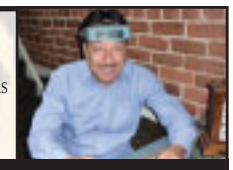
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THURSDAY, MARCH 28, 2013
Volume 12 Issue 118

Avenue Q Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

NOT KID STUFF
SEE PAGE 6

THE PLAY DATE ISSUE



JOY RIDE

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

Madison Dell, of Hollywood, plays atop the famous Rodman Coastal Cannon in Palisades Park on Wednesday afternoon.

Saint John's attempts to reduce parking — again

New proposal would cut over 300 spaces from supply

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

MID CITY A parking study commissioned by Saint John's Health Center suggests that the facility will have enough parking to cover its needs, even if it loses hundreds of spaces it leases from a private business.

The report, written by Walker Parking Consultants, could let the hospital off the hook for building an estimated $25 million parking structure, something nearby residents are demanding it build because they say hospital employees and patients crowd their streets and take up scarce parking spots.

The report shows that Saint John's only uses 94 of the 450 spaces that it leases at the Colorado Center, and that an expansion at two new parking facilities on campus as well as the lease of another 125 spaces off-campus will more than make up for the loss.

That made up almost a third of the 1,528

SEE PARKING PAGE 9

Locals helping vets find jobs

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE When Robert Contreras separated from the U.S. Navy in 2010, he had hoped to leave the service with a job waiting for him in the civilian world.

He spent the last three months of his career as an operations specialist looking for work. Although he landed a few interviews, there was nothing definite.

"I was starting to get a little worried," Contreras said. "My savings were getting cut down."

He eventually landed a job in the oil and gas industry through a military recruiting fair and stayed there for six months before the 15 to 16-hour days wore on him to the point of leaving.

Contreras is now a Santa Monica College student studying anthropology with plans to get a masters in public policy and advocate for fellow veterans. He knows that his experience looking for work is the rule rather than the exception, and was one of 46 veterans across the nation chosen to take stories of plight — and slow response time by the Veterans Administration — straight to Capitol Hill.

The unemployment rate amongst veterans who served on active duty any time since September 2001 was 9.9 percent in 2012, down 2.2 percent from the previous year, but still above the national unemployment rate of 7.8 percent at the end of 2012, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

That rate is even worse for those under 25 years old, which sits at 20 percent, said Ross Cohen, senior director of the Hiring our Heroes program, a campaign by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation to find employment for veterans.

Cohen, himself a veteran, was overseeing a veteran hiring fair kick off Tuesday at The Proud Bird, an aviation-themed restaurant near the Los Angeles International Airport.

The challenge that vets face isn't necessarily a lack of skills or ability, it's difficulty translating their activities over their years in the service into something that a civilian employer would recognize.

"The kinds of skills that they learn are

SEE VETS PAGE 8

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, March 28, 2013

Scary flick
Montana Library
1704 Montana Ave.,
2 p.m. — 4:15 p.m.
"Psycho," directed by Alfred Hitchcock, will be screened, followed by a talk with film scholar Vivian Rosenberg. The event is free. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Find the eggs
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
3:30 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.
An Easter egg hunt will ensue for pre-K to third grade. Baskets will be provided. The event is sponsored by Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library. Admission is free. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Wilde time
SMC's Theater Arts Main Stage
1900 Pico Blvd., 8 p.m.
A special preview of Oscar Wilde's decadent and erotic tragedy "Salome" will be presented by the Santa Monica College Theater Arts Department. The play will run from March 29 to April 7. Tickets range from $12 to $15, plus a service charge. Preview tickets are $8. Parking is free on Friday evenings and weekends. For more information, call (310) 434-4319 or visit www.smc.edu/eventsinfo

Friday, March 29, 2013

Games and blocks
Montana Library
1704 Montana Ave.,
3 p.m. — 3:45 p.m.
The last day to participate in spring break crafts will feature Legos and board games. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Moonlight movie
California Heritage Museum
2612 Main St., 7:30 p.m.
ZJ Boarding House starts off its 2013 Night Sesh outdoor movie nights with "Float" by Rip Curl. Popcorn and Vitacoco coconut water will be served. Prizes from Rip Curl and ZJ will also be raffled in the name of Stoked Mentoring. For more information, visit zjboardinghouse.com.

Art be a lady
Broadway Art Space
929 Broadway,
5:30 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Month of Photography Los Angeles is featuring women artists in its exhibition "Women Make the World Go Round." It will be held in Santa Monica for one night only, and proceeds will go to the Venice Family Clinic. The event is free for the general public. VIP tickets are $20 and include access to a reception at 5:30 p.m. and one food ticket for the Border Grill truck. For more information and tickets, visit womenmaketheworldgoround.eventbrite.com.

Saturday, March 30, 2013

Day of the bunny
Douglas Park
2439 Wilshire Blvd.,
9 a.m. — 12 p.m.
The 21st annual Peter Rabbit Day allows children and their families a chance to meet the Easter Bunny, take part in an egg hunt, enjoy face painting, games, egg coloring, and more. For more information, visit smjaycee.com.

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



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

COUNTYWIDE

Rabbits are pets, not toys

Last year, 30 rabbits found themselves in Los Angeles County Animal Care Centers one week after Easter, officials said.

The Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control is hoping that things don't repeat themselves this Easter, encouraging families to care for rabbits they same they would care for a dog or a cat, according to a Los Angeles Public Affairs press release.

However, Sgt. Mike Graham of the Santa Monica Animal Shelter said that there is no change in the number of rabbits at the shelter around Easter time.

Rabbits are not the only Easter pets that families give their kids in honor of the holiday. Domestic ducklings have also found their way into Easter baskets in the past, but shelter officials and animal welfare experts advise against this practice as well, according to the Associated Press.

– ALEX VEJAR

SM PIER

Live music above the waves

The Santa Monica Pier is starting its 2013 outdoor music season this Saturday, March 30, with "All Bands on Deck," featuring the pop-electro acts Yacht, Poolside, DJ Chris Baio of Vampire Weekend fame, and more.

Other acts that will be performing are Kisses, Them Jeans, Guns in the Sun DJs and DJ Mario Cotto.

Live screen printing will be provided by Hit + Run.

Doors open at 3 p.m. and the show begins at 4 p.m. All ages are welcome to attend. Tickets range from $10 to $75 and are available at ticketfly.com.

– AV



CHEERS

Michael Ryan *michael@smdp.com*

A group of Japanese tourists have their picture taken Wednesday while they enjoy some brews at The Commons on Broadway. The group was prepping to take the Rapid 3 Big Blue Bus to Los Angeles International Airport afterward.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL

Samohi rakes in CIF-SS awards

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI What many consider the greatest season in Santa Monica boys' basketball history keeps getting better.

Senior guard Jordan Mathews was named the CIF-Southern Section Division 1A Player of the Year and James Hecht earned Coach of the Year honors, it was announced this week.

Besides the top honors for Mathews and Hecht, point guard Trevis Jackson was named to the all-division first team. Forward Chris Smith and guard Erron Vaughn were second team selections.

"We had a great season," said Mathews, who has signed to play for UC Berkeley next year. "We surpassed what people expected of us."

The awards come on the heels of an Ocean League title, CIF-SS Division 1A championship and appearance in the CIF State championship game as the Southern California regional representative.

In addition to all the banners and hardware, Samohi racked up a school record 29 wins against seven losses.

Word of the all-division selections came just days removed from Samohi's loss in the state final to Pleasant Grove.

"After the game, I was in tears like the rest of my team," Jackson said of the moments after last Friday's loss in Sacramento. "We sat in the locker room for a good hour reminiscing on all the things that happened to us this season.

"It's OK to be sad with how things ended, but it's better to be happy with how things went."

The loss still stings, but to a man, the Vikings from Santa Monica were overwhelmed by the support from the community during their deep run into the postseason.

"I want to thank the students and the school," Hecht said. "We couldn't have accomplished any of this without the support of our fans, school and the city of Santa Monica."

The Vikings grew accustomed to a packed gym that featured a particularly raucous student section as they made their way through the playoffs.

While Hecht said that the individual nod as coach of the year was an honor, he humbly gives most of the credit to his assistants.

Hecht singled out Brian Part, Shaun Higgins, Les Fukuyama, Rafael Hernandez and Brian Tickler as the engine behind Samohi's historic run.

"Their dedication and their time commitment was awesome," Hecht said of his crew. "I'm very fortunate to have them on staff. I call them the unsung heroes."

Next for Jackson is deciding how to continue his basketball career into college. He's been recruited by the University of La Verne and has talked to a number of other schools, but he's not sure what to do.

"It's more like a waiting game," Jackson said. "I'm still trying to decide."

daniela@smdp.com



Paul Alvarez Jr. *editor@smdp.com*

BRINGING IT IN FOR A HUG: **Samohi head coach James Hecht (left) and guard Jordan Mathews celebrate after winning the CIF State Regional final against Loyola on March 16.**

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Special thanks

Editor:

I'd like to express my gratitude for the valuable and important job that social workers provide all year long. When life's challenges become overwhelming, many people turn to a social worker for help.

Here at Gates, Kingsley & Gates Moeller Murphy Funeral Directors, we see the tireless work social workers perform day in and day out as they help families cope with emotional and practical issues that accompany grief, aging, terminal illness and end-of-life planning. These dedicated professionals assist with everything from coordinating community resources to helping families solve personal and financial problems, to working through the emotional pain of dealing with an impending death.

They recognize the family dynamics that are part of any life event and help patients reach out to conclude the important business of giving and receiving love and asking for and granting forgiveness. Often it is the social worker who will pause to recognize a special occasion in a patient's life and make sure that a birthday is celebrated or a caregiver gets a night out.

Social work matters. Time and again I have witnessed the powerful results of social workers in recognizing and meeting the needs of the people they serve. On behalf of Gates, Kingsley & Gates Moeller Murphy, I applaud social workers for their caring hearts and their important contributions to our community.

Jeffrey Baker
General Manager
Gates, Kingsley & Gates Moeller Murphy Funeral Directors
Santa Monica





Life Matters

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

Getting ready for a presentation

DEAR LIFE MATTERS,

I have been asked to give a presentation at an upcoming regional conference. I recognize that it is quite an honor to be asked to speak at an event, however, this will be the first time I've presented to other professionals, outside of speaking at a board meeting. I have accepted this challenge despite my fear of embarrassing myself or freezing at the podium. Do you have any advice for how to prepare and ensure that I convey a positive image while also providing value to the attendees? I have flexibility in the materials that I share at the conference and have been given 20 minutes for my presentation.

Sincerely,
Nervous Speaker

DEAR NERVOUS,

As you can imagine, very few people get excited about the prospect of speaking in front of an audience. In fact, public speaking often outranks a number of fears, including fear of heights, fear of spiders and fear of small spaces. Studies in this area have suggested that about 3/4 of people suffer from speech anxiety or a fear of public speaking. I am happy to hear that despite your anxieties over speaking to this group, you have accepted the challenge and taken an important step toward developing your confidence in speaking to an audience.

The more time you can dedicate to preparing for and practicing your presentation, the more likely you are to succeed. Focus on selecting a topic and materials that you feel very comfortable with. Choose something that you could have a social conversation about without having to review notes or research extensively. Selecting a topic that you feel comfortable with may ease the pressure of the actual presentation and will also help you feel more relaxed during the question and answer period of your session.

Once you've selected the key topic of your presentation, narrow down two or three "take away" points, or things that you want the audience to walk away with as a result of your talk. One mistake that some presenters make is trying to impress the audience with too much information. By concentrating on a few key points and building your presentation around those areas you will be more likely to provide value to the attendees.

Decide whether or not you will use visual aids to assist in your presentation. If the room is equipped with A/V equipment, you might choose to do a PowerPoint, Keynote, or Prezi presentation. Adding a visual component can be a great way to enhance your presentation by allowing easy access to images, data, and key details. However, be mindful that you do not rely too much on your slides. Adding too much content to your slides can overwhelm the audience and may cause you to read from your slides rather than engaging the audience.

Plus, a 12-point font is near impossible to read from the back of the room! Use your slides to highlight specific pieces of information, not to display your entire presentation. Consider a message that is hard to convey through words alone, such as charts and graphs, pictures or short video clips that drive home your key points. You may find it helpful to do a simple Google search of presentations to find samples that are visually appealing as a possible starting place.

STUDIES IN THIS AREA HAVE SUGGESTED THAT ABOUT 3/4 OF PEOPLE SUFFER FROM SPEECH ANXIETY OR A FEAR OF PUBLIC SPEAKING.

Once you've settled on a key theme, content, and visuals, now it is time to work on your delivery. The best presentations often feel like a conversation instead of a rehearsed speech. Try watching a few TED Talks or YouTube presentations for ideas on how effective speakers convey their messages. As you practice your delivery, consider videotaping your presentation. Watching yourself and listening to your delivery might help you pick up on areas that need improvement, as well as areas that are especially strong. Once you've practiced a few times on your own, consider asking a friend or colleague to listen to your presentation.

On the day of your presentation, make sure to do a quick run through before your session begins. Spend time in the room you'll be presenting in, test out the A/V equipment and take time to sit in the back of the room and visualize what your audience will see. When you take the stage, remember to take a deep breath and focus your eyes on the audience. Beyond everything else, remember to smile — it will convince the audience that you're having a good time — even if you are dreading the experience. Now go knock their socks off!

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





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OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.



Culture Watch

Sarah A. Spitz
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

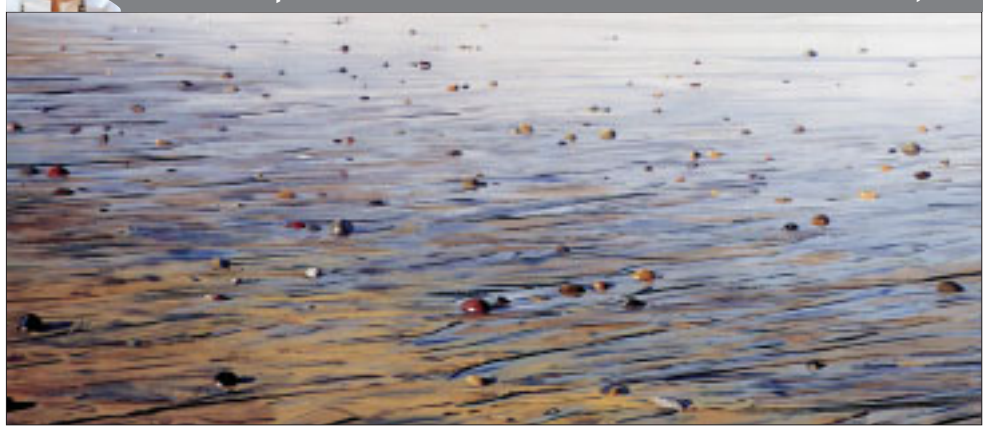


Photo courtesy city of Santa Monica

SERENE: **Connie Jenkins, Cycles: In Memory of Ken Edwards, 1991. Oil paint on canvas.**

Enjoy City Hall's art collection in one place

THIS WEEK IS JAM-PACKED WITH LOCAL events!

Let's begin with Thursday's opening and reception for "Art Bank: Selections from the city of Santa Monica's Collection," at the Annenberg Community Beach House.

You'd have to walk through a lot of municipal buildings to see all these works. Instead, this beautiful seaside venue hosts a selection of 70 artworks all in one place, including sculpture, painting, photography and works on paper by contemporary artists active in Southern California.

The contemporary works were collected thanks to the city's Art Bank Program, the aim to bring art into the environment and life of Santa Monica's public spaces. It was created in 1984 with funding from the city's Percent for Art Program.

You'll also see 19th century paintings from the McManus Collection — donated to City Hall by William and Margaret McManus in 1950 — which features some Dutch genre paintings and California Plein-Air landscapes.

Celebrate Santa Monica's commitment to the arts tonight with a reception from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. If you can't get there tonight, the exhibition will be on view through April 28. The Annenberg Beach House is located at 415 Pacific Coast Highway. For more information visit www.annenbergbeachhouse.com.

AVENUE Q & A

Founded in 1946, The Morgan-Wixson Theatre is Santa Monica's oldest theatre organization. Among the famous whose feet have tread upon their floorboards are James Dean ("Rebel Without a Cause"), Joyce DeWitt ("Three's Company") and Harvey Korman ("The Carol Burnett Show").

This Friday's performance of "Avenue Q" marks Morgan-Wixson's 500th main stage production, and to celebrate they've invited Jeff Marx, co-creator of the musical, to join them for a special "Talkback" session.

"Avenue Q" composer/lyricist Marx and his co-creator Robert Lopez won the "triple crown" of Tony Awards for Best Musical, Best Score and Best Book in 2004. One of the longest running musicals in Broadway history, "Avenue Q" is both a send-up of "Sesame Street" and a satirical, contemporary coming-of-age comedy, noted for its creative use of puppetry to advance its subversively mature content.

Marx will take audience questions after Friday's performance. Mark the milestone with the Morgan-Wixson; the performance starts at 8 p.m. and the "Talkback" takes place immediately following. Find Morgan-Wixson Theatre at 2627 Pico Blvd. Tickets and info at www.morgan-wixson.org.

BYE-BYE 'BLUE'

This is your last chance to see a rare painting by 17th century Dutch master painter Johannes Vermeer. Closing out its once in a lifetime world tour, "Woman in Blue Reading a Letter" returns home to Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum, which celebrates its grand reopening in April following a monumental renovation.

Sunday is the last day to see "Woman in Blue," one of just 35 of Vermeer's existing

SEE **WATCH** PAGE 6

The Q Line

Zero date

Officials have introduced an ambitious plan to have the city become nearly zero waste by 2030.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think the zero waste goal is attainable and why?

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 **310-573-8354**.

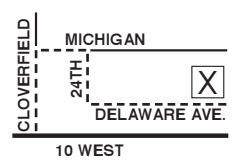


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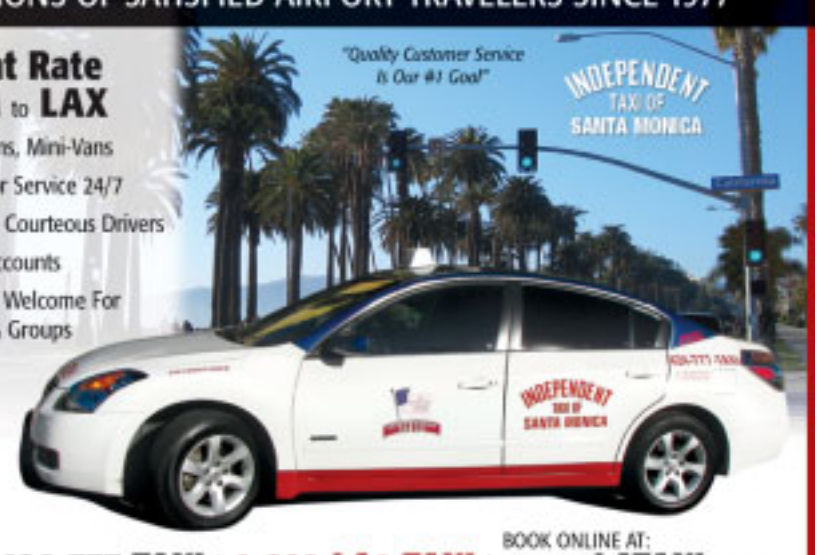
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Play Time

Cynthia Citron

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

'Avenue Q' not a street for kids

IT'S REALLY PUZZLING TRYING TO FIGURE out who the producers of "Avenue Q" had in mind for an audience for their puppet show since the production is too coyingly cutesy for grownups and too explicitly sexual for kids. (In fact, the show comes with a warning: "Not Suitable for Children Due to Adult Themes and Puppet Nudity.")

Yet, for all its marshmallow moments, it's won all the accolades Broadway can bestow — Tonys in 2004 for Best Musical, Best Score, and Best Book. (Note: I am informed that this production is aimed at people between the ages of 18 and 45 who grew up watching "The Muppets" and would get a kick out of watching them be "naughty." OK, I'll buy that.)

The current rendition at the Morgan-Wixson Theatre in Santa Monica is, I suppose, as good as it gets. The puppeteers, wielding the oversized heads of their furry and felt characters, mimic the facial expressions and body language of their Muppet-like stars. After awhile, you can't tell which of them is real.

The story is simple enough. A new college grad named Princeton (remarkably played by an energetic Aric Martin) moves into a seedy apartment on Avenue Q and proceeds to search for his "purpose in life." In due course he becomes the lover of a furry "monster" called Kate (Rachel Hirshee), who lives next door and exuberantly joins him in a lengthy, graphic bout of sex. And "puppet nudity" is the least of it.

There is a subplot with a gay Republican (also played by Aric Martin) and the heterosexual object of his affection, Nicky, (Matthew Artson) who only wants to be his friend. There is a pregnant couple, he black (Keith Wright), she Asian (Kristina Reyes), who get married in a Jewish ceremony with "mazel tovs" all around. And there is a female non-puppeteer (Celia Rivera) who inexplicably plays "Diff'rent Strokes" star Gary Coleman. And, finally, there is a hairy Trekkie Monster (Matthew Artson again) who eventually saves the day and helps Princeton find his purpose.

Written by Jeff Whitty, with music and lyrics by Robert Lopez and Jeff Marx, from an original concept by Lopez and Marx, "Avenue Q" was originally intended as children's television for adults. Director/ puppet master/choreographer Kevin Noonchester steers his artists through their paces in an attractive street scene designed by Thomas Brown. And the story is moved along by the music, which is rendered crisply by the actor/singers — or, if you will, by the puppets.

"Avenue Q" will continue at the comfortable 200-seat Morgan-Wixson Theatre, 2627 Pico Blvd. in Santa Monica, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through April 6. Call (310) 828-7519 for tickets.

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

WATCH

FROM PAGE 5

masterpieces, at the Getty Center. Visit www.getty.edu for hours and information.

STITCHES AND DIGITS

At UCLA in the 1970s I took a temporary job as a "data processor," which at the time meant I had to be sure that the "punch cards" had no "hanging chads" so that the data they contained could be clearly scanned and tabulated by an old room-sized IBM mainframe computer.

Technology certainly has advanced since then. When properly combined, man and machine can create something both new and timeless.

This Saturday night, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Arena I Gallery at Santa Monica Art Studios invites you to the opening reception for "Punch Card II," featuring six artists who merge technology and traditional textiles to create their own unique "digital stitch." Located in an historical hangar at Santa Monica Airport, this unique environment serves as an apt venue for this show, where old and new collide.

Collectively, the works in this exhibition suggest the loom as a precursor for contemporary digital practices. Included are the team Andy Diaz and Laurel Roth, and Nina Katchadourian, Victor De La Rosa, Devorah Sperber and Stephanie Syjuco.

Whether weaving digitally, pixel by pixel (Andy Diaz Hope and Laurel Roth), using computer graphics and hand looming on jacquard power looms (Vic De La Rosa), or directly on commercially produced photographs (Nina Katchadourian), or melding digitally-printed patterns and outsourced fabrication with traditional 19th century fabrication (Stephanie Syjuco), or inverting and deconstructing art historical or pop culture iconography and recomposing the image with individual spools of thread (Devorah Sperber), these artists are purposefully exploring the possibilities between hand and machine in the digital age.

"Punch Card II" is a second iteration of an exhibition initially organized by and exhibited at Catharine Clark Gallery in San Francisco at the end of 2012. The exhibition is on view at Arena 1 through April 27. More info at www.santamonicaartstudios.com.

DANCING AROUND TOWN

"Trisha Brown Dance Company: The Retrospective Project" celebrates one of the most widely acclaimed choreographers to emerge from the postmodern era.

From March 30 through April 21, The Center for the Art of Performance at UCLA (CAP UCLA) presents a series of performances and related events at multiple venues, including UCLA's Royce Hall and Sunset Canyon Amphitheater, The Hammer Museum, and the J. Paul Getty Museum at The Getty Center.

The series kicks off with a free event in the courtyard at the Hammer in Westwood on March 30. "Floor of the Forest" is a sculpture and dance event all in one.

First performed in New York's Soho neighborhood in 1970, it consists of a steel frame sculpture that holds a web of ropes threaded with colorful used clothing. Dancers climb the sculpture and tread the web and perform for 20 minutes four times a day, Thursdays through Fridays, at 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.; on Saturdays and Sundays, three 20-minute performances take place at noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

Additional free events take place on the UCLA campus, including "Man Walking Down the Side of a Building" and "Roof Piece" at the Getty Center, along with five additional ticketed ensemble choreographies.

For all the details, visit http://cap.ucla.edu/tbdc/.

SARAH A. SPITZ is a former freelance arts producer for NPR and former staff producer at public radio station KCRW-Santa Monica. She has also reviewed theatre for LAOpeningNights.com.

Lawyers argue about prison mental health care

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. A federal judge on Wednesday struggled with how to gauge whether conditions for mentally ill inmates in California prisons have improved enough under federal oversight to return control of the facilities to the state, as Gov. Jerry Brown is seeking.

Lawyers for California argued in court that after 18 years of federal oversight and billions of dollars in state spending, the care now meets the requirements of the U.S. Constitution. Attorneys for inmates countered that inmates still are dying unnecessarily, prisons remain overcrowded and understaffed, and that the state won't make needed improvements without court supervision.

U.S. District Judge Lawrence Karlton said he was torn by what standard to use in deciding when to end the federal court oversight, which he said has undoubtedly forced California to improve what had been a substandard system.

"Clearly, the Constitution does not require perfection," Karlton said.

But if perfection is not the test, he said, "at what level can the court, must the court say, Oh, yes, it's not perfect ... but it's good enough for government work? It's good enough for the Constitution's definition of what the government must do."

California Deputy Attorney General Patrick McKinney said that's exactly the position the state is now in.

"The state has never argued that the system is perfect or that it needs to be," he told the judge. "Federal oversight should not continue unless there is a violation of federal law."

Inmates' attorney Michael Bien disagreed: "We have established that there are ongoing constitutional violations" he told the judge.

California has spent more than $1 billion to build mental health facilities and increase salaries to hire more qualified mental health workers. The state now has more than 1,700 psychiatrists, psychologists, therapists, social workers and nurses to treat more than 32,000 mentally ill inmates. The state now spends $400 million annually on inmates' mental health care, McKinney told the judge.

Yet Bien said more mental health facilities must be built and staffed, while much more must be done to reduce a suicide rate that exceeds the national average for state and federal prisons and worsened last year.

"We're so far from anywhere near perfection, that's not the issue," Bien said outside the courtroom. "Things have gotten worse, not better."

The state contends that all the money, resources and effort it has invested in improving the mental health care system proves that it is no longer deliberately indifferent to the needs of mentally ill inmates.

"California has among the best prison mental health systems in the nation," Corrections Secretary Jeffrey Beard said in a statement after the hearing. "It's time to bring this intrusive and expensive lawsuit...to an end."

Ending the lawsuit is key to the Democratic governor's attempt to lift a separate court order over prison crowding that otherwise will force the state to reduce its inmate population by nearly 10,000 by year's end.

The order, upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2011, prompted the state to enact Brown's so-called realignment law, which requires lower-level offenders to serve their sentences in county jails. Since then, the population of the state's 33 adult prisons has dropped by nearly 25,000 inmates to about 119,000.

Karlton said Wednesday that the current prison system is "a substantial improvement over what the court found when it found deliberate indifference initially."

The question is whether the state can prove that the level of care now being provided complies with the Constitution, he said.

Court-appointed experts and overseers recently said California still provides substandard care to inmates with mental and physical illnesses. However, experts hired by the state said 13 prisons they visited last year all provided acceptable mental health care.

Karlton could refuse to consider the reports by the state's experts because of what he called a "serious ethical violation."

Attorneys representing inmates complained that they were not notified and were not present when the experts interviewed their mentally ill clients, as required by ethical standards and a previous court order.

McKinney said a state expert had mentioned the interviews to one of the inmates' attorneys, and that the court-appointed special master was told that visits were planned.

"We disagree that this was done in secret," McKinney said.

"I don't want to raise my voice. Assume that I disagree with you. Assume that this is a profound ethical violation," the judge retorted during the 90-minute hearing.

Nonetheless, Karlton said he may still allow the state reports that form the core of the state's case because the issue is so important.

Karlton would have to rule on the request for renewed state control by early next month under a legal process Brown set in motion in January. However, he said that doesn't leave him time to question witnesses and gauge their credibility, so he is searching for a way to extend the deadline.







HERE IT COMES

Morgan Genser *editor@smdp.com*

St. Monica's Daniel Jaen delivers a pitch against Mary Star of the Sea on Wednesday at Marine Park. St. Monica went onto lose the game, 8-0. The loss drops St. Monica to 1-13 this season.

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VETS
FROM PAGE 1

incredible," Cohen said. "It's the world's best leadership program, they have the ability to work with teams, achieve tasks under tight deadlines no matter what the obstacles."

But when you come back from four to eight years in the military, you don't think of how to put that into resume form, Cohen said.

Contreras, for one, was an operations specialist with the Navy. He handled radar communications and weapons systems, skills incomprehensible to someone outside of defense contractor work.

What he later learned to place on his resume were the "collateral" tasks of his job, like managing a $1 million parts budget, maintaining inventory levels and coordinating parts and equipment.

"Those are things that people outside the military can understand," Contreras said.

To help with that problem, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce launched a new tool this week called the Personal Branding Resume Engine. The engine was created with the help of recruiters from small businesses and Fortune 500 companies to translate military tasks into "civilian speak."

It forces the veteran to really consider the work that they did while in the service, looking beyond the title to describe the actual duties, Cohen said.

"It's a next gen resume translator for veterans," Cohen said.

The chamber is not acting in isolation to attack the veteran unemployment issue.

Congress passed the VOW (Veterans Opportunity to Work) to Hire Heroes Act in 2011, which aimed to create a seamless transition from the military into civilian life.

It provides extra options for education, training and offers tax credits for employers who hire veterans with disabilities connected to their time in the service.

There are also databases like the Veterans Job Bank for employers to post jobs specifically for former military personnel.

Although there's a growing concern about the "war on terror" veterans, the government and service agencies are still trying to cope with veterans of much older wars.

Garry Johnson, 58, was in the Navy during the Vietnam War. Johnson says that he didn't see active combat, just "pressed a button and bombs exploded," but still returned home in the discord of the post-Vietnam era.

He ran into legal problems and was saddled with convictions, hampering his job search.

Local nonprofit Chrysalis, which specializes in getting people employed, helped him navigate the difficult waters of modern employment by outfitting him with some computer skills through a partnership with the Veterans Administration.

He is now waiting to get a final approval on a job with the Veterans Administration as a housekeeper.

"It's a process. I'm quite happy about it," Johnson said.

Getting veterans like Johnson and Contreras either employed or through school is only going to increase in importance as time goes on and conflicts in the Middle East begin to draw to a close, Cohen said.

"With one million veterans leaving the military in the next five years, this is not the time to rest on our laurels," Cohen said.

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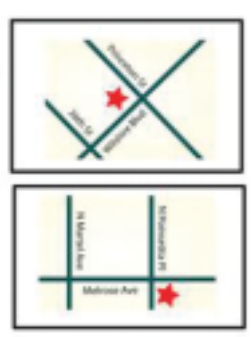

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PARKING
FROM PAGE 1

spaces that the hospital committed itself to finding through a 2011 amendment to its development agreement. That amendment legalized the practice of leasing spaces at the then-Yahoo! Center. Saint John's was also allowed to delay the construction of a parking structure it initially agreed to build over a decade ago.

Saint John's leased between 150 to 400 spaces at Colorado Center as part of its construction period parking plan to satisfy City Hall when the development agreement amendment was being processed, said Steven Sharrer, acting vice president of human resources at the hospital.

The proposed arrangement would leave the hospital with 1,208 spaces, according to the study, although only 1,188 are considered part of the "effective supply" because of inefficiencies that result from a lack of parking attendants.

Despite that, the only deficiency in the proposed parking scheme, according to Walker Parking Consultants, is allocation — the hospital reserved too many spaces for its patients and visitors and not enough for its employees.

Still, the hospital plans to rent 125 spaces at a nearby parking structure to replace the 94 potentially lost at the Colorado Center, although they are "not needed to meet Saint John's parking demand," according to the report.

The report was commissioned as part of an update to the hospital's Parking Management Plan, required by City Hall after Saint John's leadership received notice from the Colorado Center's owners in December that their lease of the spaces would be up within 120 days.

Saint John's disputes that the company can end its lease.

The results of the report fly in the face of popular perception, which holds that Saint John's employees solve their parking problems by finding spaces sprinkled throughout the neighborhood.

Employees who choose to drive to work pay $10 per pay period, or roughly $22 per month, for the privilege, Sharrer said.

Others receive a direct cash subsidy from the hospital for walking, biking, taking mass transit or carpooling to work.

Those people cannot purchase a parking pass, Sharrer said, although they are entitled to use parking for "a limited number of days if circumstances warrant it."

City Hall and the hospital are working together to fight the on-street parking sprawl that many residents attribute to the hospital's employees and customers.

New smartmeters prevent people from staying in one spot all day, and the parking analysis suggested either extending the hours that the meters are active past 6 p.m. or raising the prices on meters to discourage long-term parking there.

"Our understanding is the city staff is considering whether any additional changes are needed," Sharrer said.

Saint John's has committed to sending Walker Parking Consultants out to conduct an on-street survey within 120 days of opening two new facilities, which were expected to open at the end of March.



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

SHE'S OUT: **A car exits the Saint John's Health Center parking structure on Arizona Avenue.**

That timing seems off to Gregg Heacock, member of the Mid-City Neighbors neighborhood group.

City Hall should wait for the on-street study to be completed before signing off on smaller parking requirements so that it can find out if the hospital's employees are actually using the spaces provided or if they're finding cheaper alternatives, he said.

"Well, let's wait for it," Heacock said. "I think there ought to be some anecdotal study for the nurses and staff to find out what's going on with them. What's really happening, we want to be fair. Is this working, or is something wrong here?"

Staff has not yet prepared a response to the report.

Councilmember Terry O'Day had not yet had time to review the report, but said it's important to "rely on facts."

"We have to keep in mind that we are fortunate to have great hospitals in Santa Monica, when so many other communities have none. Saint John's Hospital is an important part of our life (and) safety in this city," O'Day said Wednesday.

Others are less charitable, and believe the original 434-space structure should have gone up in the first place.

"I still think it was a mistake two years ago to absolve Saint John's of their parking structure commitment," said City Councilmember Kevin McKeown. "I can't believe residents in Mid-City are imagining their parking problems."

Saint John's has undergone a number of high-profile changes in recent months, including an overhaul of its top staff.

The Los Angeles Times reported Saturday that multiple health systems including UCLA — which also has a hospital in Santa Monica — are considering bids on the hospital, which has struggled to break even in recent years.

According to the article, Saint John's lost $21.9 million in 2010 and $12.8 million in 2011.

ashley@smdp.com









Billionaire cries foul in vintage wine sale

LARRY NEUMEISTER
Associated Press

NEW YORK As experts can testify, super sleuths in the wine business must study the cork, glass, sediment, wrapping, labels and how full a bottle of wine is to ascertain whether it's the real deal. And as two uber-wealthy wine collectors can tell you as they square off in federal court over some questionable bottles, even that sometimes is not enough.

Testimony began Wednesday in a civil trial six years after Florida energy maven William Koch, a yachtsman and collector, sued onetime-billionaire California businessman Eric Greenberg in U.S. District Court in Manhattan over $320,000 he spent in 2005 on two dozen bottles of wine that turned out to be duds.

It's heartbreaking for a true collector to learn that wine is inauthentic because it's more than just a bottle and a flavor, Koch's attorney John Hueston said.

"Koch will say these are links to history," he said, adding that great wines transport people to another era. "It's not just the juice in the package."

Greenberg — a former billionaire who built two Internet consulting companies before the 2000 collapse of those stocks reportedly reduced his net worth by as much as 90 percent — asserted his innocence as he took the stand as one of the trial's first witnesses.

"I wouldn't sell a fake wine," he said. "I've never intentionally sold fake wine in my life."

Koch, the brother of famous industrialists and conservative political supporters David and Charles Koch, is seeking compensation for the $320,000, along with unspecified damages. The trial may yet end in a settlement.

Greenberg years ago capitalized on the growing interest in the sale of alcohol for investment purposes, becoming one of the world's top owners of vintage wine, with a collection of more than 70,000 bottles.

According to court documents, Greenberg earned about $9 million when he sold 17,000 bottles of wine at the sale where Koch made his purchases, reducing his collection by about a quarter.

Koch was duped by an auction brochure that promised buyers the "greatest wines of all time" and "extremely rare" bottles dating to the early 1800s, Hueston said.

Koch paid as much as $30,000 for some bottles, including several purported to be from the 1800s. Those included a $22,542 bottle of Chateau Lafite Rothschild from 1805, a $29,172 bottle of Chateau Lafite Rothschild from 1811 and a $33,150 magnum of Chateau Lafite Rothschild from 1870. The oldest bottles are no longer part of the court case.

Unscrupulous wine dealers have been known to put fine-vintage labels on cheaper bottles and try pass them off as the real thing. Greenberg is not alleged to have done that himself, but Koch's lawyers say he should have known something was amiss.

An investigation revealed that Greenberg had been warned by experts that bottles in his collection were not authentic and decided to push them on unwitting buyers at his auction rather than toss them, Hueston said.

Greenberg is not to blame for any bad bottles of wine Koch bought, said Arthur Shartsis, one of the defendant's lawyers.

A catalog for the sale warned buyers that the wine was being sold "as is" without any promises as to its authenticity.

Further, Greenberg tried to remove bogus bottles himself before the sale and he exposed the corks on bottles so buyers could examine them prior to the sale, Shartsis said. He also used an established auction house with a good reputation that inspected the bottles to aid the pursuit of authenticity, the lawyer said.

On the stand, Greenberg explained how he quickly refunded money to a buyer once who claimed he had sold fake wine.

"I stood behind my wine as I always do and gave them a refund," Greenberg said. "I have nothing to hide."

Greenberg maintains through his lawyers that the ultimate test is to taste the wine itself, a luxury that also can devalue bottles that can cost thousands of dollars.

Shartsis was not permitted to tell jurors that Koch is a billionaire, but he dropped some hints.

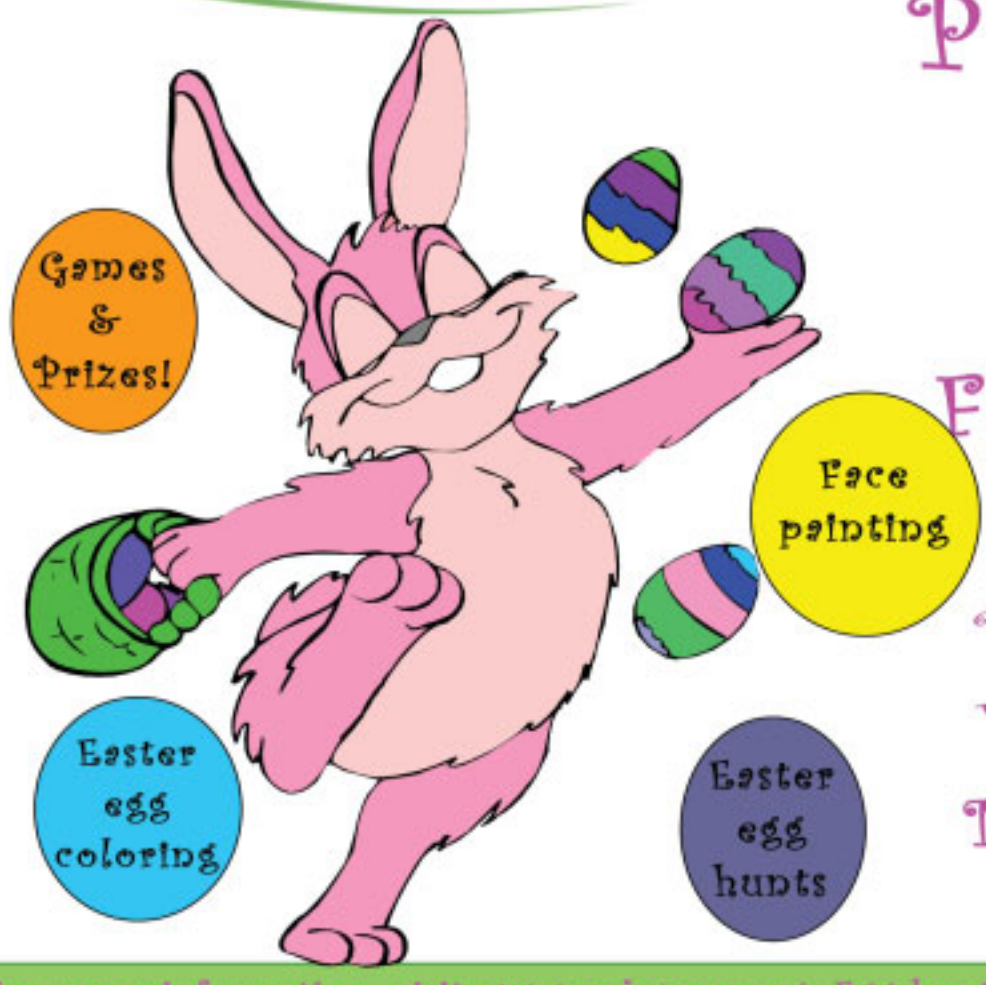
He noted that Koch spent $3.7 million buying 2,600 bottles of wine from Greenberg and paid a man more than $75,000 daily for two days to make his bids for him at the auction. He criticized Koch for failing to hire people to inspect the bottles he intended to purchase before the auction.

The dangers of trading in rare wines was already apparent to Koch, who learned in 2005 that four bottles of French wine he believed had been once owned by Thomas Jefferson were fake.

Since then, he's been on a bit of a crusade against wine fakery, having sued wine companies, auction houses and Greenberg, saying in court papers that counterfeiters for years "have duped wine collectors into paying millions of dollars for near worthless bottles of wine."

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Investors struggle to get past Europe's woes

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Investors just can't get past Europe.

Renewed worries about the region's debt crisis weighed on the Dow Jones industrial average on Wednesday, and held the Standard & Poor's 500 index back from reaching an all-time high.

Investors are watching to see if Cyprus can shore up its banking system. They are also concerned about Italy, where political parties are struggling to form a new government.

The Dow fell 33.49 points to close at 14,526.16, a loss of 0.2 percent. It dropped as many as 120 points in morning trading then spent the rest of the day climbing back.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index slipped 0.92 to 1,562.85, less than three points short of its all-time high set in October 2007.

Bad news from Europe and good news from the U.S. have tossed the stock market around over the past week. Stocks slumped Monday as Cyprus scrambled to rescue its banks. They rallied Tuesday on stronger home prices and a jump in factory orders.

"There are still plenty of worries about (Europe's) banking system," said J.J. Kinahan, chief derivatives strategist at TD Ameritrade. "But the U.S. really is on a nice little roll."

Kinahan said he thought the S&P 500 could make another run at its record high on Thursday.

Cyprus is preparing to reopen its banks on Thursday after a nearly two-week shutdown. An international bailout requires people with large bank balances to help pay for the rescue.

In Italy, a leading political party failed in its attempt to form a new government. The stalemate has raised fears that the country will be unable to manage its deep debts. Italy has the third-largest economy of the 17 countries that use the euro.

Worries also hit Europe's bond markets especially hard. Borrowing rates for Italy and Spain shot higher, a sign of weaker confidence in their financial health. Rates for Germany and France, two of Europe's more stable countries, sank as traders shifted money into their bonds.

In the U.S., the Nasdaq composite inched up 4.04 points, or 0.1 percent, to 3,256.52.

Four of the 10 industry groups in the S&P 500 index edged higher. Utilities and health care, which investors tend to buy when they want to play it safe, made the biggest gains.

Health care is the best performing industry in the S&P this year, up 14 percent. That compares with a 10 percent rise for the S&P 500.

Kim Forrest, a senior equity analyst at Fort Pitt Capital, said it appears that many investors are treating certain stocks as if they were bonds.

"There's a recognition that bonds are overpriced, so people are moving into healthcare and utilities that pay a nice dividend," she said. "Those are pretty boring investments, and by that I mean their prices don't move a lot."

City of Santa Monica

NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS
CITY OF SANTA MONICA
TASK FORCE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

One seat on the Task Force on the Environment is available.

Applications due by 12:00 Noon, Thursday, April 18, 2013.

The Task Force on the Environment (ETF) is comprised of seven City Council-appointed members. The role of the ETF is to advise City Council and staff on issues related to environmental programs and policy, in accordance with the guiding principles, goals and objectives of the Sustainable City Program. The ETF members act as advocates, in a manner consistent with City policy, for Task Force recommendations to the community. The Task Force role is both pro-active and reactive.

The Task Force on the Environment meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m., at Virginia Avenue Park, Patio Building C, 2200 Virginia Avenue, Santa Monica, CA 90404. For more information on the commitments of this position, please contact the Staff Liaison, Shannon Parry at (310) 458-2227.

No Santa Monica City Employee may serve as a member of any Board or Commission.

Applications and information on the Task Force on the Environment duties & disclosure requirements are available from the Office of Sustainability and the Environment and can be accessed on the website at www.sustainablesm.org/taskforce .

Please return completed applications by Thursday, April 18, 2013 by mail to the City of Santa Monica Office of Sustainability and the Environment, 200 Santa Monica Pier, Suite I, Santa Monica, CA 90401 or by email to environment@smgov.net. All current applications on file will be considered.

Disability related assistance and alternate formats of this document are available upon request by calling (310) 458-2213.

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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION BY THE SANTA MONICA REDEVELOPMENT SUCCESSOR AGENCY OVERSIGHT BOARD TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY ASSETS CONSTRUCTED AND USED FOR A GOVERNMENTAL PURPOSE TO THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION (A) OF HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTION 34181

On April 8, 2013, the Santa Monica Redevelopment Successor Agency Oversight Board ("Oversight Board") will consider a proposed action to authorize the transfer of ownership of real property assets constructed and used for a governmental purpose to the City pursuant to any existing agreements relating to the construction or use of that asset ("Proposed Action").

Address*	Government Purpose
1700 Main	public park
1673 Ocean Ave	public park
1665, 1667 and 1683 Ocean Ave	public right of way
1234 4th Street (Parking Structure 1)	public parking structure
1235 2nd Street (Parking Structure 2)	public parking structure
1318 and 1320 4th Street (Parking Structure 3)	public parking structure
1321 2nd Street (Parking Structure 4)	public parking structure
1440 4th Street (Parking Structure 5)	public parking structure
1431 2nd Street (Parking Structure 6)	public parking structure
320 Broadway (Parking Structure 7)	public parking structure
215 Colorado (Parking Structure 8)	public parking structure
2701 Barnard Way	public park and landscaped pathway
3275 Barnard Way	public landscape parkway
3285 and 3358 Barnard Way	public street and landscape parkway
2918 Barnard Way and 110 Pier	public street, bike path and park

*All addresses are located within the City of Santa Monica, California

WHAT: Santa Monica Redevelopment Successor Agency Oversight Board Public Meeting to consider the Proposed Action

WHERE: Ken Edwards Center
1527 4th Street, Room 104/105
Santa Monica, 90401

WHEN: Monday, ~~March 18, 2013~~ April 8, 2013 (Meeting Rescheduled)
5:30 p.m.

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Minimal WNW swell eases. Mostly shows for standout spots with 1-3' surf there

BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **March 20, 2013**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)
- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 26 / 32
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: simplehuman, LAcarGUY, SIMA and Groundwork Family Foundation

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+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisos creeks.		
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	A
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Solstice Canyon at Ben Blocker County Beach.	A+	A+
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	B
Surfrider Beach (beach location)- daily.	A	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A	F
Los Flores State Beach at Los Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19548 PCH stairs.	A+	A+
Pena Creek at Los Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	C	C
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	F	F
Will Rogers State Beach at 17338 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	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	A+
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	D	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	A+
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	F
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	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.	F	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A	A+
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of CIWW jetty).	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	C	A+
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	A+

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

Heal the Bay's Beach Report Card℠ is based on weekly water quality monitoring data provided by the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Monitoring Division and the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Data is analyzed as soon as it is made available to us by the public agencies. Beaches are graded on an A-F scale based on the risk of ocean users becoming ill. Samples are analyzed for bacteria—enterococcus, total and fecal coliforms—that indicate biological pollution. A fact sheet detailing the exact methodology used in determining grades for each location is available from the office or on our web site. The report is not designed to measure the amount of trash or toxins found at local beaches.

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

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

Heal the Bay

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MLB

Dominican court orders Cespedes to pay ex-agent

DIONISIO SOLDEVILA
Associated Press

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic — A court order unsealed Wednesday requires Oakland outfielder Yoenis Cespedes to pay 22 percent of the value of the contract he signed with the Athletics to the former agent who helped him secure the deal.

Cespedes must pay nearly $8 million to Edgar Mercedes, according to Guillermo Estrella, the lawyer who represented the former agent in the commercial arbitration court in the northern city of Santiago.

Estrella said the order, which was issued March 15 but only made public Wednesday, is immediately enforceable and he plans to notify the Athletics so they can begin docking the Cuban slugger's salary. They can also place a lien on any property he has in the U.S. and they plan to file suit against the outfielder for damages.

"We have now an order that is applicable in the U.S. and allows us to say that the rules are clear," Estrella said.

A lawyer for Cespedes, Cristian Martínez, told The Associated Press that by their analysis the amount the court has ordered to pay will total much less, perhaps around $2 million, in part because of the taxes the player must pay on his salary in the United States. He said they are still reviewing the decision to see if they have any options to appeal.

Mercedes filed suit in 2012, alleging that Cespedes reneged on their contract. The decision was announced Wednesday.

The 27-year-old Cespedes defected from Cuba to the Dominican Republic and signed a $36 million, four-year contract with the Athletics.

He batted .292 with 23 home runs and 82 RBIs in 129 games, finishing runner-up to the Los Angeles Angels' Mike Trout for AL Rookie of the Year. He also hit 25 doubles and five triples while striking out 102 times.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Ninotchka (NR) 1hr 50min
7:30pm

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

Life of Pi 3D (PG) 2hrs 06min
12:45pm, 6:45pm

Croods (PG) 1hr 38min
11:55am, 1:35pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Jack the Giant Slayer (PG-13) 1hr 54min
2:20pm, 5:00pm, 7:40pm, 10:20pm

Identity Thief (R) 1hr 51min
3:45pm, 10:00pm

Admission (PG-13) 1hr 57min
11:45am, 2:15pm, 4:45pm, 7:20pm, 10:00pm

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

Host (PG-13) 2hrs 05min
9:00pm

G.I. Joe: Retaliation (PG-13) 1hr 39min
11:00am, 4:40pm, 10:30pm

Spring Breakers (R) 1hr 34min
11:15am, 1:35pm, 5:50pm, 8:20pm, 11:00pm

G.I. Joe: Retaliation 3D (PG-13) 1hr 39min
1:45pm, 7:30pm

Oz The Great and Powerful in 3D (PG) 2hrs 07min
11:45am, 2:45pm, 3:55pm, 6:55pm, 10:00pm

Croods 3D (PG) 1hr 38min
11:30am, 12:45pm, 2:35pm, 3:35pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:40pm

Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG-13) 1hr 40min
11:20am, 1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 9:50pm

Olympus Has Fallen () 1hr 40min
11:15am, 2:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:45pm, 10:50pm

Call (R) 1hr 35min
6:30pm

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

Jesus Christ Superstar (NR) 1hr 48min
7:30pm

Happy Poet (NR) 1hr 25min
1:00pm, 3:10pm, 5:20pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

On the Road (R) 2hrs 20min
1:20pm, 4:20pm, 7:20pm, 10:15pm

Bless Me, Ultima (PG-13) 1hr 46min
4:30pm

Everyone Has a Plan (Todos tenemos un plan) (R) 1hr 58min
1:10pm, 4:00pm, 9:50pm

Gatekeepers (Shomerei Ha'saf) (PG-13) 1hr 35min
1:50pm, 9:40pm

AMC Criterion 6
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-7910

Oz The Great and Powerful (PG) 2hrs 07min
11:15am, 2:05pm, 4:30pm, 7:35pm, 10:35pm

Warm Bodies (PG-13) 1hr 37min
11:30am, 1:50pm, 7:15pm

Silver Linings Playbook (R) 2hrs 00min
12:30pm, 3:30pm, 6:45pm, 9:45pm

Side Effects (R) 1hr 46min
11:40am, 2:10pm, 4:50pm, 7:25pm, 10:20pm

Stoker (R) 1hr 38min
4:20pm, 10:00pm

Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG-13) 1hr 40min
11:55am, 2:30pm, 5:20pm, 7:55pm, 10:25pm

InAPPropriate Comedy (R) 1hr 24min
11:20am, 1:50pm, 5:15pm, 7:45pm, 10:10pm

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

WHERE THE CROWDS ARE, CAPPY

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Listen to what is being offered, and know that you do not have to agree. A partner or an associate has strong ideas. Tonight: Don't allow anyone to slow you down -- you are a roll.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Do your best to take care of errands and other responsibilities. You easily could be overwhelmed, so opt for a change of pace, whether it be napping, shopping or pursuing some other pastime. Fill your day with different activities. Tonight: Think "early weekend."

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You simply can't rein in your imagination, no matter how hard you try. You might decide not to discuss your flights of fancy. A relationship with a new friend delights you to no end. A meeting takes an interesting turn. Tonight: Continue as you have.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ If you can isolate yourself, you will get more done. You like a cozy environment, so consider adding a plant or painting to your office; it will add to your productivity. Schedule a brainstorming session toward the end of the day. Tonight: Let it all hang out.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Respond to all of your messages, calls and meetings. Be willing to go along with someone's off-the-wall idea or suggestion. It could sound crazy, but it just might work. Sometimes, the element of surprise works in your favor. Tonight: Mosey on home.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Take into account the cost of what needs to be done. It is better to take a solid look at the budget for a project before going forward. Be more direct with a loved one. An associate or a friend could surprise you with his or her suggestion. Tonight: Meet friends for munchies.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Use today to the max for any situation or project that you feel is important. Others will surprise you with their responses. Caring evolves when you can get past initial reactions and understand where others are coming from. Tonight: Your treat.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Play it low-key. More facts and information will emerge if you observe, listen and perhaps make a subtle comment here and there. You could be surprised at what you might have missed. Tonight: Be confident.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Use the daylight hours to maximize your interests. You might be involved with an important project or a key interaction. Others are receptive to you right now. Present your ideas in a positive manner. The unexpected marks your love life. Tonight: Make it early.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Take a stand, but don't be upset if someone has a strong reaction. Just for now, let go of traditional thinking as you approach a problematic situation. Be innovative, and you'll get better results. Tonight: Be where crowds are.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Detach, and you will understand more. You succeed because you are willing to look beyond the obvious. How you see a personal matter could change. No matter what you do and why you do it, the end results will be the same. Tonight: Till the wee hours.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ An unexpected event or comment might influence your self-image, and could work against fluid communication. You simply are trying to digest too much, too fast. If you need to step away from a conversation or meeting, do. Tonight: Let the good times rock and roll.

Thursday, March 28, 2013

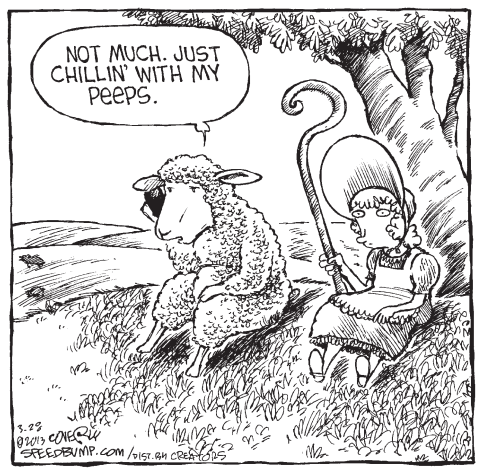
This year you easily could be linked to the unexpected. You'll enter a room, and something surprising will occur. Learn to balance your newfound independence with your sensitivity toward others. This act will take work. If you are single, you could go through a sequence of different sweeties. Your love life will be exciting, and the right person will fit perfectly with your lively personality. If you are attached, the two of you are on a seesaw of emotions. Make communication a priority in order to change the balance between you. SCORPIO always has a different perspective.

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

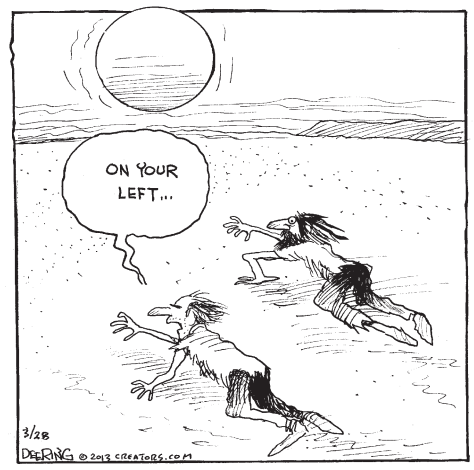
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Sound off every week on our Q-Line™. See page 5 for more info.

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Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



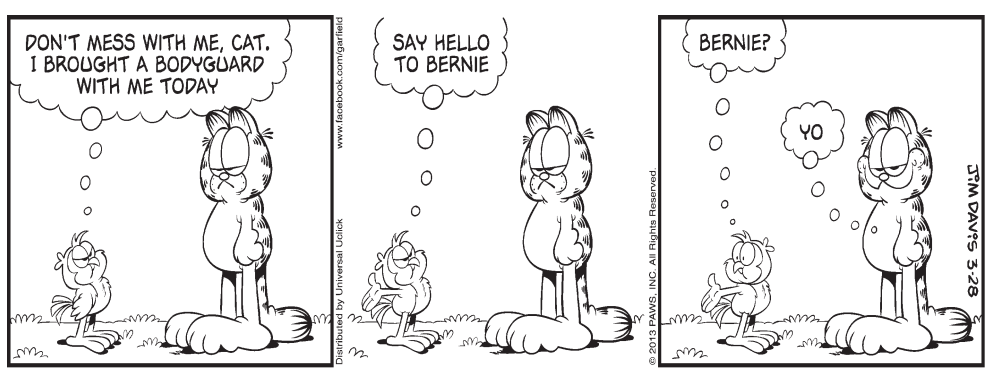
Strange Brew
By John Deering



Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

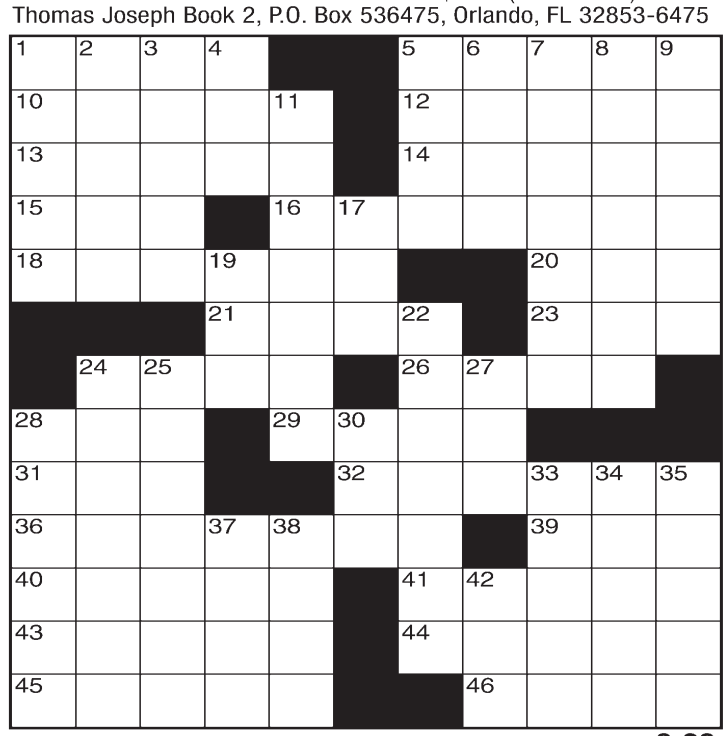
ACROSS
1 Pack and send
5 Sacked out
10 Stately home
12 Unbilled role
13 Low joint
14 Run up
15 Sturgeon eggs
16 Opening maneuvers
18 Choice morsel
20 Antietam general
21 Prayer ender
23 Misstep
24 Toy with a tail
26 Says further
28 Golfer Hogan
29 Basketball's Archibald
31 Santa — winds
32 Warren resident
36 Bilbo and Frodo, e.g.
39 Vein contents
40 Visitor from afar
41 Fast runners
43 Pit worker
44 Deal maker
45 Poet Breton
46 Keats creations

DOWN
1 Stylish
2 Asian capital
3 Signed
4 Campaign pro
5 Racket
6 Easy dupe
7 Contacted, in a way
8 Bugs
9 Salad preparer
11 Course of treatment
17 Had something
19 Night flier
22 Boris's partner
24 "thirty-something" actor
25 Stuck, so to speak
27 Ball girl
28 Grand — (Atlantic island)
30 Skill
33 Yawning, perhaps
34 Singer Cara
35 Battery make-up
37 Tankard fill
38 About
42 In the past

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

Yesterday's answer

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



3-28

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 3/26
20 33 46 49 51
Meganumber: 46
Jackpot: $34M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 3/27
4 10 29 36 44
Meganumber: 17
Jackpot: $7M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 3/27
3 14 25 30 35

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 3/27
MIDDAY: 2 0 6
EVENING: 0 9 6

SANTA ANITA PARK
Draw Date: 3/27
1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit
RACE TIME: 1:41.01

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

■ Solutions to Non-Problems: (1) Illinois state Rep. Luis Arroyo introduced a bill in March that would ban the state's restaurants from serving lion meat. (2) Georgia state Rep. Jay Neal introduced legislation in February to ban the implantation of a human embryo into a nonhuman. Rep. Neal told the Associated Press that this has been a hot issue in "other states."

■ Imprisoned British computer hacker Nicholas Webber, 21, serving time for computer fraud, hacked into the mainframe at his London prison after officials allowed him to take a computer class. Like most prisons, the Isis facility attempts to rehabilitate inmates with classes to inspire new careers, but apparently no one made the connection between the class and Webber's crime. (One prison staff member involved in the class was fired.)

■ Dustin Coyle, 34, was charged with domestic abuse in Oklahoma City in January, but it was hardly his fault, he told police. His ex-girlfriend accused him (after she broke up with him) of swiping her cat and then roughing it up, punching her, elbowing her and sexually assaulting her. Coyle later lamented to police that she and he were supposed to get married, but for some reason she changed her mind. "If she would just marry me, that would solve everything," but, according to the police report, he would settle for her being his girlfriend again -- or a one-night stand.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1951 – First Indochina War: In the Battle of Mao Khe, French Union forces, led by World War II hero Jean de Lattre de Tassigny, inflict a defeat on Vi?t Minh forces commanded by General Võ Nguyên Giáp.

1959 – The State Council of the People's Republic of China dissolves the Government of Tibet.

WORD UP!

tranche
\ trahnch, trahnsh \ , noun;
1.
any part, division, or installment: We've hired the first tranche of researchers.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Average Price of **ALL** Santa Monica Single Family Homes From **ALL** agents in **ALL** companies Listed for Sale as of Late March 2013		
Santa Monica Canyon	=	$ 7,559,750
North of Montana	=	$ 4,489,462
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$ 2,458,000
South of Wilshire	=	$ 599,000
Sunset Park	=	$ 1,535,200
Ocean Park	=	$ 1,697,000
Statistics updated every Friday		

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