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TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 116

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered
THE ALL CLEAR ISSUE

NO HUNT THIS YEAR
SEE PAGE 9

Renters' rights group endorses Osborn

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN PARK Santa Monica's most influential political organization threw its weight behind Torie Osborn for the 50th Assembly District at its meeting Sunday despite calls from Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom to not endorse in the primary.

Bloom, who is also running in the 50th along with Assemblywoman Betsy Butler and Republican candidate Brad Torgan, refused to attend the Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights general assembly meeting, calling the process unfair.

"Today's meeting was never advertised as an endorsement meeting, although a series of e-mails forwarded to me by those handpicked to receive them clearly indicate a plan to accomplish exactly that," Bloom wrote in a statement which was read aloud at the Sunday meeting.

SEE ELECTION PAGE 11

Police: Suspicious suitcase held no explosives

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

OCEAN AVE An abandoned suitcase that forced the evacuation of the Georgian Hotel and nearby buildings for nearly four hours on Monday was determined to be harmless, Santa Monica police said.

The suitcase was left in the Ocean Avenue hotel at approximately 9:30 a.m. by a man who said he was leaving it for a person staying at the establishment. Hotel employees said that no name matching that person was on the hotel's registry, prompting the man to flee. Alarmed by the incident, staff members called the police who ultimately brought in the L.A. County Sheriff's bomb squad to investigate the situation, SMPD spokesman Sgt. Richard Lewis said.

The 1400 block of Ocean Avenue was closed to traffic as a precaution and the hotel and parts of nearby buildings were evacuated, including the Senior Center across the street in Palisades Park.

The evacuations came just as the Senior Center was preparing to serve free lunch, forcing nearly 55 seniors and five staff members to flee the building, employees said.

People attempting to return to the cordoned off block of Ocean Avenue began to gather at the corner of Broadway hoping to learn when they would be allowed to reenter the area.

The manager of the Ocean View and Shore hotels, Robert Farzam, was trying to gain access to the Ocean View when he was

SEE SUITCASE PAGE 11



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

ON THE SAFE SIDE: **Santa Monica police closed a stretch of Ocean Avenue after a suspicious suitcase was found in the Georgian Hotel on Monday morning.**

Road improvements to cost major dough

Pico Neighborhood getting upgrades

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

Editor's note: This story is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures appearing on upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agendas. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the City Council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past.

CITY HALL The City Council is expected to award two contracts worth almost $4.4 million on Tuesday to get the ball rolling on street improvements on the east end of town.

The construction company All American Asphalt and management firm Black & Veatch were selected to complete the work, which includes new lighting, landscaping, sidewalk improvements and bicycle "sharrows" on 20th Street and Cloverfield Boulevard between Interstate 10 and Pico Boulevard.

City Hall received 61 applications for the construction portion and 31 applications for the construction management contract. The $4,013,053 was awarded to All American Asphalt, and Black & Veatch received the $385,670 management contract.

Both have worked with City Hall in the past.

The $4.4 million job represents most of Tuesday's $6.99 million consent agenda.

HIGH QUALITY H2O

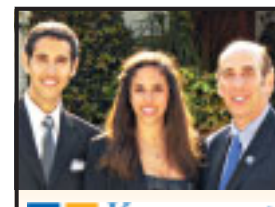
The City Council has often reiterated its goal of making Santa Monica self-sufficient in its water production, and Tuesday night it'll have the opportunity to put its money where its mouth is.

City officials are seeking $871,856 for a

SEE CONSENT PAGE 10


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, March 27, 2012

Improv the day away
Senior Center
1450 Ocean Ave., 12:30 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.
Veteran improv instructor Brian Hamill hosts this weekly comedy workshop for seniors. All seniors are welcome to take part in the workshop, whether you want to be on stage or in the audience. Cost: free for Senior Center members; membership is free for anyone over 50. For more information, call (310) 458-8644.

Jokes for a good cause
Shutters on the Beach
1 Pico Blvd., 7 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Comedians Paula Poundstone and Bobby Collins will be wise-cracking to raise money for McKinley Elementary School. Both Poundstone and Collins have kids that attended the school. For more information, visit www.mckinleyevents.com.

Talking books
Main Library, MLK Auditorium
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m.
The library presents a special evening of conversation between Edgar Award-winning mystery authors C.J. Box and T. Jefferson Parker. For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

City Council meeting
City Hall
1685 Main St., 5:30 p.m.
Attend a meeting of the City Council and weigh in on issues ranging from street improvements in the Pico Neighborhood to campaign finance and the influence of corporations in elections. For more information, go to www.smgov.net. or call the City Clerk's Office at (310) 458-8211.

Wednesday, March 28, 2012

Planting a seed
SMC — Main Campus
Humanities & Social Science
Lecture Hall 165
1900 Pico Blvd., 11:15 a.m.
Garden master and author David King will be on hand to talk about the founding of the Seed Library of Los Angeles and other issues related to gardening. For more information, call (310) 434-3911.

Movie time
Fairview Branch Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
1 p.m. — 3 p.m.
Attend a screening of the critically-acclaimed film "Steel Magnolias," starring Sally Field, Shirley MacLaine and Julia Roberts. Afterward, discuss it with Anna Stramese, who has a master's in critical studies from USC. For more information call (310) 458-8681.

Kid stuff
Main Library, MLK Auditorium
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
3:45 p.m. — 4:45 p.m.
For the first time ever, Citywide Reads expands to include kids this year, with the featured book "Trouble Is My Beeswax" by Bruce Hale. Hale will be on hand to share how he writes and draws his adventures of fourth grade private eye, Chet Gecko. For ages 7-10.

Sounds of the city
Central Social Aid & Pleasure Club
1348 14th St., 8 p.m.
Check out New Orleans natives The Revivalists as they support their latest release "City of Sound." The group's blend of soulful, syncopated rock and earnest songwriting comes to life through a meticulously crafted ever-evolving live performance. Cost: $7, 21 and over. Check out some of their tunes at www.therevivalists.com/city-of-sound.html

Talking landscaping
Virginia Avenue Park, Thelma Terry Building
2200 Virginia Ave.,
6:30 p.m. — 8 p.m.
The Exposition Construction Authority invites you to a community meeting regarding the landscaping elements proposed for the Expo Line in Santa Monica. Hear an overview from the design team on the proposed landscaping, get an update on construction activities and the Colorado streetscape, learn about the tree relocation and replacement plan and provide input and feedback. Cost: Free.

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





IT WAS FUN, CIRQUE

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

A work crew dismantles the Cirque du Soleil big top on Monday after the troupe performed the last show of the tour stop for 'OVO.' The show moves on to Portland before heading to Australia.

Pair of SoCal men arrested in $2 million movie ad scheme

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SANTA MONICA Two Southern California men have been indicted for allegedly defrauding Lionsgate Entertainment out of $2 million in a kickback scheme involving the purchases of cardboard advertising displays.

The FBI says in a press release that 31-year-old Roccia James Cuccia of Downey and Larry D. Collins of Northridge were arrested Friday. They face charges including wire fraud, money laundering and tax evasion.

Cuccia worked as a buyer at Lionsgate, a Santa Monica-based film company. The indictment says Cuccia used Collins as a vendor to supply cardboard advertising used to display Lionsgate movies at retail stores.

Cuccia is accused of altering company computer files to artificially inflate the size of the orders, and therefore the payments, that went to Collins. In return, authorities say, Collins wired a portion of the money to Cuccia's bank account.

Man pleads guilty in celeb e-mail hacking

GREG RISLING
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES An unemployed Florida man pleaded guilty Monday to hacking into the e-mail accounts of celebrities, including Christina Aguilera, Mila Kunis and Scarlett Johansson, whose nude photos eventually landed on the Internet.

Christopher Chaney, 35, of Jacksonville, Fla., entered his plea in federal court to nine counts, including unauthorized access to a computer and wiretapping. He was immediately taken into custody with his head hung low and his hands in his pockets.

Sentencing was scheduled for July 23, and Chaney could face up to 60 years in prison. Under a plea bargain, he also could pay a fine of up to $2.2 million and must pay restitution to his victims, ranging from $15,000 to $400,000.

Chaney was arrested in October as part of a yearlong investigation of celebrity hacking that authorities dubbed "Operation Hackerazzi."

Prosecutors said Chaney illegally accessed the e-mail accounts of more than 50 people in the entertainment industry between November 2010 and October 2011.

Nude photos Johansson had taken of herself were later posted on the Internet. Johansson told Vanity Fair for its December issue that the photos were meant for Ryan Reynolds, now her ex-husband.

Chaney mined through publicly available data to figure out password and security questions for celebrity accounts. Once he had control of an e-mail account, he also went through contact lists to find accounts of fellow stars.

He also hijacked a forwarding feature so a copy of every e-mail a celebrity received was sent to an account he controlled, according to court documents.

A search warrant unsealed and obtained by The Associated Press said Chaney's computer hard drive contained numerous private celebrity photos and a document that compiled their extensive personal data.

In one instance, Chaney posed as stylist Simone Harouche and sent an e-mail from her account to Aguilera — one of Harouche's clients — asking the singer for scantily clad photographs, prosecutors said. Some of Aguilera's photos appeared online.

Chaney forwarded many of the photographs to two gossip websites and another hacker, but there wasn't any evidence that he profited from his scheme, authorities said. He has since apologized for his actions.

In ordering Chaney to be held behind bars until he's sentenced, U.S. District Judge S. James Otero noted the defendant continued to hack into celebrity e-mail accounts — namely one belonging to a star only referenced by initials C.B. — after he was interviewed by FBI agents and acknowledged the scheme.

"I don't understand why any person who is rational would continue in that kind of behavior," Otero opined.

It's unclear whether Aguilera, Kunis or Johansson would write letters to the judge or attend Chaney's sentencing, but all three women agreed to have their identities made public after an indictment was announced last October.

"I have confidence that justice will prevail and that the court will set a precedent for a 'no tolerance policy' in regards to identity theft, computer hacking and invasion of privacy," Johansson said in a statement to the AP.

Aguilera's publicist Nicole Perez-Krueger declined comment. An e-mail messages left for a Kunis representative was not immediately returned.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Playing by the book

Editor:

From the beginning, Golden State Collective Cannabis Laboratories has been about the health and safety of medical marijuana ("Local laboratory tests pot for potency, purity," March 13)). For that, only the very best scientific minds, technologies and experience have been put together. We have specifically situated ourselves in Santa Monica among other labs and high-tech companies because we are just like everyone else – we want good jobs, too. Beside providing good jobs for everyone, GSC Cannabis Laboratories also develops technologies that allow the blind to enter the "normal" workforce. That City Hall does not embrace this work is surprising and confusing.

Among the sources of confusion is the city's own "lowest police priority" law, which clearly acknowledges the rights of medical marijuana patients. And yet, residents must go to Malibu (where dispensaries are allowed) or Los Angeles (where the law requires labs like ours) because Santa Monica itself bans dispensaries. City Hall seems to be saying that they support patients' rights, so long as they do not purchase their medicine in Santa Monica nor be able to have their nearest source for medicine tested. Does that make sense to anyone?

For three months City Hall gave us numerous positive indications – some of them even recorded on voicemail – that we were "approved." We are surprised to learn that city staff actively "wrote" the federal government to "seek" approval of our testing lab. How does that square with the lowest police priority law? This makes us wonder if City Hall's business licensing department actively "writes" the federal government for approval of other businesses? Are we being picked on? And for what?

We leave it in the very capable hands of Roger Diamond, our attorney, to sort this all out with the city. However, the record is abundantly clear that we have done everything by the book.

Richard McDonald
GSC Cannabis Laboratories
Santa Monica

Know the dangers

Editor:

Officer Jeff Glaser's informative column on citizen's arrests ("Making a citizen's arrest," On the Beat, March 24-25) advised readers of the physical risks of making an arrest. But readers should also know that under California law, if they make a citizen's arrest for a misdemeanor that the arrested person did not actually commit, they might be civilly liable for damages and might also be guilty of a crime. In virtually every situation, citizens who think they've seen criminal activity should record as much information as they can and call the police.

Paul Bergman
Santa Monica





What's the Point?

David Pisarra — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

There's room for us all

MULTICULTURALISM IN SANTA MONICA IS what makes us special, and life here so exciting. You can't go across the street without bumping into someone of a different culture.

For example, Friday night I was taking the Big Blue Bus to the Third Street Promenade where I was going to have dinner with my heterosexual friends at T's Thai. On the bus ride down, there was a gaggle of girls who looked to be in high school. They were speaking in some Asian language that I couldn't identify. There was also a skinny little white boy rockin' out on his iPod as he drummed on his skateboard, an elderly black couple, and me.

Dinner at T's Thai is a staple in my life. Consistency is a great stabilizing force in my life, and almost every Friday night I meet up with Paul and we get caught up on the week's insanity. We are both entrepreneurs, so for us, the weekly catch-up is like what I imagine most people do on a daily basis around a water cooler at work.

It's important to make contact with people and have a connection in this world to keep you grounded and also to help you fly. Some Fridays I go in and after a hard week of arguing with other divorce or family law attorneys, I have to just spill my guts at how gross it all can be. Other weeks, he's sharing about a problem at work. Often times we help each other find solutions because he sees things from a different perspective, and vice versa.

After dinner, as I was walking down the promenade checking out the usual suspects of religious zealots, musicians, and political protesters, I marveled at the diversity. Between the two Bible thumpers was the Islamic Student Group giving away free Qurans. I was reminded of a bar mitzvah I had recently attended at a very conservative temple. I was there because one of the parents is an old high school friend. Our table was an exercise in religious and cultural diversity.

My friend, the young man's mother, is a flaming liberal feminist Democrat, there were her equally Democratic parents, me the religious-mutt-gay man, a single woman and a very moderate Islamic couple whose son is best friends with the celebrant. Looking around the table I was amused at the level of diversity. Of course the conversation eventually turned to religious practices and the differences between Judaism and Islam. The husband was expounding on the nature of his religion, in between quips from his wife, and as he related a laundry list of similarities, I thought to myself, "Judaism and Islam are two religions separated by a common ideology."

It is that type of mashup of people and cultures that adds to each group's understanding of each other. The exchange of perspectives is what creates peaceful, respectful awareness of another's experience.

Having the opportunities on a daily basis to come in contact with those of another culture, or belief system, is what gives our city, and our state, the flavor it does. On Saturday I walked into Norm's for breakfast and ran into my friend George. George is a black man who, as he puts it, "got out of Indiana as soon as possible" to experience more of the world. He's seen a huge swath of the world, thanks to his time in the Air Force and his life travels, but he keeps coming back to Santa Monica. We spent about an hour chatting about why this city is our home. For him, it too was the melting pot factor.

BUT IN THE END, IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER BECAUSE WE HAVE ROOM FOR IT ALL: JEWISH, MUSLIM, CHRISTIAN, STRAIGHT, GAY, QUESTIONING, WHITE, BLACK, ASIAN, LATINO. WE ALL FIT IN THIS WACKY CITY.

George is a photographer, and he's beginning a new project about the people of Los Angeles, and it's the wonderful diversity that will make his project a success. As we were enjoying our endless cup of coffee, the parade of people in and out of Norm's was like a character review from Cirque du Soleil. But they were just the regular locals. That's why I love this place, and occasionally I wonder how I appear to the other locals, and what my zaniness seems like to them.

But in the end, it doesn't really matter because we have room for it all: Jewish, Muslim, Christian, straight, gay, questioning, white, black, Asian, Latino. We all fit in this wacky city.

DAVID PISARRA is a family law attorney focusing on father's rights and men's issues in the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or (310) 664-9969.





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Your column here

Sandy Pappas
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Women's History Month a time for cautious celebration

MARCH MARKS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH, a celebration of women's achievements and a reminder of the work that still must be done to ensure basic security and rights for women. Nowhere is this contrast more significant than in Afghanistan, where a successful transition to a sustainable peace hinges on the inclusion and equality of women.

Afghan women have made gains these past 10 years. There are now 3.2 million Afghan girls enrolled in school since the overthrow of the Taliban in 2001. Afghan women's organizations lobbied diligently for a provision of gender equality in the Constitution and have won the right to vote in elections. Afghanistan has adopted a 25 percent parliamentary quota in the lower house of parliament, one of the highest in the world and, unlike the United States, Afghanistan has signed the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

But while providing opportunities for women to vote, work and attend schools in Afghanistan is paramount to equality, women can't pursue these opportunities if they aren't safe. Combat activities like night raids and drone strikes are not furthering Afghan women's security. Instead, these activities are fueling military conflict that hinders the development of political solutions.

According to a Washington Post-ABC News poll conducted in March 2011, 63 percent of Americans are opposed to continuing the war in Afghanistan. Washington also has joined the chorus calling for our troops to come home. On Feb. 1, Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta announced that the United States will end its combat missions in Afghanistan by "mid- to the latter part of 2013." In late February, 87 members of Congress sent a letter to President Obama praising this accelerated timetable. There is no question that we are leaving Afghanistan, but what will we leave behind?

As U.S. troops leave Afghanistan and we begin to think beyond war, our engagement with the country must not end. In a recent National Public Radio (NPR) interview, Fawzia Koofi -- who has been a deputy speaker of Afghanistan's parliament and is now being talked about as a potential first woman president in Afghanistan — said of the United States, "I know in your capitals, in your country and among your public, issues like women's rights, human rights are not the main reason you are in Afghanistan, but this is one of the achievements you have invested blood and treasure for." We should honor this sacrifice and we should invest wisely in economic and social programs that enhance security through demilitarization and promote women's rights through inclusive peace processes. These investments will be far less costly than the decade of war that came before.

In December 2011, President Barack Obama released the first-ever U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, and signed an Executive Order directing the plan to be implemented. Together, the Executive Order and National Action Plan (NAP) chart a roadmap for how the United States will accelerate and institutionalize efforts across the government to advance women's participation in preventing conflict and keeping peace. These documents represent a fundamental change in how the United States will approach its diplomatic, military and development-based support to women in areas of conflict like Afghanistan. It is a step in the right direction, but there is far more work to be done.

The meaningful representation of women in all peace negotiations and post-conflict recovery planning is critical. As a state legislator, I know how important it is for women to be at the table to build coalitions, speak up for unheard voices and decide how resources should be allocated. This is true of peacebuilding around the world, too. At the 10th anniversary of U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in October of 2010, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said, "It's not as though we are doing a favor for ourselves and them by including women in the work of peace. This is a necessary global security imperative. Including women in the work of peace advances our national security interests, promotes political stability, economic growth and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. … No peace that sacrifices women's rights is a peace we can afford to support."

Women's History Month gives us reason for cautious celebration. Can we preserve the gains that Afghan women have made? We must support a peace-building transition strategy that emphasizes the roles and rights of women.

PAPPAS is a State Senator from Minnesota and co-founder of the Global Women's Convening at the University of St. Catherine. She serves as the vice president of the Women Legislator's Lobby – a program of Women's Action for New Directions (WAND).

The Q Line

Saving 'Chain Reaction'

The City Council last week gave a group of art lovers more time to raise money to save the structurally-damaged "Chain Reaction" sculpture that sits in the Civic Center.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think the sculpture is worth saving or should its supporters give up the fight to raise what's estimated to be up to $400,000 for repairs?

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

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Vegas bullet train on verge of becoming reality

MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press

VICTORVILLE, Calif. On a dusty, rock-strewn expanse at the edge of the Mojave Desert, a company linked to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid wants to build a bullet train that would rocket tourists from the middle of nowhere to the gambling palaces of Las Vegas.

Privately held DesertXpress is on the verge of landing a $4.9 billion loan from the Obama administration to build the 150 mph train, which could be a lifeline for a region devastated by the housing crash or a crap shoot for taxpayers weary of Washington spending.

The vast park-and-ride project hinges on the untested idea that car-loving Californians will drive about 100 miles from the Los Angeles area, pull off busy Interstate 15 and board a train for the final leg to the famous Strip.

Planners imagine that millions of travelers a year will one day flock to a station outside down-on-its-luck Victorville, a small city where shuttered storefronts pock the historic downtown.

An alliance of business and political rainmakers from The Strip to Capitol Hill is backing the project that could become the first high-speed system to break ground under President Barack Obama's push to modernize the U.S. rail network — and give the Democratic president's re-election prospects a lift in battleground Nevada.

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has publicly blessed the train — it means jobs, he says — and it's cleared several regulatory hurdles in Washington.

Yet even as the Federal Railroad Administration considers awarding what would be, by far, the largest loan of its type, its own research warns it's difficult to predict how many people will ride the train, a critical measure of financial survival, an Associated Press review found.

There are other skeptics, as well.

"It's insanity," says Thomas Finkbiner of the Intermodal Transportation Institute at the University of Denver. "People won't drive to a train to go someplace. If you are going to drive, why not drive all the way and leave when you want?"

Construction cost projections have soared to as much as $6.5 billion, not including interest on the loan. Some fear taxpayer subsidies are inevitable.

Reid and other supporters point to research that shows 80,000 new jobs, but FRA documents show virtually all those would be temporary — no more than 722 would be permanent.

Victorville Mayor Ryan McEachron envisions a bustling transportation oasis with a hotel, restaurants, maybe even homes, on the proposed station site. He believes drivers can be enticed out of their cars, even in a region where the notion of rail travel can seem as distant as a New York subway.

The company is "going to have to market and market hard in order to get the ridership they need to support paying back the loan," the mayor says. "I think you can change the thinking."

Along with Reid, the president's most influential Democratic ally in Congress, the plan is being advanced by casino developer and contractor Anthony Marnell II, whose credits include building the Bellagio and Wynn Las Vegas and who heads Marnell Companies, the majority shareholder in DesertXpress; project consultant Sig Rogich, a Republican adviser to two presidential campaigns who founded Nevada's most influential lobbying and advertising company; and Canadian transportation giant Bombardier, a DesertXpress strategic adviser that wants to supply its rail cars.

A decision on the loan is not expected until mid-year, but the company has spent some $30 million sharpening its plan and refining ridership projections. Rising gas prices and increasing traffic congestion could help ticket sales, and the company is touting reduced air pollution from fewer cars on the road.

"It's Victorville that makes the project work," says chief executive Andrew Mack.

Far from being a train from nowhere, company planners see the struggling city of 115,000, once a stop on storied Route 66, as a collection point for millions of drivers heading north to Las Vegas. Bringing the line deeper into the populous Los Angeles area would raise formidable challenges, Mack said, from crossing numerous freeways to finding space for track.

The lot now stippled with spindly creosote bushes has room for 15,000 parking spaces. Bags would be checked through to hotel rooms. At peak hours, trains would depart every 20 minutes. Mack says an average round-trip fare could be as low as $75, though documents estimate $100.

Mack says the train will deliver convenience — and for a price, luxury — that studies show passengers want.

DesertXpress officials once boasted they would build the line with private dollars, but they now plan to rely on FRA financing to cover the bulk of the cost. Mack didn't directly answer if the company turned to the FRA because private investors were unwilling to take the risk, but said the loan terms are attractive.

"When somebody comes and tells me I will build a system that pays for itself, I'm suspicious," said Hasan Ikhrata, executive director of the Southern California Association of Governments, which questioned ridership potential in a report last year. "There is no high-speed rail system in the world that operates without subsidies."

The company is still arranging as much as $1.6 billion needed to cover its share of the construction bill for the roughly 200-mile line. Investments could hinge on the loan approval, which requires the company to convince the FRA that taxpayers won't get stiffed. In a worst-case scenario, the train would become government property if the company fails.

The low-interest loan would be about three times the combined amount the FRA loaned 32 other projects through the Railroad Rehabilitation & Improvement Financing program since its inception in 2002.

If successful, the train could be a forerunner in a national high-speed rail network, while bringing a rich return for investors and delivering visitors to Vegas. It would also give Nevada residents an option to Southern California, albeit many miles from tourist hotspots like Hollywood or the beaches.



BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Poll finds support for Brown's tax idea

A new survey published Sunday finds broad support for Gov. Jerry Brown's proposal to raise tax on high income earners to help fund schools and address California's $9.2 billion budget deficit.

The USC Dornsife/Los Angeles Times poll finds that 64 percent of voters surveyed said they support the measure which Brown hopes to place on the November ballot.

It seeks to raise the sales tax by a quarter cent for the next four years 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.

Among those polled, 80 percent of Democrats approve the proposal while just 38 percent of Republicans support it. Three-quarters of independents — voters whose support Brown will likely need to pass his measure — said they liked his idea.

Brown amended his tax proposal last week after striking a compromise with a teachers union which agreed to drop its rival proposal, which would have increased incomes taxes on millionaires.

The poll found that that plan remains more popular than Brown's.

Forty-nine percent of those polled said California's books should be balanced by a combination of cuts and tax hikes. Nearly as many — 45 percent — said the state's taxes are already too high and the estimated $9-billion budget gap should be closed with cuts in government services.

The poll surveyed 1,500 registered voters between March 14 and 19. The survey has an overall margin of error of 2.9 percentage points.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Bobby Brown arrested on suspicion of DUI

Officials in Southern California say Bobby Brown has been arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence.

California Highway Patrol Officer Mike Harris says Brown was arrested around 12:20 p.m. Monday in the San Fernando Valley north of Los Angeles. He failed a field sobriety test and was booked on suspicion of DUI.

Harris says the R&B singer was pulled over after an officer saw him talking on his cellphone without a hands-free unit and noticed he appeared to be impaired.

Los Angeles police say Brown was released from jail on his own recognizance shortly before 2 p.m.

The 43-year-old is the ex-husband of Whitney Houston and a founding member of the group New Edition.

An e-mail message to his attorney, Christopher Brown, was not immediately returned.

AP

WHITTIER

Teen fatally shot near school

Authorities say a 17-year-old boy was shot and killed near a Southern California high school, and they're searching for suspects.

Los Angeles County sheriff's Deputy Lillian Peck says the youth was shot Monday across the street from Whittier's Pioneer High School, which was locked down along with an adult school and other educational buildings in the area.

Peck does not know if any of those involved with the shooting are connected to the school, but district officials tell the Los Angeles Times the victim is not a student.

Peck says the victim was declared dead at a hospital. His name has not been released.

Peck says there are no reports of any arrests.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Ex-school officer to pay $309,000 restitution

An ex-Los Angeles school police officer who staged a shooting hoax will pay the city $309,000 in restitution.

The Los Angeles Times says that in exchange for the restitution, a judge on Monday decided to allow Jeff Stenroos to post bail pending his appeal.

In January 2011, Stenroos claimed a burglar shot him in his protective vest. Nine San Fernando Valley schools, including El Camino High School in Woodland Hills, were locked down and 500 officers deployed.

The reason for the hoax has never been clear.

Stenroos was convicted of crimes involving false evidence and falsely reporting an emergency. He was sentenced to five years in jail, probation and ordered to do 400 hours of community service.

The restitution money was raised by family and friends.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Research monkey importer facing cruelty charges

An importer of research monkeys was set to stand trial Monday on cruelty charges after 15 primates died during an international flight.

Robert Matson Conyers, a Florida animal broker, faces 10 counts involving a 2008 plane trip from Guyana. Officials say Conyers was shipping 25 monkeys to a buyer in Bangkok, but the shipment was refused transit in China and returned to Los Angeles.

The monkeys wound up on a circuitous trip across thousands of miles with stops in Bangkok, Miami, and twice in Los Angeles. They suffered from neglect, starvation and hypothermia in transit, authorities say, and 15 eventually died.

Fourteen marmosets, five white-fronted capuchins, and six squirrel monkeys were turned back in China over paperwork issues, such as irregularities in the shipping documents.

Officials in Los Angeles found 14 of the 25 monkeys packed into crates were dead. Another had to be destroyed.

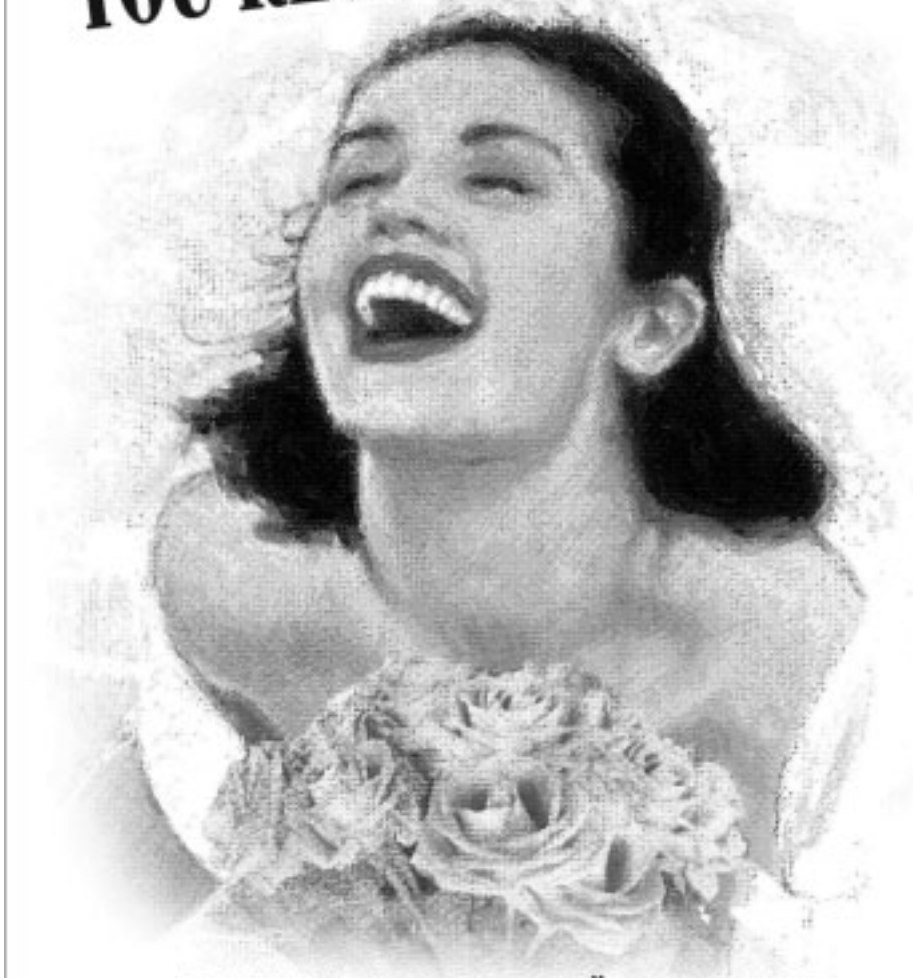
Los Angeles Zoo veterinarians administered emergency care to the surviving six marmosets, a capuchin and three squirrel monkeys. The surviving capuchin had to be euthanized. The rest are recovering at the San Diego Zoo's Wild Animal Park.

The advocacy group Stop Animal Cruelty Now, or SAEN, said the monkeys were dehydrated and resorted to cannibalism during their arduous trip across the world.

AP

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Trayvon Martin, my son, and the 'Black Male Code'

JESSE WASHINGTON
AP National Writer

PHILADELPHIA I thought my son would be much older before I had to tell him about the Black Male Code. He's only 12, still sleeping with stuffed animals, still afraid of the dark. But after the Trayvon Martin tragedy, I needed to explain to my child that soon people might be afraid of him.

We were in the car on the way to school when a story about Martin came on the radio. "The guy who killed him should get arrested. The dead guy was unarmed!" my son said after hearing that neighborhood watch captain George Zimmerman had claimed self-defense in the shooting in Sanford, Fla.

We listened to the rest of the story, describing how Zimmerman had spotted Martin, who was 17, walking home from the store on a rainy night, the hood of his sweatshirt pulled over his head. When it was over, I turned off the radio and told my son about the rules he needs to follow to avoid becoming another Trayvon Martin — a black male who Zimmerman assumed was "suspicious" and "up to no good."

As I explained it, the Code goes like this:

Always pay close attention to your surroundings, son, especially if you are in an affluent neighborhood where black folks are few. Understand that even though you are not a criminal, some people might assume you are, especially if you are wearing certain clothes.

Never argue with police, but protect your dignity and take pride in humility. When confronted by someone with a badge or a gun, do not flee, fight, or put your hands anywhere other than up.

Please don't assume, son, that all white people view you as a threat. America is better than that. Suspicion and bitterness can imprison you. But as a black male, you must go above and beyond to show strangers what type of person you really are.

I was far from alone in laying out these instructions. Across the country this week, parents were talking to their children, especially their black sons, about the Code. It's a talk the black community has passed down for generations, an evolving oral tradition from the days when an errant remark could easily cost black people their job, their freedom, or sometimes their life.

After Trayvon Martin was killed, Al Dotson Jr., a lawyer in Miami and chairman of the 100 Black Men of America organization, told his 14-year-old son that he should always be aware of his surroundings, and of the fact that people might view him differently "because he's blessed to be an African-American."

"It requires a sixth sense that not everyone needs to have," Dotson said.

Dotson, 51, remembers receiving his own instructions as a youth, and hearing those instructions evolve over time.

His grandparents told Dotson that when dealing with authority figures, make it clear you are no threat at all — an attitude verging on submissive. Later, Dotson's parents told him to respond with respect and not be combative.

Today, Dotson tells his children that they should always be respectful, but should not tolerate being disrespected — which would have been recklessly bold in his grandparents' era.

Yet Dotson still has fears about the safety of his children, "about them understanding who they are and where they are, and how to respond to the environment they are in."

Bill Stephney, a media executive who lives in a New Jersey suburb that is mostly white and Asian, has two sons, ages 18 and 13. The Martin killing was an opportunity for him to repeat a longtime lesson: Black men can get singled out, "so please conduct yourself accordingly."

Like Dotson, Stephney mentioned an ultra-awareness — "a racial Spidey sense, a tingling" — that his sons should heed when stereotyping might place them in danger.

One night in the early 1980s, while a student at Adelphi University on Long Island, Stephney and about a dozen other hip-hop aficionados went to White Castle after their late-night DJ gig. They were gathered in the parking lot, eating and talking, when a squadron of police cars swooped in and a helicopter rumbled overhead.

"We got a report that a riot was going on," police told them.

Stephney and his crew used to talk late into the night about how black men in New York were besieged by violence — graffiti artist Michael Stewart's death after a rough arrest in 1983; Bernhard Goetz shooting four young black men who allegedly tried to mug him on the subway in 1984; Michael Griffith killed by a car while being chased by a white mob in 1986; the crack epidemic that rained black-on-black violence on the city. They felt under attack, as if society considered them the enemy.

This is how the legendary rap group Public Enemy was born. Their logo: A young black man in the crosshairs of a gun sight.

"Fast forward 25 years later," Stephney said. "We've come a long way to get nowhere."

But what about that long road traveled, which took a black man all the way to the White House? I can hear some of my white friends now: What evidence is there that Trayvon Martin caught George Zimmerman's attention — and his bullet — because of his race? Lynching is a relic of the past, so why are you teaching your son to be so paranoid?

There is a difference between paranoia and protection. Much evidence shows that black males face unique risks: Psychological studies indicate they are often perceived as threatening; here in Philadelphia, police stop-and-frisk tactics overwhelmingly target African-Americans, according to a lawsuit settled by the city; research suggests that people are more likely to believe a poorly seen object is a gun if it's held by a black person.

Yes, it was way back in 1955 when 14-year-old Emmitt Till was murdered in Mississippi for flirting with a white woman. But it was last Wednesday when a white Mississippi teenager pleaded guilty to murder for seeking out a black victim, coming across a man named James Craig Anderson, and running him over with his pickup truck.

Faced with this information, I'm doing what any responsible parent would do: Teaching my son how to protect him-

SEE CODE PAGE 9

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Aggressive parents force egg hunt cancellation

P. SOLOMON BANDA
Associated Press

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. An annual Easter egg hunt attended by hundreds of children has been canceled because of misbehavior last year. Not by the kids, but by the grown-ups.

Too many parents determined to see their children get an egg jumped a rope marking the boundaries of the children-only hunt at Bancroft Park last year. The hunt was over in seconds, to the consternation of eggless tots and the rules-abiding parents.

Organizers say the hunt in Old Colorado City has gotten too big for the hundreds of children and parents now attending. They canceled this year.

Last April's egg hunt, sponsored by the Old Colorado City Association, experienced a few technical difficulties, said Mazie Baalman, owner of Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory and sponsor of the event.

There was no place to hide the plastic eggs, which were filled with donated candy or coupons redeemable at nearby businesses. So thousands of eggs were put in plain view on the grass. A bullhorn to start the event malfunctioned, so Baalman, master of ceremonies, used a public address system that was hard to hear.

"So everybody thinks you said 'Go,' and everybody goes, and it's over in seconds," Baalman said. "If one parent gets in there, other parents say, 'If one can get in, we all can get in,' and everybody goes."

Parenting observers cite the cancellation as a prime example of so-called "helicopter parents" — those who hover over their children and are involved in every aspect of their children's lives — to ensure that they don't fail, even at an Easter egg hunt.

"They couldn't resist getting over the rope to help their kids," said Ron Alsop, a former Wall Street Journal reporter and author of "The Trophy Kids Grow Up," which examines the "millennial children" generation.

"That's the perfect metaphor for millennial children. They (parents) can't stay out of their children's lives. They don't give their children enough chances to learn from hard knocks, mistakes."

Alsop and others say the parenting phenomenon began in earnest when baby boomers who decorated their cars with "Baby on Board" signs in the 1980s began having children. It has prompted at least two New York companies to establish "take your parent to work day" for new recruits as parents remain involved even after their children become adults.

Lenny Watkins, who lives a block away from Bancroft Park, took his friend's son, then 4, to the hunt in 2009. "I just remember having a wonderful time, him with his Easter basket," Watkins said, adding he can understand why a parent would step in.

"You have all these eggs just lying around, and parents helping out. You better believe I'm going to help my kid get one of those eggs. I promised my kid an Easter egg hunt, and I'd want to give him an even edge."

Jennifer Rexford, who used to live near the park, said she participated in public Easter egg hunts with her boys, ages 3, 8 and 14. She doesn't anymore, because of "pushy parents" that she said she has dealt with at the hunts.

"It just seems to be the mindset. People just want the best for their kids," Rexford said.

CODE
FROM PAGE 8

self.

Still, it requires a delicate balance. Steve Bumbaugh, a foundation director in Los Angeles, encourages his 8- and 5-year-old sons to talk to police officers, "and to otherwise develop a good relationship with the people and institutions that have the potential to give them trouble. I think this is the best defense."

"I don't want them to actually think that they are viewed suspiciously or treated differently," Bumbaugh said. "I think that realization breeds resentment and anger. And that can contribute to dangerous situations."

His sons are large for their age, however.

"I'm probably naive to think that they won't realize they're viewed differently when they're 6-4 and 200 pounds," Bumbaugh said, "but I'm going to try anyway."

I am 6-4 and more than 200 pounds, son. You probably will be too. Depending on how we dress, act and speak, people might make negative assumptions about us. That doesn't mean they must be racist; it means they must be human.

Let me tell you a story, son, about a time when I forgot about the Black Male Code.

One morning I left our car at the shop for repairs. I was walking home through our quiet suburban neighborhood, in a cold drizzle, wearing an all-black sweatsuit with the hood pulled over my head.

From two blocks away, I saw your mother pull out of our driveway and roll towards me. When she stopped next to me and rolled down the window, her brown face was full of laughter.

"When I saw you from up the street," your mother told me, "I said to myself, what is that guy doing in our neighborhood?"

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CONSENT
FROM PAGE 1

Sustainable Water Master Plan, an effort to figure out how to get all of the water residents and businesses need from local sources and review fees for water, wastewater and water infrastructure.

At present, Santa Monica wells produce 72 percent of the water that the city needs. The remaining 28 percent is purchased through the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and comes from the Colorado River and Sacramento Delta.

The master plan will point to ways to increase the supply of locally-sourced water and decrease the demand in order to cover the imported water by analyzing supply, forecasted demand, new water sources and the condition of the infrastructure used to get water to people.

Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, a California-based company, has been suggested for the contract. Five proposals were received and only two teams were invited to make a presentation before a panel of city officials.

PICO BRANCH LIBRARY

City Hall believes it's found the construction management firm ready to oversee work on the Pico Branch Library, a long-awaited development on the east end of town.

Staff selected Swinerton Management and Consulting to head up the project out of the 38 firms that responded to city officials' call for qualifications.

Swinerton's bid of $698,200 came in second lowest out of the five top candidates, but the firm has also built or managed the construction of over $260 million of library and related government projects in the last 10 years.

The total contract amount is $768,020.

GEARING UP

City officials are asking for $450,000 to outfit CityTV with new production equipment, just in time for election season.

Local election programming will be produced at CityTV's new facility at 1654 19th St. this fall. While the new digs are finally finished and customized for the station's use, it needs new cameras as well as control room, audio, graphics and lighting equipment.

The newly-outfitted studio is expected to save money on studio rental costs and also make participating in election programming more convenient because candidates can come to a facility that's close to home.

Programming at CityTV is produced in partnership with Santa Monica College, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, city departments and local non-profits.

BUS MAINTENANCE

The City Council is expected to approve another $419,000 on transmission repair and vacuums for the Big Blue Bus.

The Big Blue Bus uses ZF transmissions in approximately 31 percent of its fleet. With that in mind, City Hall recommends hiring HD Industries to provide overhaul services for that specific transmission for one year at $200,000.

The BBB also needs new vacuums to keep its new, larger buses clean. Staff expects it to cost $219,000.

The current vacuums are not only wearing out, they're actually incapable of cleaning the 60-foot articulating buses that were recently added to the BBB fleet. As such, they're not getting the job done on the 170 buses that are cleaned by BBB employees every day.

Staff recommends Peterson Hydraulics, Inc. for the contract to fix up the vacuums.

UTILITY USERS TAX

City staff are looking to renew an $85,000 contract with a company that audits certain taxes to ensure that municipalities are getting all of the money they're entitled to.

MuniServices, LLC has worked with City Hall since 1992 to help recover taxes on things like electricity, natural gas, telephone, cable and wastewater services that do not reach the city either by accident or fraud.

MuniServices, LLC has helped generate $3.4 million in recovered revenue for city coffers in the last four years alone.

The company requires a flat fee of $85,000 as well as up to 25 percent of the audit findings.

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SUITCASE
FROM PAGE 1

told by police on the scene that nobody was allowed past the perimeter.

Farzam said that guests and staff remained in the building during the incident, but was assured by an employee that they were safe while they waited for the all-clear from authorities.

"We have pretty good security," Farzam said. "I'm sure they are handling the situation."

The suitcase was ruled harmless by bomb squad personnel after an X-ray determined that clothes and other personal items were inside. They would later destroy it with a high-powered water canon.

It made a loud boom when the canon was discharged, alarming the small group gathered beyond the police tape.

Officers were quick to assure the crowd that the loud sound was not an explosion.

Police are now searching for the man who left the suitcase behind, calling him a white male in his 40s, weighing 180 pounds and standing 5-foot-10.

"We'll be looking at surveillance video," Lewis said. "But, we're not sure if it was a crime at all."

Traffic was allowed back in the area at approximately 1:30 p.m.

daniela@smdp.com

ELECTION
FROM PAGE 1

Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights, or SMRR, is a powerful organization that supports rent control, affordable housing production, education and the environment, amongst other policies. Receiving an endorsement has proven critical in local elections where strict campaign contribution limits reduce a candidate's reach but do not inhibit independent committees like SMRR, which can pay for mailers and have volunteers go door to door in support of their slate.

Bloom, who has been endorsed by SMRR in five successive council elections since 1998, alleged that neither he nor his fellow candidates were given much warning about the endorsement vote, a departure from the normal process which he believed was specifically done to flood the meeting with Osborn supporters.

If so, it worked. Of the 85 votes cast, 57 went to Osborn, with Bloom picking up 15 and Butler snagging another 12. One person voted against endorsing altogether.

"There is nothing wrong with anyone organizing to support their candidate," Bloom wrote. "It is wrong to subvert the process to accomplish that end."

Osborn's campaign was having none of it.

"It's tiresome to hear the cries of sour grapes every time Torie Osborn wins an endorsement from grassroots groups in this district," said Dave Jacobson, a spokesperson for the Osborn campaign. "The progressive voters of this district are looking for a champion and time after time they've chosen Torie."

SMRR co-chair Patricia Hoffman said she was "disappointed" by Bloom's decision not to attend, and denied any change in the normal SMRR endorsement process.

Instead, the vote reflected both Osborn's ability to rally her supporters and a disillusionment with some of Bloom's pro-development stances, Hoffman said.

"I think that now the membership is really divided, and Torie comes across as more in line with the values of SMRR," Hoffman said.

Opinions on exactly how SMRR endorsement meetings are usually run differs, even amongst the organization's key players.

Barry Snell, a member of the SMRR steering committee, admitted that the process could have been more clear both regarding what the meeting was meant to accomplish and what options voters had to endorse or not endorse.

"I felt that we could have allowed our membership a little more information as to what the day was going to be about," Snell said.

Former steering committee member Bruce Cameron, however, was unequivocal.

As a member of the steering committee, he put together candidates' forums in 2000 and 2006. In both years, there was outreach to all the candidates and they figured out a common date that would work for all, Cameron said.

While Sunday's meeting was not a question and answer format as in the past, it wasn't meant to be, said Richard Tahvildaran-Jesswein, SMRR's other co-chair.

"Our community has had many different open forums for the candidates to express their positions and what they would do for the new district," Tahvildaran-Jesswein said.

Instead, candidates, or their representatives, were given a specified amount of time to speak before the membership voted.

"I have the utmost respect for Richard Bloom for being a stalwart supporter of renters' rights in our community," Tahvildaran-Jesswein said. "Certainly, with democracy, you have messy moments."

This isn't the first time that SMRR's endorsement process has been criticized. In 2010 the steering committee chose to back Councilwoman Pam O'Connor and school board incumbents Oscar de la Torre and Ralph Mechur despite all three failing to win an endorsement from the party's members at their convention.

That move to include them on SMRR mailers angered many who attended the convention who felt that their wishes were dismissed by a chosen few.

Under SMRR's bylaws, the steering committee is allowed to decide which candidates to support only when convention voters fail to endorse a complete slate, which occurred at that 2010 convention.

SMRR members also made changes Sunday to the organization's platform, by reducing their emphasis to support moderate-priced housing and increasing their call for a mix of unit sizes to be built in the city.

Both come out of a housing study session before the City Council last month that pointed to a market saturation of moderate priced housing as well as a proclivity for developers to build mostly one bedroom and studio apartments.

ashley@smdp.com

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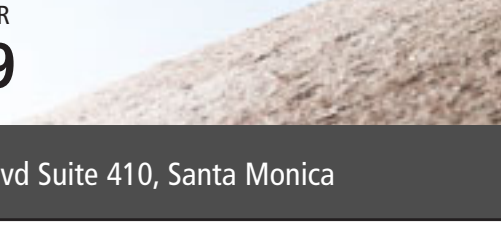
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Bizarre trash collects near oil patch

JAMES MACPHERSON
Associated Press

TIOGA, N.D. Along the wide-open expanses and rolling prairie of western North Dakota surrounding the state's booming oil patch, all sorts of bizarre litter can be found clogging the once picturesque roadside: Derelict hardhats, single boots, buckets, pallets, pieces of machinery, shredded semi tires, oily clothing, cigarette butts.

The worst? Plastic jugs of urine pitched out windows as scores of truckers pass through oil country.

Litter has become an escalating problem as the rush to tap vast caches of crude escalates in North Dakota. As the number of trucks coming to the oil mecca increases, so does the trash. Some of the industrial rubbish blows in from unsecured truckloads, but for many, the most frustrating trash is the gallons of discarded urine.

The problem has local leaders and rural residents scratching their heads. There's no money to build new rest stops, and once-eager community volunteers are less willing to pick up junk now because they don't want to handle human waste. So little has been done to address the problem, save for upgrading mowing tractors with cabs to protect operators from getting sprayed with urine when the jugs are hit by a wheel or blade.

"I don't know if it can be solved other than by people having some respect because right now the countryside is being taken for granted," said Tioga Mayor Nathan Germundson. "It's a growing problem and it's sad."

The jugs are known around these parts as "trucker bombs," and they freckle the countryside. They show up in a variety of containers: antifreeze jugs, beverage bottles or milk cartons, and are usually hurled by drivers too hurried or weak-bladdered to stop and relieve themselves politely.

Of course, there's a reason they're thrown in the first place. There are only three rest stops along the hundreds of miles of highway in western North Dakota, and all are well outside the busiest areas of the state's oil patch. Until there are more truck stops or rest areas on the much-traveled route, the jugs will probably still be tossed by truckers, said Tom Balzer, executive vice president of the North Dakota Motor Carriers Association.

"It is a huge issue, but one of the biggest problems is there isn't lot of places for these guys stop to properly dispose of the receptacles," Balzer said. "I don't know that it's a case of being disrespectful but of the unbelievable growth out there."

The oil rush has brought the promise of prosperity to the state but it also has radically altered its landscape and culture. Nodding donkey pumps now rise from the once barren prairie, and there's been an influx of thousands of outsiders seeking their fortune in the oil patch. North Dakota has leapfrogged past a half-dozen states since 2006 to become the nation's No. 3 oil producer, and state officials estimate North Dakota will surpass Alaska and will trail only Texas within a year.

That's the reason truck traffic has surged. The number of trucking companies operating in North Dakota increased by 600 last year to about 6,000, with most working in the oil patch, Balzer said. Nearly 100 new trucking companies were established in January alone, he said.

Catching urine-tossing truckers is difficult, according to authorities. Troopers issued an average of a dozen littering tickets annually in western North Dakota over the past three years, up from about seven in the three years before that.

"We have to be in the right place at the right time," North Dakota Highway Patrol Lt. Jody Skogen said. "When a squad car is behind a driver, they are not as inclined to chuck something out the window."

Even if they do catch someone in the act, the penalties aren't high. The Transportation Department unsuccessfully pushed legislation more than a decade ago that would have bumped fines from $20 to $500 on anyone caught dumping human waste on the roadside. The agency intended to post roadside signs saying it was illegal to throw human waste on the road or ditch, and advertise the $500 fine. But lawmakers decided the signs would be off-putting and killed the legislation.

Tioga citizens, fed up by littered roadways leading to their town, cleaned up part of the highway south of the city last spring. In less than one mile, volunteers picked up more than two heaping truckloads of rubbish.

But such efforts are tough to sustain. Membership in the state's Adopt-a-Highway program has dropped in the area, and the jugs of urine may be partly to blame, said Walt Peterson, a Transportation Department district engineer in Williston. Even though state officials recommend that volunteers stay clear of the jugs and leave them to state maintenance crews to clean up, volunteering is a tough sell.

For one, the jugs are repulsive. Two, they can explode under pressure from heat.

"The membership is down and they're older," Peterson said. "They don't want to pick up that much stuff and there is too much dangerous stuff like needles and urine jugs."

Peterson said his agency and local officials formed a group last month to address the litter issue in and around the city. Part of the plan calls for companies working in the oil patch to pay student groups to pick up the trash. So far, no one has signed on. But at least two companies have volunteered to pick up garbage along stretches of highways in Dickinson and Watford City, said Ron Ness, president of the North Dakota Petroleum Council.

Gary Evans, treasurer of the local Lions Club in Stanley, said his group has been picking up trash along roadsides for more than 20 years. He said the club has about 15 active trash pickers and all are retirement age.

Evans said he has picked up his share of urine jugs over the years and the amount has increased. Volunteers wear gloves and carefully handle the urine containers. Evans says he's fortunate never to have been showered with an exploding jug of urine.

"The ditches are full of them," he said. "It's pathetic."



Big gain for stocks after Bernanke's job remarks

CHRISTINA REXRODE
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Stocks leapt to multi-year highs and recorded one of their biggest gains of the year Monday after Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke suggested that the economy still needs help to produce faster job growth.

The Dow Jones industrial average climbed 160.90 points to 13,241.63, its third-best showing this year. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 19.40 points to 1,416.51, its highest close since May 2008.

The Nasdaq composite index, which is closing in on a 20 percent rally for the year, climbed 54.65 points to 3,122.57, its best finish since November 2000.

Health care stocks led the market on a day when the Supreme Court began hearing arguments on the constitutionality of President Barack Obama's 2010 health care law, which will require Americans to carry insurance or pay a penalty.

If the court upholds the law, the insurance companies stand to gain 30 million customers. But the full impact is hard to judge. The industry also ran ads against the overhaul after deciding it would not bring them enough healthy patients to balance higher costs.

Health care stocks gained 1.7 percent as a group Monday, beating the S&P's 1.4 percent gain. Aetna rose 3.1 percent, WellPoint 2.9 percent and UnitedHealth Group 2.7 percent. The court is expected to decide the case in June.

Bernanke, speaking to a group of economists, sounded pessimistic about jobs even though the country has added an average of 245,000 jobs each month since December and the unemployment rate has fallen steadily since last summer.

He noted that the number of people working and the hours they work are well below where they stood before the 2008 financial crisis. He also suggested that some of the decline in the rate was because discouraged workers gave up looking for work.

Bernanke's comments could mean two things for the market, both good for stocks.

— They could suggest that he believes the Fed needs to continue to prop up the economy — by keeping short-term interest rates near zero and perhaps by buying more bonds later.

The Fed has embarked on two previous rounds of bond-buying, most recently in August 2010. The idea is to drive down long-term interest rates and encourage investors to buy stocks. The second round ignited a 28 percent stock rally in eight months.

"He didn't say anything new. It's just the fact that he said it," said Chip Cobb, senior vice president of Bryn Mawr Trust Asset Management in Pennsylvania. "Now we're looking for more stimulus again. It's like we can't get enough."

— Bernanke said that some recent hiring is merely companies making up for laying off too many people in 2009, rather than a sign of a growing economy. That could be a relief to investors who were worried that labor costs would grow too quickly and shrink earnings, said Paul Zemsky, head of asset allocation at ING Investment Management in New York.

Some of the jump in stocks could also be because money managers are piling into stocks before the first quarter ends this week. Fund managers who missed out on this quarter's rally will want to show clients they are invested for the next quarter.

"It may not be a wise investment decision, but I think it happens," said Brian Lazorishak, portfolio manager at Chase Investment Counsel in Charlottesville, Va.

Gas prices already closing in on last year's high mark

CHRIS KAHN
AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK The price of gasoline is less than a dime away from last year's high.

Gas reached a nationwide average of $3.90 per gallon on Monday. It has risen 17 cents so far this month. Pump prices are expected to keep rising in the weeks before Memorial Day weekend — the traditional kickoff of the summer driving season.

The national average peaked last year in early May at $3.98 per gallon. The record high of $4.11 was set in July 2008.

Tom Kloza, publisher and chief oil analyst at Oil Price Information Service, expects that at the very least "we're going to get very close to the record." He said prices could keep climbing through June if a potential Sunoco refinery closure in Philadelphia significantly tightens East Coast supplies of gasoline.

The price of gasoline has tracked the price of crude oil. Benchmark U.S. crude has gone up 8 percent already in 2012. Oil rose 16 cents Monday to $107.03 per barrel in New York. Brent crude, which is used to price oil imported by U.S. refineries, added 52 cents to finish at $125.65 per barrel in London.

Oil has risen this year as Western nations confront Iran over its nuclear program. They fear that Iran is building a weapon, though it denies the claim. Western leaders are trying to cut off Iran's oil revenues through an embargo and a variety of other sanctions in hope of forcing it to negotiate.

Iran is the world's third-largest oil exporter. Oil traders say that concerns about a prolonged standoff, and reduced Iranian exports, has added about $15 to $17 per barrel to the price of oil.

Representatives from the U.S. and five other nations are expected to meet with Iran in April for a new round of talks about its nuclear program, diplomats told The Associated Press. The country turned away international inspectors in February.

Meanwhile, natural gas futures hit a new 10-year low, giving up 4.9 cents to end the day at $2.226 per 1,000 cubic feet.

Natural gas has plummeted this year due to a recent production boom and unseasonably warm temperatures. Analysts say that U.S. has so much gas that storage facilities may run out of space.

"If there isn't any place to put it, then (producers) are going to be burning it off instead," PFGBest analyst Phil Flynn said.

In other energy trading, heating oil added 1.87 cents to finish at $3.2288 per gallon and gasoline futures increased by 3.14 cents to end at $3.4166 per gallon.

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NCAA BASKETBALL

Wooden team features Final Four stars

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Anthony Davis of Kentucky, Jared Sullinger of Ohio State and Thomas Robinson of Kansas are among players chosen for the John R. Wooden Award All-American team.

The Wooden All-American team was announced Monday. The others are Isaiah Canaan of Murray State, Jae Crowder of Marquette, Marcus Denmon of Missouri, Draymond Green of Michigan State, Kevin Jones of West Virginia, Doug McDermott of Creighton, and Tyler Zeller of North Carolina.

All 10 members of the team have maintained at least a cumulative 2.0 grade point average and are making progress toward graduation, two components of the award that were insisted upon by the late UCLA coach, whose name is on the award.

Sullinger is the only player who was named to last year's Wooden Award All-American team. Davis is the only freshman chosen. Those two, along with Robinson, will play in next week's Final Four in New Orleans, where the Wooden winner will be announced on Saturday.

The award will be presented on April 6 at the Los Angeles Athletic Club.

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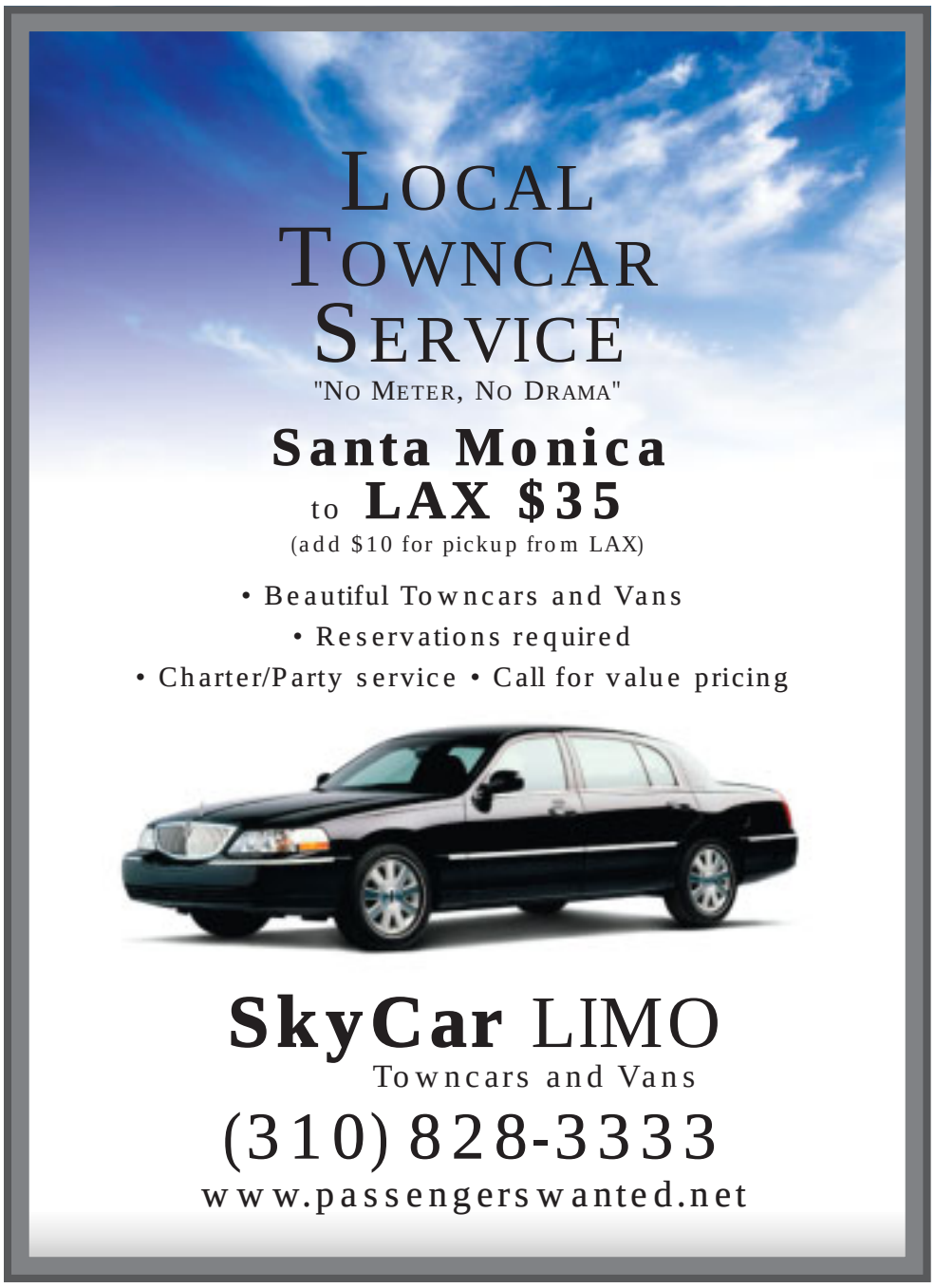
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Highs and Lows of the Criminal Justice System – Drug Offenses

One of my clients recently commented to me that she was very thankful that our criminal justice system afforded her an opportunity to help her kick her nasty drug habit. Her comments got me thinking about how often the criminal justice system is denigrated and maligned by a large majority of the population (and a large majority of those who go through the system) for the inability to rehabilitate and treat offenders in order to prevent a reoccurrence or repeat offense. Despite this widely held sentiment, there is a much better track record of success when it comes to the system's approach to drug offenses. California law makers and prosecutorial agencies decided long ago that it is far better to treat drug offenders than to punish them. This is a precarious and often delicate relationship because while no one wants to condone drug use, virtually everyone realizes that harsh punishments more often than not simply breed recidivism. This article will focus on two ways to combat drug use through the criminal justice system: DEJ and Prop 36.

California's drug laws maintain a close relationship with the electorate of California. That is to say that as popular feelings and opinions on drugs softens, so too do the laws criminalizing drug possession. For example, California Penal Code Section 1000, more commonly known as DEJ (Deferred Entry of Judgment), and the passage of Proposition 36, reflects California citizens' collective sentiment that drug offenders should be given every available option to seek treatment and stop using drugs before a court imposes jail or prison.

DEJ is covered by Penal Code Section 1000 and applies to cases where a person is caught in possession of a controlled substance, smoking device, or even alcohol. The basic principle behind DEJ is that is an offender in possession of a controlled substance (i.e. cocaine, methamphetamine, ecstasy or a pipe, etc.) may enter a guilty plea, stay clean, take drug treatment classes, and then have the guilty plea withdrawn and the case dismissed after an 18 month period. Note that even if the underlying offense is dismissed some employers and licensing agencies may still pursue administrative action. DEJ only applies to cases where the controlled substance is for personal use (meaning not a sales case) and where the offender is first determined to be eligible. Moreover, if an offender violates DEJ and defies a court's orders the judge may enter the guilty plea and sentence the offender accordingly.

In order to be found eligible for the DEJ program it must be demonstrated that: 1) There are no prior convictions for any offense involving controlled substances, 2) The offense charged did not involve a crime of violence or threatened violence, 3) There is no evidence of a violation relating to narcotics or restricted dangerous drugs, 4) The defendant's has not previously violated probation or parole, 5) The defendant has not been placed on DEJ within 5 years of the offense date, and 6) The defendant has no prior felony conviction within five years. If all of these requirements are satisfied, then a person is eligible for DEJ and has the opportunity to earn a dismissal.

Similar to DEJ, Proposition 36 was passed by California voters in November 2000 as a legislative means to allow drug offenders to receive probation with treatment rather than incarceration. For practical purposes, Prop. 36 is a secondary option to get addicts and users treatment when DEJ and/or other programs have failed to get people the help that they so desperately need. A user is ineligable for probation under Prop. 36 if they have a prior felony "strike" within five years, if in the same case they have been convicted of a non-drug related felony or misdemeanor, if they were in possession of a firearm while under the influence, and/or if they have twice failed Prop. 36 or continuously refuses treatment.

A person sentenced to Prop. 36 will complete drug treatment classes, counseling, and whatever other courses are deemed appropriate by the court. The offender will also submit to urine or blood testing as well. Upon successful completion of the Prop. 36 program the case is not automatically dismissed as is the case with DEJ; however, one can petition to the court to dismiss the action with a showing that they have successfully completed the program and gone above and beyond what was required.

The DEJ and Prop. 36 programs can work wonders for drug users and offenders. It is often quite refreshing to see someone enter the program as a downtrodden, distraught, and disheveled drug addict and exit the program clean, sober, and enlightened about the many dangers of drug use. I will never forget the look of happiness, joy and relief that filled my client's face when the judge congratulated her on her progress and then dismissed her case. There was applause from the small audience in the courtroom, and my client felt as though she had accomplished something positive rather than felt the shame of having committed a crime. It was refreshing to both of us that the criminal justice system actually helped and truly served the interests of justice.

If you or anyone you know has been arrested for a drug related offense or any other misdemeanor or felony offense contact criminal defense attorney and former prosecutor Jacob Glucksman through The Legal Grind immediately to preserve your rights!

THIS COLUMN WAS PREPARED BY JACOB GLUCKSMAN, A CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY. HE CAN BE REACHED THROUGH THE LEGAL GRIND AT 310-452-8160 OR REFERRAL@LEGALGRIND.COM

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4:00–5:00pm	(1st & 3rd Monday/Month) Criminal, DMV & Traffic Law: Felony and Misdemeanor Crimes, with former Deputy D.A. and Attorney Jacob Glucksman
5:00–6:00pm	(1st & 3rd Monday/Month) Tenant Rights, Auto accidents, Products Liability, Insurance & Business Disputes, Personal Injury & Small Claims with Attorney Mark Palmer
TUESDAY	
9:00-12:00noon	Patent, Trademark and Copyright Law with Attorney Marcus Risso (By appointment only)
1:00-4:00pm	Employment Law: Wrongful Termination, Sexual harassment, Disability Accommodation, Leave Law, Discrimination, Retaliation, Whistle Blower, Wage & Hour disputes with Attorney Sara Eliot
4:00-5:00pm	(1st and 3rd Tuesday/Month): Civil and Criminal Law with former Deputy District Attorney Hart Levin. Hart has expertise in all criminal and traffic issues, and he also has extensive knowledge in many areas of civil law including business disputes, fraud, personal injury and employment law.
WEDNESDAY	
5:00-6:30pm	Divorce and Legal Separation; Domestic Partnerships; Child Custody, Support and Visitation; Spousal Support; Prenuptial Agreements & Mediation with Family Law Specialist Attorney Elizabeth Fields at the Novel Café located at 2901 Ocean Park Blvd. in Santa Monica, 90405.
THURSDAY	
12:00-2:00pm	Immigration and Family Law with Attorney Galorah Keshavarz (By appointment Only)
5:00-6:00pm	Chapter 7 and 13 Bankruptcy Filings, Debt Negotiation and Personal Injury cases with Attorneys Paul Mankin and/or Jeff Hughes (By appointment Only)
4:00–5:00pm	(2nd & 4th Thursday/Month) Landlord/Tenant Rights & Obligations, Small Claims, Restraining Orders/Domestic Violence & General Practice Law with Attorney John Wittig
FRIDAY	
4:00-5:00pm	(2nd & 4th Friday/Month) Criminal, DMV & Traffic Law: Felony and Misdemeanor Crimes with former Deputy D.A. and Attorney Jacob Glucksman
4:00–5:00pm	(2nd & 4th Friday/Month) Small business start-ups, Corporations, Contracts, Non-Profit Organizations, Green Law, Employment Law, Green and Sustainable Business Practices with Attorney Becki Kammerling.
SATURDAY	
10am-12noon	(1st, 3rd, & 5th Saturday/Month) Estate Planning, Trust & Will Contests Probate, Elder Law, Business Litigation, Formation & Dissolution, Contracts, HOA & Personal Injury with Attorney Richard Ruman
10am-11:30am	(2nd & 4th Sat/Month) Employment/Labor Law including wrongful termination, sexual harassment, wage & hour claims, severance issues; and Family Law/Divorce including support, custody, & prenuptial agreements with Attorney Todd Smilovitz.

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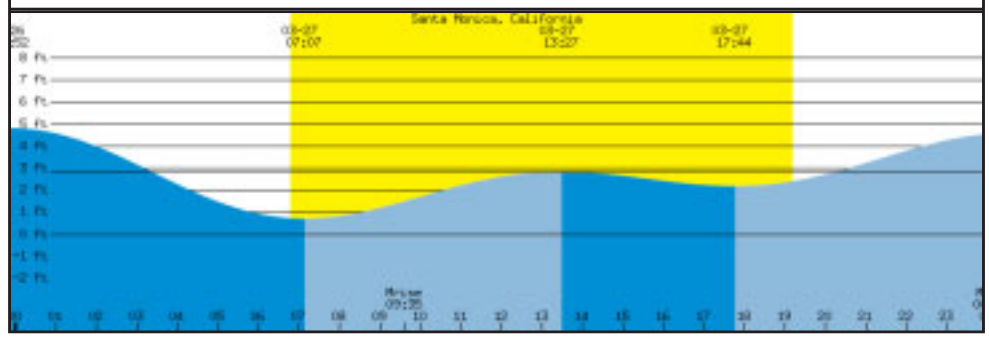
SWELL FORECAST

Looks smaller, about waist to chest most everywhere.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

LOOKS SMALLER YET, ABOUT WAIST MAX MOST EVERYWHERE.

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 4
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 33 / 34
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

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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.	A+	D
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A	D
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechuza and Los Alisos creeks.	ns	ns
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+	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	F	A+
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A+	A+
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 21672 Malibu Rd.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A	A+
Surfrider Beach (beach location) - daily.	B	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	A+
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19648 PCH stairs.	A	A+
Pena Creek at Los Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	A+
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A+	A
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	A+
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	D	C
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	D
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	A+
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A	A+
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	A+
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	A+
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	D	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	B
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	A+
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of CIWW jetty).	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	A+
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	A+

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone

WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days

ns -- no sample taken

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

Heal the Bay

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 towns found at local beaches.

The Beach Report Card is an indication of past water quality and is not a warranty of the current safety of those areas surveyed. Our lawyers are happy.

MOVIE TIMES

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

Call theater for information.

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

John Carter (PG-13) 2hrs 19min
1:00pm, 4:05pm, 7:15pm, 10:15pm

Hunger Games (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
2:45pm, 6:15pm, 10:00pm

Project X (R) 1hr 28min
1:30pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

Act of Valor (R) 1hr 51min
1:15pm, 4:20pm, 7:20pm, 10:10pm

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

Thousand Words (PG-13) 1hr 31min
11:15am, 1:50pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm

John Carter in Disney Digital 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 19min
12:30pm, 3:45pm, 7:00pm, 10:15pm

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

Hunger Games (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
11:00am, 12:00pm, 2:15pm, 3:30pm, 5:30pm, 7:00pm, 8:45pm, 9:30pm, 10:30pm

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

Detachment (NR) 1hr 40min
1:50pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Salt of Life (Gianni e le donne) (NR) 1hr 30min
1:55pm

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

Iron Lady (PG-13) 1hr 45min
4:30pm

Last Day on Earth (NR) 1hr 22min
1:00pm, 3:10pm, 5:30pm, 7:50pm, 10:10pm

La Boheme from Gran Teatre del Liceu (Encore) ()
7:30pm

Rampart (R) 1hr 45min
9:40pm

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

Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG) 1hr 35min
11:55am, 2:25pm, 5:00pm, 7:40pm, 10:00pm

Hunger Games (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
12:45pm, 4:15pm, 7:45pm

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, 9:15pm

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

Treat yourself well tonight, Taurus

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Express your thoughts. Decide which way would be best to go. A meeting could confuse matters even more. A little self-discipline goes far. If you become triggered or angry, take a walk to gain perspective. Tonight: Where the action is.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Do not be too sure of yourself, because you easily could make an error with funds, whether it is by accident or by someone taking deceptive action. Listen to your inner voice; don't be reactive. Tonight: Treat yourself well.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Keep conversations moving, and stay on top of what is going on. You have a strong sense of direction that emerges when dealing with several people. There also is no better organizer than you. Do not let a personal matter interfere with your plans. Tonight: As you like it.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Know when enough is enough. You could be overtired. The unexpected occurs when dealing with a friend or group. Tap into your instincts. Detach rather than get angry. Tonight: Play it low-key.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Zero in on what you want. Sometimes you undermine yourself without intending to. You might say too much or have a knee-jerk reaction that could give you away. Be careful with your spending, as you easily could go overboard. Tonight: Where your friends are.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Step up to the plate. You know you have a lot to do, but you could become very upset or angry if you have to deal with a parent or higher-up. Be careful. Words said are never forgotten, even if they are forgiven. Diplomacy goes far. Tonight: Working late.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Keep reaching out for new information. How you see a situation will change if you can detach and be less invested. You have difficulty understanding an associate or friend who seems determined to mess up your plans. Tonight: Let go of stress with friends.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Work with a partner. You might be surprised by what goes on between you and another person. Confusion surrounds a situation involving a child or an associate. Tonight: Dinner for two.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Push yourself to finish a project, even if you could do something more interesting. You might be surprised how much excitement comes your way. Tonight: Let someone else make the first move.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Plunge into work without getting distracted. Someone around you might speak in a most confusing manner. Apparently, you two are on different wavelengths. You could have difficulty with someone at a distance. Trust your choices. Tonight: Let's not forget to exercise.

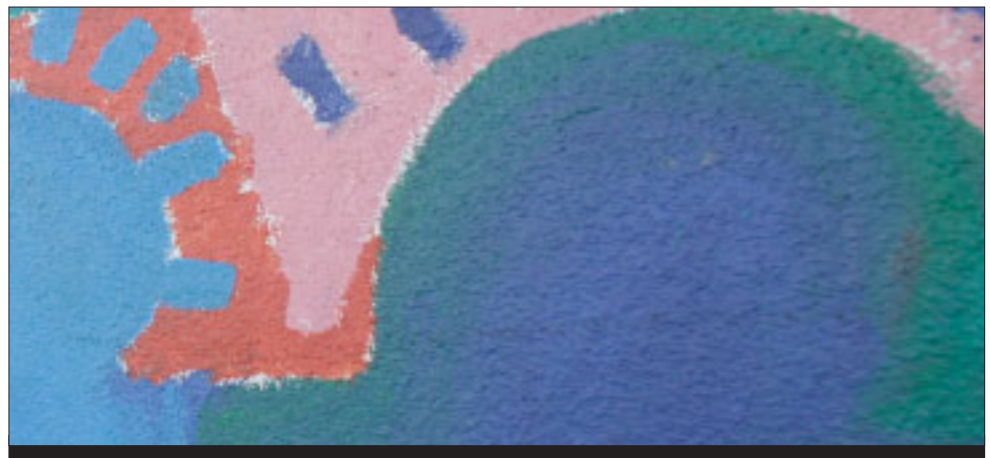
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Let your playfulness show, even at work. Everyone knows it is there, yet it is subtle in your interactions. A partner could be quite upset and might need some time. Don't get irritated. Tonight: Let yourself enjoy friends and family. Make it OK to stay up late.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Stay centered, knowing what you want. Push comes to shove with a partner who could be quite difficult. Relax. Don't let this person's crankiness create an argument. Walk away, and control your feelings for now. Tonight: Happy to be home.

Happy birthday

This year you work on communication to clear out confusion that often seems present. Many people around you act in unexpected ways. You will need to step away in order to regroup and re-evaluate. You could find that anger is an issue that frequently emerges. Use self-discipline when you become triggered. If you are single, you meet people with ease. Take your time before deciding someone is perfect. You easily could meet a better match. If you are attached, take a workshop together to improve your communication. A class involving a mutual interest also could draw you closer. GEMINI knows how to stimulate your imagination. ...

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

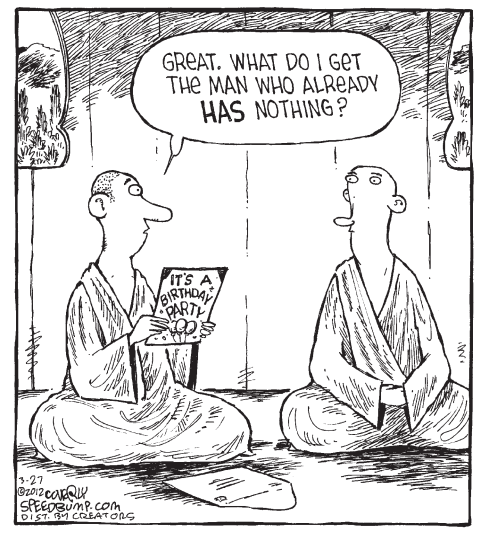


MYSTERY PHOTO

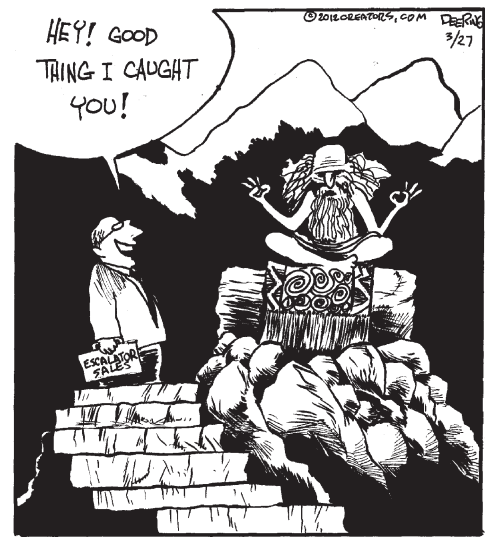
Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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



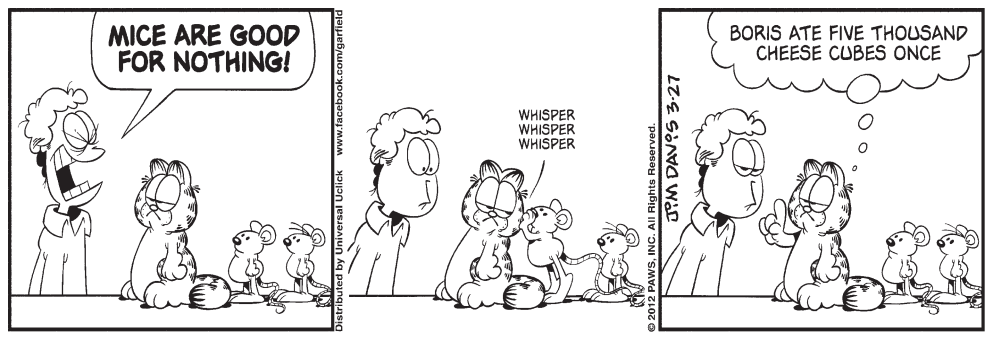
Strange Brew
By John Deering



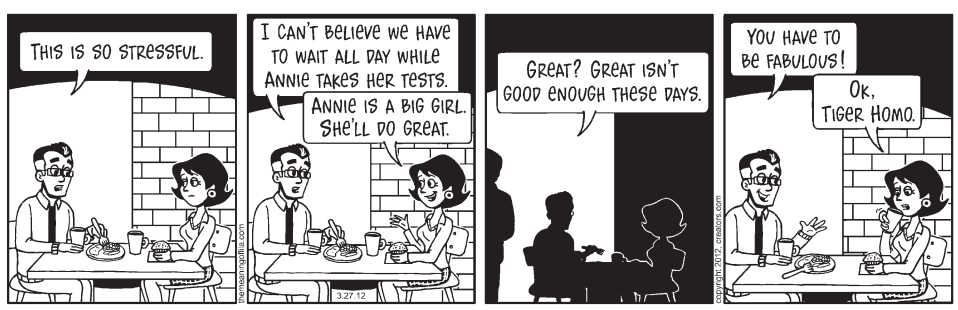
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



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 ★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Half of a chess set
6 Charlotte — (rich dessert)
11 UFO flier
12 Caper
13 Oral communication
15 Pig's place
16 Kids' card game
17 Recent: Pref.
18 Ford forerunner
20 Family car
23 Mustard city
27 In a frenzy
28 Close by
29 Radio dial
31 Horse's cousin
32 Day in Hollywood
34 Comic Caesar
37 Wager
38 Try the tea
41 Promise
44 Be patient for
45 Select group
46 Book parts
47 Settle, as a debt

DOWN

1 Hound's hands
2 Bunches
3 Lean and sinewy
4 Homer's neighbor
5 Strand, in the winter
6 Strict boss
7 One, for Juan
8 Leave speechless
9 Locale
10 Cave sound
14 Long-distance copy
18 In the buff
19 Inverted sixes
20 Used a sofa
21 Outback bird
22 Mafia leader
24 Bush of Florida
25 Lifeboat need
26 Gun owner's org.
30 Mechanical men
31 Boxed stringed instrument
33 Game official
34 Trade
35 Hawk-eye's home
36 Race for hot rods
38 Scissors sound
39 Tiny bit
40 Victim
42 Conk out
43 Flamenco cry

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

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	10
11					■	12				
13					14					
15			■	16			■	17		
■	■	■	18				19	■	■	■
20	21	22			■	23		24	25	26
27				■	■	■	28			
29				30	■	31				
■	■	■	32		33			■	■	■
34	35	36	■	37			■	38	39	40
41			42				43			
44					■	45				
46					■	47				

3-27

ARITHMO™

CrossMath + × − ÷

– Arithmo Crossmath – Reclaim Your Brain

• 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.

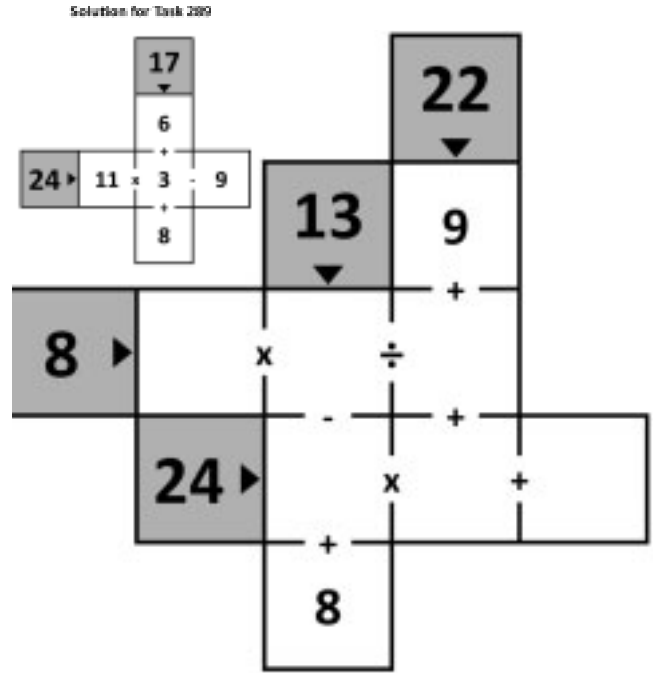
• Remember to multiply or divide before you add or subtract.

Go to www.zokigames.net for more fun and challenging games and links to our mobile phone apps.

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

2, 6, 8, 11, 11, 12

Solution for Task 2809



DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 3/23
6 17 19 20 21
Meganumber: 20
Jackpot: $363M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 3/24
8 19 24 26 36
Meganumber: 25
Jackpot: $15M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 3/26
6 9 12 16 23

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 03/26
MIDDAY: 3 7 5
EVENING: 4 5 0

SANTA ANITA PARK
Draw Date: 3/26
1st: 06 Whirl Win
2nd: 10 Solid Gold
3rd: 08 Gorgeous George
RACE TIME: 1:41.64

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ **Back to the Fundamentals:** The multicultural Macquarie University, in suburban Sydney, Australia, said its restroom posters, installed last year, have been successful in instilling toilet etiquette. The lined-through figure of a user squatting on top of a toilet seat was especially helpful, apparently. Complaints of unsanitariness were such that some students were timing their classes to use restrooms in a nearby mall instead. (Lest anyone believe the problem is confined to multicultural institutions, a recent memo by the 785-member Lewis Brisbois law firm in San Francisco instructed employees to clean urine from toilet seats, to always take the farthest stalls or urinals available, to mask sounds by toilet-flushing (if desired), and to not make eye contact in the restroom. [Daily Telegraph (Sydney), 1-12-2012] [Above The Law blog, 2-1-2012]

■ Louis Helmburg III filed a lawsuit in Huntington, W.Va., in February against the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity and its member Travis Hughes for injuries Helmburg suffered in May 2011 when he fell off a deck at the fraternity house. He had been startled and fallen backward off the rail-less deck after Hughes attempted to fire a bottle rocket "out of his anus" -- and the rocket, instead, exploded in place. (The lawsuit does not refer to Hughes' injuries.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1890 – A tornado strikes Louisville, Kentucky, killing 76 and injuring 200.

1910 – A fire during a barndance in Ökörítófülpös, Hungary, kills 312.

1915 – Typhoid Mary, the first healthy carrier of disease ever identified in the United States, is put in quarantine, where she would remain for the rest of her life.

WORD UP!

catechize \ KAT-i-kahyz \ , verb;
1. To question closely.
2. To instruct orally by means of questions and answers, especially in Christian doctrine.

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Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE OF FILING OF AN APPLICATION

Notice is hereby given that application has been filed with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation ("FDIC") and Office of the Comptroller of the Currency ("OCC") for written consent to merge Wells Fargo Capital Finance, LLC, Santa Monica, California with and into Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, Sioux Falls, South Dakota under the charter and title of Wells Fargo Bank, National Association.

At the consummation of the merger, Wells Fargo Bank, National Association will retain the main office of Wells Fargo Capital Finance, LLC as a back office operations facility of Wells Fargo Bank, National Association.

This notice is published pursuant to Section 18(c) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act and 12 CFR 5. This notice will appear three times over a 30-day period beginning on March 2, 2012 and ending on April 1, 2012.

Notices

Any person wishing to comment on this application may file his or her comments in writing with the regional director of the FDIC at its regional office which is located at 25 Jessie Street at Ecker Square, Suite 2300, San Francisco, California 94105 and, if applicable, with the Large Bank Licensing Lead Expert, Mail Stop 7-13, Comptroller of the Currency, 250 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20219 not later than April 1, 2012. To expedite the comment and response process with the OCC, comments may also be submitted to the following email address: largebanks@occ.treas.gov.

The nonconfidential portion of the application is on file and is available for public inspection during regular business hours at the regional office of the FDIC and at the OCC. The nonconfidential portion of the application file will be made available upon request to the regional director of the FDIC or the Large Bank Licensing Lead Expert of the OCC.

Wells Fargo Bank, National Association
101 North Phillips Avenue
Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104

Wells Fargo Capital Finance, LLC
2450 Colorado Avenue, Suite 3000 West
Santa Monica, California 90404

SUMMONS
(Citacion Judicial)
CASE NUMBER BC471094
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: (Aviso Al Demando): LINDSAY LOHAN, an idividual; AND DOES 1 THROUGH 100, INCLUSIVE

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF: (Lo Está Demandando El Demandante): ELITE TRANSPORTATION AND PROTECTIVE SERVICES, INC., a California Corporation

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org) the California Courts Online self-help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien ofor waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales pare presenter una respuesta per escrito en esta code y hacar que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesza per escrito tiene que ester en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar pare su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol/), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de bago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumpilmiento y corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia.
Hay otros requisitos legales Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, pueda llamar a un servicio de remision a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpia con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucre en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp/espanol/) o poniendose en cantacto con la corte o el colegio de abagados locales.
The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es):
SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
111 NORTH HILL STREET
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
LAURIE D. RAU (183035)
ANTHONY G. CHAVOS (131937)
CHAVOS & RAU, APLC
3 MACARTHUR PLACE, SUITE 150, SANTA ANA, CA 92707
Glendora, CA 91740
Telephone: (714) 435-9505
Date (Fecha): 02/22/2012
SHAUNYA WESLEY, Deputy (Adjunto)
SEAL
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served as an individual defendant
Published SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS
3/13/12, 3/20/12, 3/27/12, /3/12

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2012039705 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 03/08/2012 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as MUSE BREWING. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Marcia Bencomo 1021 20th St. Apt A Santa MOnica, CA 90403. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:Marcia Bencomo. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 03/08/2012. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 03/20/2012, 03/27/2012, 04/03/2012, 04/10/2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2012039706 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 03/08/2012 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as FENIX 1976 MUSIC. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Zachary (Zak) Shaffer 612 Pacific St. Apt. #5 Santa Monica, CA 90405. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:Zachary (Zak) Shaffer. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 03/08/2012. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 03/20/2012, 03/27/2012, 04/03/2012, 04/10/2012.

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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2012031480 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 02/24/2012 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as VIBRANT AURA FOODS. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Aura Patricia ortiz Rabago 1323 Federal Ave. #4 Los Angeles, CA 90025. This Business is being conducted by: . The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:Aura Patricia ortiz Rabago. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 02/24/2012. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 03/20/2012, 03/27/2012, 04/03/2012, 04/10/2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2012-042421
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: GGG SOLUTIONS, 1130 PAPEETE ST., WILMINGTON, CA 90744. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) GUSTAVO RAMOS, 1130 PAPEETE ST., WILMINGTON, CA 90744. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: GUSTAVO RAMOS. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 03/13/2012. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Pub. March 27, April 02, 09, 16, 2012
Publish: Santa Monica Daily Press

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2012-040846
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: LELYS FASHION, 318 W. 9th #804, L.A., CA 90015. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) ROBERTO VICTORIA, 815 S. BONNIE BRAE ST. #202, L.A., CA 90057. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: ROBERTO VICTORIA. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 03/12/2012. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Pub. March 27, April 02, 09, 16, 2012
Publish: Santa Monica Daily Press

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2012032315 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 02/27/2012 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as BECOOLTRAFFICSCHOOL.COM. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Less Stress Online Traffic School, Inc. 11016 E. Ventura Blvd. Suite D Studio City, CA, 91604. This Business is being conducted by: a Corporation. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:Roslyn L. Busch. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 02/27/2012. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 03/27/2012, 04/03/2012, 04/10/2012, 04/17/2012.

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2012032314 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 02/27/2012 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as LESSSTRESSTRAFFICSCHOOL.COM. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Roslyn Lorraine Busch 11059 Fruitland Dr. #15 Studio City, CA 91604. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:Roslyn Lorraine Busch. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 02/27/2012. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 03/27/2012, 04/03/2012, 04/10/2012, 04/17/2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2012-042695
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: C J TRUCKING, 326_ N. GRAFIELD AVE., MONTEBELLO, CA 90640. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) CLAUDIA VELASCO, 326_ N. GARFIELD AVE., MONTEBELLO, CA 90640. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: CLAUDIA VELASCO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 03/14/2012. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Pub. March 26, April 02, 09, 16, 2012
Publish: Santa Monica Daily Press

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2012-040905
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: AMERICAN SENIOR DREAMS; AFFORDABLE FAST FUNDING, 8141 E. 2nd ST. STE 401, DOWNEY, CA 90241. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) INVESTMENT BANKERS NETWORK, INC., 8141 E. 2nd ST. STE 608B, DOWNEY, CA 90241. This Business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. Signed: VICTOR CHAVEZ. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 03/12/2012. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See sec-

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tion 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Pub. March 27, April 02, 09, 16, 2012
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2012-042737
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: ACCESSORIES BY BELLA, 1332 S. EAASTMEN AVE., L.A., CA 90023. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) ERIK SANTOS, 2404 SYCAMORE AVE. #C1, L.A., CA 90023. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: ERIK SANTOS. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 03/14/2012. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Pub. March 27, April 02, 09, 16, 2012
Publish: Santa Monica Daily Press

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2012-045764
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: PUPUSERIA LA LIBERTAD, 1260 LONG BEACH BLVD., LONG BEACH, CA 90813. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) JOSE LUIS GARCIA, 1260 LONG BEACH BLVD., LONG BEACH, CA 90813. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: JOSE LUIS GARCIA. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 03/19/2012. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Pub. March 27, April 02, 09, 16, 2012
Publish: Santa Monica Daily Press

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2012-049096
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: INTIMATE DELIGHTS, 904 N. DWIGHT AVE., COMPTON, CA 90220. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) ERIKA SIMPSON, 904 N. DWIGHT AVE., COMPTON, CA 90220. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: ERIKA SIMPSON. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 03/22/2012. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Pub. March 27, April 02, 09, 16, 2012
Publish: Santa Monica Daily Press

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2012-047010
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: HCT FINE CARPENTRY, 4225 N. VIRGINIA VISTA CT., LONG BEACH, CA 90807. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) HECTOR FLORES, 4225 N. VIRGINIA VISTA CT., LONG BEACH, CA 90807, GERARDO MACIEL SALDANA, 1326 S. WESTERN AVE., L.A., CA 90006. This Business is conducted by: JOINT VENTURE. Signed: HECTOR FLORES. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 03/20/2012. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Pub. March 27, April 02, 09, 16, 2012
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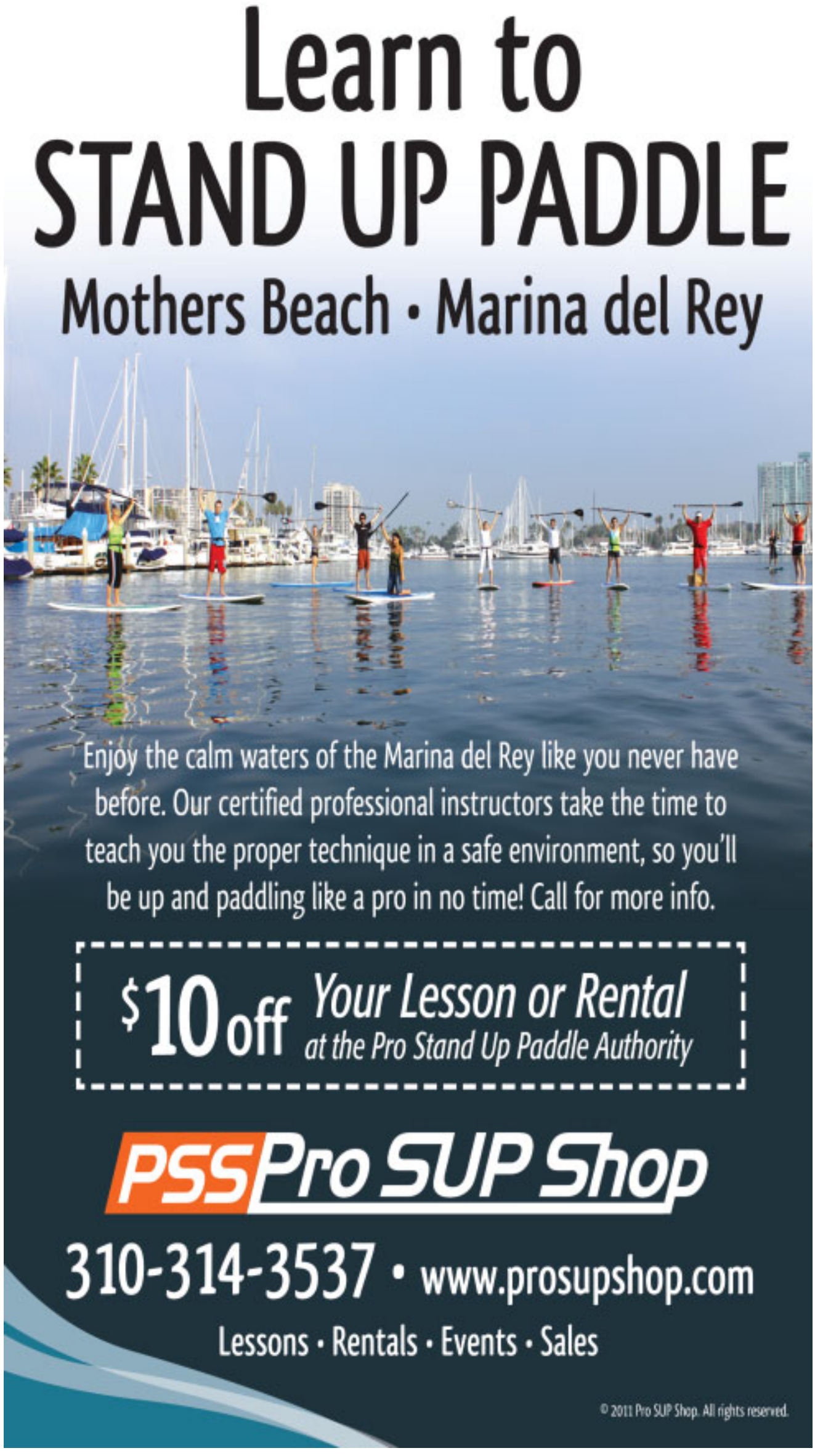
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2012-047145
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: BLACKWOOD & ASSOCIATES; BLACKWOOD PARTNERS; BLACKWOOD; BLACKWOOD ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, 1055 W. 7th ST. STE 650, L.A., CA 90017. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) BLACKWOOD PROPERTIES, INC., 1055 W. 7th ST. STE 650, L.A., CA 90017. This Business is conducted by: A CORPORATION. Signed: VICENTE TAPIA. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 03/20/2012. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Pub. March 27, April 02, 09, 16, 2012
Publish: Santa Monica Daily Press

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2012-049125
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: AQUARIUS PRODUCTIONS, 1037 S. BEDFORD ST. STE 2, L.A., CA 90035. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) EDYTHE DAVIS, 1037 S. BEDFORD ST. STE 2, L.A., CA 90035. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: EDYTHE DAVIS. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 03/22/2012. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Pub. March 27, April 02, 09, 16, 2012
Publish: Santa Monica Daily Press

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File No. 2012-049122
The following person(s) is (are) doing business as: IN THE CAN PRODUCTIONS TMC, 4709 DOCKWEILER ST., L.A., CA 90019. Full name of registrant(s) is (are) ALPHONSO SLATER, 4709 DOCKWEILER ST., L.A., CA 90019. This Business is conducted by: AN INDIVIDUAL. Signed: ALPHONSO SLATER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 03/22/2012. The registrant(s) has (have) commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on N/A. NOTICE- This Fictitious Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the office of the County Clerk. A new Fictitious Business Name Statement must be filed prior to that date. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a Fictitious Business Name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or common law (See section 14411 et seq. Business and Professions Code) Pub. March 27, April 02, 09, 16, 2012
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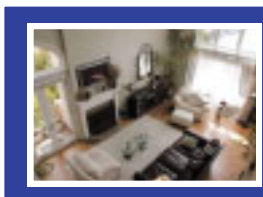




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