, the chief energizing officer of the Veggie Grill explained to me over lunch at the Wilshire Boulevard location here in town.

Greg resides in Malibu, but the Veggie Grill's main offices are located in Santa Monica, and he oversees a restaurant chain that has expanded to 23 locations up and down the coast from Seattle to San Diego. The Veggie Grill has undoubtedly brought veggie eating into the mainstream.

Greg attributes part of the sales growth to a trend called meat reducers.

"People are not going to quit eating meat but lots of people are now limiting the amount of meat they do consume," Greg explained adding that meat several days of the week for many is not the main course. "We want to play to that person. For the person that's looking to eat more vegetables, let's find a way to make eating vegetables more fun."

Perhaps the way to make eating vegetables fun is to have them take on the shape of meat. Some of the Veggie Grill's mainstay items are their burger, buffalo chickin' sandwich, and "crab" cake. The key is to give all the faux meat items a proper mouth feel and, of course, good taste. When you bite into a burger you actually bite into it with some resistance. Forsaken thy Heavenly Father by biting the forbidden burger you have not. Everything at the Veggie Grill is plant based and Holy Season approved. The Veggie Grill has proven itself as a place to get a great burger when you can't have or don't want a burger. But their Mindful Living menu really highlights items high in protein and nutrients, yet low in calories.

Greg said, "the goal is to morph the menu into more whole foods with more recognizable vegetables. Something more protein oriented."

With that said, some new menu items came to our lunch table including the quinoa power salad, which contains quinoa, kale, fennel, mint, white beans, avocado, almonds, and currents, with a citrus vinegar dressing. This salad is high-protein, low-calorie, and packed with a bunch of nutrients mentioned by Greg including iron, potassium, selenium, and magnesium.

The best bite of the day was the Bombay bowl. Whole roasted veggies, and almonds in a green curry sauce (with coconut milk) over a bed of super grains (blend of quinoa, millet, and buckwheat) has full flavor with more protein and fewer calories than the salad. It's the type of dish that I'll remember, crave, and go back for again.

Hearing about a cannelloni bean's long-term low glycemic index or how avocado gives you natural saturated vegetable fats which are good for your skin and nervous system from a CEO that literally knows his menu and the ingredients inside and out is refreshing. I can only imagine what the conversation would be like about a Doritos taco with the boss from Taco Bell.

If you're looking to eat well, eat healthy, and/or are just trying to stay on God's good side during Lent, have faith in the Veggie Grill.

MICHAEL can be seen riding around town on his bike burning calories so he can eat more food. He can be reached at michael@smdp.com. Follow him on Twitter at twitter.com/greaseweek.

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HARD HITTING

Morgan Genser *editor@smdp.com*

Samohi's Eric Hernandez gets a spike past the hands of Culver City High's (left) Ryan Armstrong and Chandler Atterberry during an Ocean League match on Thursday as the Vikings hosted the Centaurs. Samohi lost in four sets by the scores of (23-25, 25-17, 24-26, and (21-25). With the defeat, Samo's record falls to 0-2 in league play and 0-4 overall.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DOWNTOWN

SQA winners announced

Perry's at the Beach, which rents bikes and sells burgers, along with public relations/marketing firm Phelps are this year's Sustainable Quality Awards grand prize winners.

They will be recognized, along with 11 others, on April 30 during a luncheon sponsored by the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce, City Hall and Sustainable Works.

Each year the awards luncheon recognizes local businesses that have successfully incorporated sustainable practices into their operations. The SQAs are intended to educate and inspire local businesses to adopt sustainable practices and support Santa Monica as a sustainable community. The SQA has recognized over 125 businesses since the program launched in 1995.

"The SQA is the oldest and most rigorous sustainable business award in Southern California" said Shannon Parry, deputy sustainability officer for the Office of Sustainability and the Environment at City Hall. "By recognizing their achievements, we hope to inspire other businesses to adopt their own sustainable practices, thus helping Santa Monica become a model sustainable community."

The 19th Annual Awards Luncheon event will honor the 2014 winners as well as feature a special keynote presentation by Dr. Michael Crooke, former CEO of Patagonia, Inc.

The grand prize s awarded to businesses for combined excellence in three areas: economic development, social responsibility, and stewardship of the natural environment. "Excellence" awards are given to outstanding achievements in any one of the three areas.

The Santa Monica Daily Press is receiving an excellence award for social responsibility, along with Red Bull North America, Loews Santa Monica Beach Hotel, Yahoo, Inc. and others.

For more information visit www.smsqa.com

– KEVIN HERRERA

CITYWIDE

Highway health

Caltrans has announced that the condition of the pavement on California's highways is at its healthiest level in more than a decade, according to the recently released 2013 State of the Pavement Report.

"It's important to maintain and preserve the existing transportation system first and foremost before making other improvements," said Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty. "This improvement in our pavement proves that we are committed to doing just that."

Caltrans reported that the percent of healthy pavement on the state highway system increased from 75 to 84 percent from 2011 to 2013 – an increase of 4,500 lane miles of smoother pavement.

Caltrans maintains its aging state highway system even while it carries nearly 35 million vehicles. Each year, the department surveys the condition of its pavement to determine how much of the system needs maintenance.

Annual maintenance needs far outpace dependable funding, but Caltrans uses high-tech strategies, recycling, and innovative treatments to make pavement last longer, to stretch every dollar and to preserve the environment. Cold-in-place recycling allows Caltrans to recycle and reprocess existing pavement without leaving the construction site. That method, and using rubberized hot-mix asphalt and warm-mix asphalt, has reduced more than 61,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions, officials said.

Caltrans used one-time funds from the 2006 Proposition 1B transportation bond and the 2009 Recovery Act to help pay for nearly $4 billion in pavement projects on nearly 18,000 lane miles in the last four years. Continued improvement of pavement health is contingent on a stable funding source for road rehabilitation and repair.

Caltrans reported on pavement health and other road maintenance conditions earlier this year in its publication Mile Marker, which is available online at www.dot.ca.gov/

– KH











Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*/Rendering courtey City of Santa Monica

COMING SOON: This area on the third floor of Santa Monica Place may be the home of a new movie theater to be run by ArchLight, depicted above in a rendering.

MOVIE
FROM PAGE 1

proposal to build large theater complex on Fourth Street.

Last year the director of the American Film Market, the world's largest, told the Daily Press that the lack of screens and state-of-the art theaters in Santa Monica topped his list of challenges. Santa Monica fought to keep AFM in town after it flirted with moving to downtown Los Angeles.

ArcLight would set aside three theaters for the market. Commissioner Sue Himmelrich asked, given AFM's importance, why they wouldn't be providing more. A spokesperson for the company said that the theaters are meagerly compensated by the market and called the promise of three theaters one of the greatest economic hardships in the agreement.

ArcLight's proposal could add 36 feet to the mall, which is currently 48-feet-tall — a 75 percent height increase.

The plan's details are still in flux as ArcLight signed on only a few months ago. Commissioner Richard McKinnon called the plans — which stated that the heights could reach up to 84 feet — "so loose."

Commissioners also expressed concern that movie-goers would drive into the mall parking lot, go to see a movie, and then drive out, never setting foot on the Third Street Promenade or other parts of Downtown.

During the public comment portion of the meeting Kathleen Rawson, president and CEO of Downtown Santa Monica Inc., acknowledge that this would likely happen for some but that Downtown is nicely positioned to encourage movie-goers to wander around.

"It's the nature of Downtown to walk," she said. "It's the nature that if you're going to, frankly, bear the traffic and the sort of hassle for parking, you're going to spend a little more time there than you would if you we're just going to the Landmark at the Westside Pavilion where you park, see the movie and go home."

Other commissioners were afraid that the large number of seats proposed by ArcLight could create a vacuum, drawing all theater-goers to the ArcLight and making it hard for operators to open successful theaters elsewhere Downtown.

Rawson agreed that theaters need to be dispersed and said that proposals for remodel are in the works.

"There are options that will come before you I hope soon that will provide a better theater going experience outside Santa Monica Place but those aren't something, at this point, that can be publicly discussed," she said.

Back in 1987, council placed a loose seat cap on Downtown at 6,200 seats, Rawson said. Downtown peaked at 5,519 seats several years ago before losing theaters. City Hall could still approve more theaters and stay under that cap.

The Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce also spoke in favor of the project.

Ultimately, all the commissioners agreed that the proposal was worth supporting.

"It pains me to support this because, although I desperately want theaters, this is not where I would have wanted them to go first," said Commissioner Gerta Newbold. "But it is what we have and so I will support it."

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Police phone-tracking contracts often kept secret

BY JACK GILLUM
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Police across the country may be intercepting phone calls or text messages to find suspects using a technology tool known as Stingray. But they're refusing to turn over details about its use or heavily censoring files when they do.

Police say Stingray, a suitcase-sized device that pretends it's a cell tower, is useful for catching criminals, but that's about all they'll say.

For example, they won't disclose details about contracts with the device's manufacturer, Harris Corp., insisting they are protecting both police tactics and commercial secrets. The secrecy — at times imposed by non-disclosure agreements signed by police — is pitting obligations under private contracts against government transparency laws.

Even in states with strong open records laws, including Florida and Arizona, little is known about police use of Stingray and any rules governing it.

A Stingray device tricks all cellphones in an area into electronically identifying themselves and transmitting data to police rather than the nearest phone company's tower. Because documents about Stingrays are regularly censored, it's not immediately clear what information the devices could capture, such as the contents of phone conversations and text messages, what they routinely do capture based on how they're configured or how often they might be used.

In one of the rare court cases involving the device, the FBI acknowledged in 2011 that so-called cell site simulator technology affects innocent users in the area where it's operated, not just a suspect police are seeking.

Earlier this month, journalist Beau Hodai and the American Civil Liberties Union of Arizona sued the Tucson Police Department, alleging in court documents that police didn't comply with the state's public-records law because they did not fully disclose Stingray-related records and allowed Harris Corp. to dictate what information could be made public.

Revelations about surveillance programs run by the federal National Security Agency have driven a sustained debate since last summer on the balance between privacy and government intrusion. Classified NSA documents, leaked to news organizations, showed the NSA was collecting telephone records, e-mails and video chats of millions of Americans who were not suspected of crimes.

That debate has extended to state and local governments. News organizations in Palm Springs, Calif.; Tallahassee, Fla.; Sacramento, Calif., and Pittsburgh are among those that have been denied records about Stingrays or Stingray-like devices, including details of contracts that Harris has with government agencies.

In a response to a records request from the Tallahassee Democrat newspaper about Florida's use of cell-tracking technology, the state's top police agency provided a four-page, heavily censored document signed by a police investigator. The newspaper reported that the document referred to guidelines concerning the purchase of items and sought the department's agreement to the "provisions/content of the Non-Disclosure Agreement."

The Desert Sun of Palm Springs made a similar request to the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, which said it had to maintain secrecy even though the newspaper found information online about cell site simulators.

And in Sacramento, the local sheriff's office told a TV station it would "be inappropriate for us to comment about any agency that may be using the technology" in light of a Harris non-disclosure agreement.

Many of the requests were part of an effort to investigate the devices by Gannett Co. Inc., which publishes USA Today and owns other newspapers and television stations around the country.

"I don't see how public agencies can make up an agreement with a private company that breaks state law," said David Cuillier, the director of the University of Arizona's journalism school and a national expert on public-records laws. "We can't have the commercial sector running our governments for us. These public agencies need to be forthright and transparent."

A representative for Melbourne, Fla.,-based Harris Corp. declined to comment or elaborate on how the company's agreements comport with open records laws. Court documents in Hodai's case show Harris' agreement required the Tucson city government not to "discuss, publish, release or disclose any information" about its products without the company's written consent.

The agreement also required the city to contact Harris when it receives public-records requests about a "protected product," like a Stingray, so that the company can "challenge any such request in court." The police department declined to comment on Hodai's lawsuit.

He had sought Harris contracts and police e-mails about how the technology is used. E-mail records show a Harris contract manager advised a Tucson police sergeant on what records couldn't be released to the public; the manager relied on the U.S. Freedom of Information Act, which governs records of the executive branch of the federal government.

Nathan Freed Wessler, a staff attorney with the ACLU, said there's often a distinction in public-records laws to protect bona fide trade secrets — such as circuit board diagrams — as opposed to broader information like agency policies governing a Stingray's use or purchase agreements. He said police in Florida have declined to tell judges about the use of Stingrays because of non-disclosure agreements.

A December 2013 investigation by USA Today found roughly 1 in 4 law enforcement agencies it surveyed had performed tower dumps, and slightly fewer owned a Stingray. But the report also said 36 additional agencies refused to provide details on their use, with most denying the newspaper's public-records requests.





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SURF REPORT



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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **63.3°**

SATURDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** thigh to waist high
Steep NW swell mix mostly bypasses the region; Modest SSW swell fills in a touch more

SUNDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** waist to stomach high
Modest SSW swell holds; new WNW/NW swell creeps in for exposures in the PM

MONDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** thigh to chest high
Better SSW swell moves in; steep-angled WNW/NW swell...stay tuned

TUESDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-4 ft** knee to shoulder high
SSW swell builds further and peaks; trace WNW swell mix; watching winds

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 19, 2014**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)
Number of sewage spills -- 0
Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
Number of wet days -- 6
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 37 / 22
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 5 / 18

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: SMA Swain Barber Foundation

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Los Alisos creeks.		
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach.	A+	F
Pwerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pwerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	B	C
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	D
Surfrider Beach (broach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	D	A+
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	A+
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	B	F
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	F
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	B	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	ns	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	B	F
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	B

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

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

Heal the Bay'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.

Heal the Bay is a nonprofit environmental organization making Southern California coastal waters and watersheds, including Santa Monica Bay, safe, healthy and clean. We use science, education, community action and advocacy to pursue our mission.

Heal the Bay

Raiders acquire QB Matt Schaub from Texans

BY JOSH DUBOW
AP Sports Writer

ALAMEDA, Calif. Matt Schaub and the Oakland Raiders are both hoping to put the mistakes of 2013 in the past.

The Raiders acquired Schaub from Houston on Friday for a sixth-round draft pick, giving the quarterback a second chance after he lost his starting job with the Texans last season.

"A fresh start can do a lot of things for a player and a team and I'm one of those guys," Schaub said. "Last year did not go as I had planned, given my prior nine years before that. I'm looking for a fresh start, I'm excited for the opportunity here."

The deal also is a second chance for Oakland general manager Reggie McKenzie, whose trade last spring for Matt Flynn was a bust when he couldn't win the starting job and was eventually released early in the season.

Coach Dennis Allen said Schaub comes in as the starter after Terrelle Pryor and Matt McGloin were inconsistent last year in Oakland's second straight four-win season.

Schaub was Houston's starter from 2007 until last season, when he was benched in favor of Case Keenum after a terrible start to the year. The Texans were expected to contend for a Super Bowl last season, but instead became the NFL's worst team, sinking to 2-14, which tied the worst record in franchise history.

It was clear after last season that Schaub didn't have a future in Houston, but his departure looked to be imminent on Thursday night when the Texans signed veteran quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick.

"We weren't going to let last season deter us from the player and the track record that he has shown over his career," offensive coordinator Greg Olson said. "He was our No. 1 target from Day 1, and it was just a matter of getting the deal done."

Along with failing in the Flynn trade, McKenzie also wasted a fourth-round draft pick on quarterback Tyler Wilson, who did not make the roster out of training camp and was eventually signed off the practice squad by Tennessee.

The move takes pressure off Oakland to use a high draft pick on a quarterback in May when Teddy Bridgewater, Blake Bortles and Johnny Manziel are all projected as first-round picks.

NFL faces new concussion case in Los Angeles

BY ANTHONY MCCARTNEY
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES The estate of NFL Hall of Famer Mike Webster and dozens of former players suing the league over concussion injuries agreed Friday to pause their lawsuit to see if it will join other similar cases being reviewed by a federal judge for settlement.

Webster's estate and 65 former players and their families sued the NFL in February, claiming the league hid information about the seriousness of concussions and head injuries sustained during their playing careers.

Attorneys for the NFL and the plaintiffs filed a stipulation Friday to stay the case to see if it should join other concussion lawsuits currently assigned to a judge in Pennsylvania. Senior U.S. District Judge Anita Brody is considering whether a $765 million settlement is enough to resolve all claims against the NFL for players who are dealing with dementia and other serious cognitive conditions caused by concussions sustained during their pro careers.

Webster, who played for the Pittsburgh Steelers for most of his career, was instrumental in four of the team's Super Bowl victories in the 1970s. He died in 2002.

Six of the players included in the case are deceased, including Steelers offensive linemen Terry Long and Justin Strzelczyk.

The NFL declined to comment on the case.

The lawsuit, like others filed against the NFL, claims the league hid evidence of the long-term damage players faced due to concussions and did not provide players with proper helmets. The players are also suing helmet-maker Riddell Inc. on claims that its helmets did not adequately protect players and that the company didn't warn players of the dangers of concussions.

Riddell declined comment, citing a policy not to issue statements on pending lawsuits.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Saturday, March 22

Tremors (PG-13) 1hr 36min
7:30pm
Discussion following with actor Michael Gross.

Sunday, March 23

Magnolia (R) 3hrs 8min
7:30pm

AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade
(310) 458-3924

Divergent (PG-13) 2hr 19min
11:10am, 12:05pm, 3:25pm, 6:45pm, 10:00pm

Tyler Perry's Single Moms Club (PG-13) 1hr 41min
2:20pm, 5:00pm, 7:50pm, 10:30pm

Non-Stop (PG-13) 1hr 50min
11:00am, 1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:10pm

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

300: Rise of an Empire (R) 1hr 42min
4:30pm, 10:10pm

300: Rise of an Empire 3D (R) 1hr 42min
1:45pm, 7:15pm

Need for Speed (PG-13) 2hr 10min
4:20pm, 10:45pm

Mr. Peabody & Sherman (PG) 1hr 30min
10:30am, 4:15pm, 7:00pm

Mr. Peabody & Sherman 3D (PG) 1hr 30min
1:15pm, 9:30pm

Divergent (PG-13) 2hr 19min
10:40am, 1:05pm, 4:15pm, 7:30pm, 11:00pm

Muppets Most Wanted (PG) 1hr 52min
10:15am, 2:20pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:40pm

Lego Movie (PG) 1hr 40min
10:20am, 11:00am, 1:30pm

Grand Budapest Hotel (R) 1hr 40min
10:45am, 11:45am, 2:10pm, 4:00pm, 5:15pm, 6:45pm, 8:00pm, 9:50pm, 10:50pm

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

Umbrellas of Cherbourg (Les Parapluies de Cherbourg) (NR) 1hr 35min
11:00am

Rape of Europa (NR) 1hr 57min
11:00am

Blood Ties (R) 2hrs 24min
1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

Face of Love (PG-13) 1hr 32min
10:45am, 3:10pm, 5:30pm, 7:50pm

Enemy (R) 1hr 30min
10:45am, 1:00pm, 3:20pm, 5:40pm, 8:00pm, 10:15pm

Tim's Vermeer (PG-13) 1hr 20min
1:00pm, 10:10pm

Particle Fever (NR) 1hr 39min
1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 9:50pm

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

RETURN CALLS, GEM

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Clear out any obstacles that might prevent you from taking a day trip. Invite a friend along to explore a new area of town or to head to the local casino. Be more open with a child or loved one. This person values your advice. Tonight: Cozy restaurant, new cuisine.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Dedicate time to one person, as you might not relate well in groups at the moment. Be willing to look at an issue from a different perspective. Ask for help in analyzing a situation. Tonight: Togetherness works.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Others will be more challenging than you might have expected. A friend could surprise you with his or her choices. Touch base with someone at a distance, and know that you could be taken aback by this person's news. Tonight: Return calls and check your email.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You could be reacting to someone's behavior, which would explain your high energy. Mobilize this reaction, and use this newfound vitality in a way that benefits you. Make time for a favorite person. Together, you will determine your plans. Tonight: Dinner for two.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Allow your imagination to add to the dimension of your day. A loved one could prove to be unusually demanding. How you manage a changeable situation will depend on your resourcefulness. Tonight: Let your hair down to great music.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Honor an unexpected event. You might not want to deal with the situation, but ultimately you'll see the benefits. A family member could add to the problem. Just don't interfere with this person's spontaneity, and everything should work out fine. Tonight: At home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Your popularity speaks for itself. As a result, a partner could behave in a most unpredictable way. Try not to react, as you'll want to calm the situation down. Tonight: Where the fun is.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Allow your imagination to color your plans once more. A close loved one or roommate could be unusually charming and forthright. Let the good times happen, and flex with the moment. Excitement surrounds a child. Tonight: Say "yes" to a new opportunity.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Feeling as good as possible will help you deal with a changeable person and/or issue. The resolution could be much easier than you might have thought. Buy tickets to a play or concert. Tonight: Just ask.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Follow your instincts when making plans. Your choices will make others smile. Whether you're out driving or putting together a favorite meal, you'll want to put on some music. Play it low-key, and you will be far happier. Tonight: Take a much-needed personal night.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You have put off a purchase for a while. If you decide to follow through on it today, use caution. There could be a hidden clause or an expectation that has not been aired out. You finally will be able to zero in on what you want. Tonight: Where your friends are.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ You could be taken aback by a momentary situation that will force some quick thinking. Tap into your ingenuity, and solutions will appear. The question remains: Which resolution works best for you? Someone observes and admires your responses. Tonight: Take the lead.

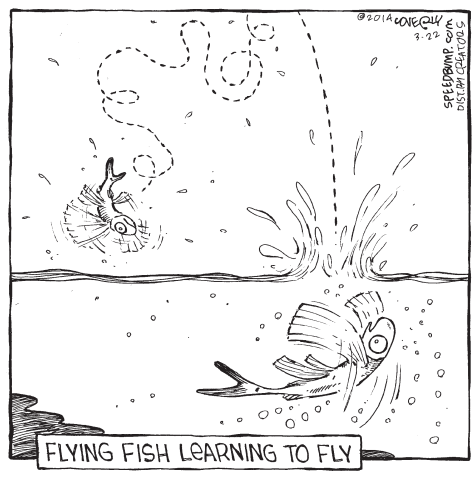
Weekend Edition, March 22-23, 2014

This year you deal with the unexpected. How you land is your call. You often trigger unpredictability without realizing it. A child or loved one could be a source of unusual happiness. Make a point of doing even more with this person. If you are single, a friendship could be involved in developing a romance. A friend could introduce you to your sweetie or a friendship might become more. If you are attached, make a point of breaking past the doldrums of a relationship. Re-enact your first few dates or schedule a long-desired trip. LEO knows how to trigger your temper.

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

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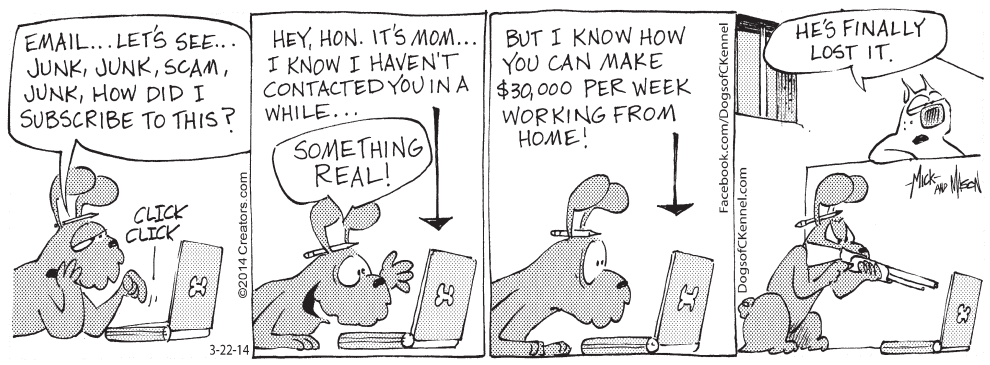
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



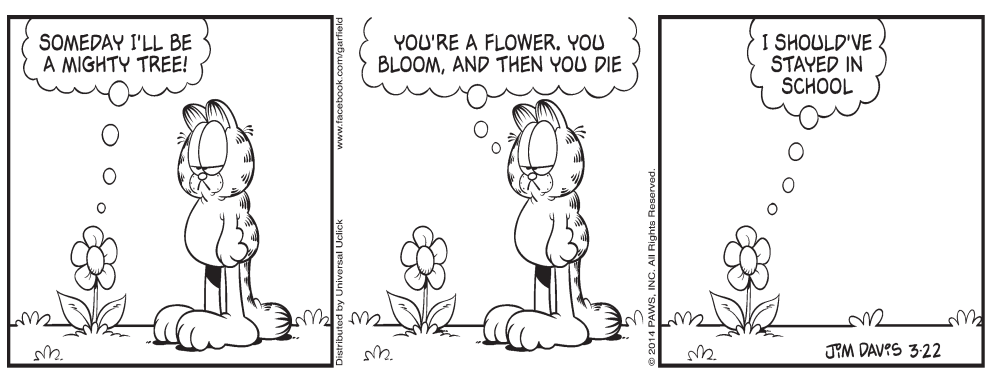
Strange Brew
By John Deering



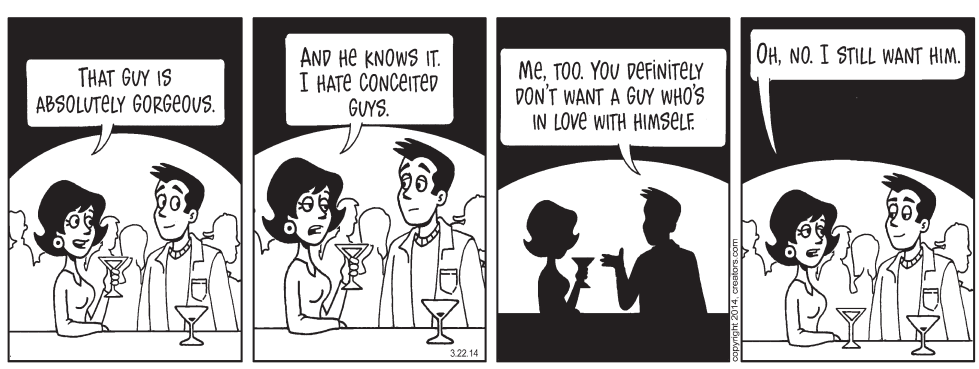
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Bargain
5 Chelsea chip
10 Old characters
12 Gold unit
13 Occur
14 Strand unit
15 May honoree
16 — out a living
18 Scoundrel
19 Cochise, for one
21 Tarot deck suit
22 Night prowlers
24 Heart, for one
25 Unlikely winners
29 Lingerie buys
30 Light
32 Battleship letters
33 Mimic
34 Crew need
35 Shows disuse
37 Stylishly quaint
39 Make pigtails
40 Stuffed
41 Hot spot
42 Took the bus

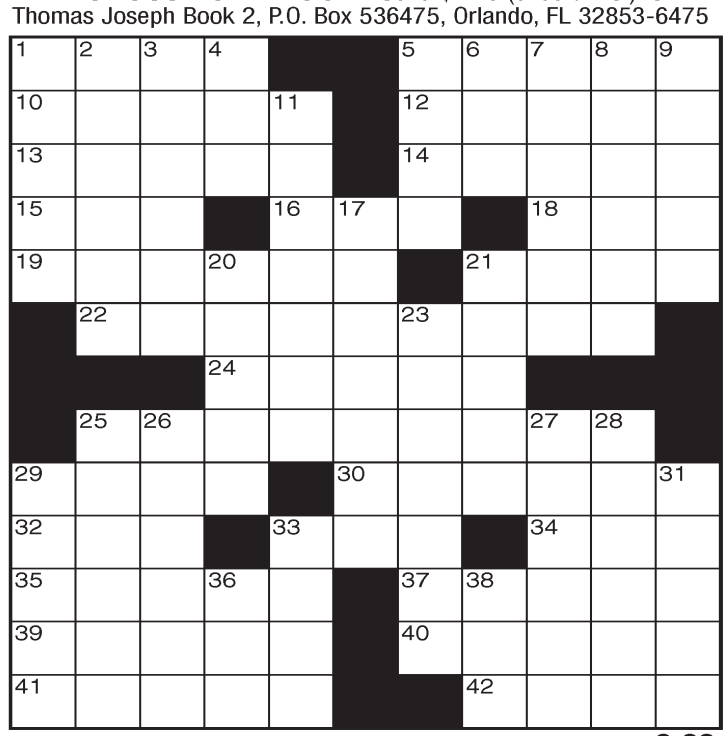
DOWN

1 Inge creation
2 Moon of Jupiter
3 Zoo resident
4 French article
5 Get by
6 Wish undone
7 Lacking variety
8 Tussles
9 Trappers' wares
11 "Now, you listen!"
17 Movie set worker
20 Oafs
21 Body of law
23 Sponges
25 Andress of "Dr. No"
26 Cruise port
27 Florentine painter
28 Gawked
29 Pats on the back, perhaps
31 Wear away
33 Movie pooch
36 Pewter component
38 Corn unit

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

Yesterday's answer

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



3-22



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ A more ornate, dedicated subset of cross-dressers -- the "living dolls" or "maskers" -- was captured for a British TV documentary in January (and likely to appear on U.S. television soon). "Secrets of the Living Dolls" follows ordinary men (one, a forklift operator by day; another, divorced and 70, whose daughter knows he's a "doll" but otherwise maintains a "don't ask, don't tell" relationship) who come alive several nights a month when they don expensive ($800 to $1,800), tailored, head-to-toe silicone bodysuits that feature breasts and genitalia, to party as young, glamorously dressed women. Two of the men lamented the dolls' lack of full acceptance into the transvestite or transgender communities -- though much of that distrust may stem from dolls' use of masks (perhaps similar to the backlash faced by clowns).

■ Christopher Fulton turned himself in in Midwest City, Okla., in March after seeing a surveillance photo of the robbery of an IBC Bank. He told police he indeed must be the robber, that he saw his body in the bank photo -- although he insisted that his mind had no recollection of it. Police were about to arrest Fulton, anyway, because the robber's holdup note was written on a blank check with the account holder's name and address (Fulton's mom's) scratched out, except that police-lab technology easily read through the scratch-outs.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1963 - The Beatles' first album, Please Please Me, is released in the United Kingdom.

1972 - The United States Congress sends the Equal Rights Amendment to the states for ratification.

WORD UP!

noetic
\ noh-ET-ik \ , adjective;
1. of or pertaining to the mind.
2. originating in or apprehended by the reason.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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