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THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 118

Santa Monica Daily Press



BRING IT TO MARKET
SEE PAGE 5

We have you covered

THE TAKING TO THE STREETS ISSUE

Fraud charges filed against former campaign treasurer

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SACRAMENTO The woman accused of stealing money from Democratic candidates across California did so for over a decade and made off with $7 million in that time, according to a court document released by the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Kinde Durkee and her company, Durkee & Associates, specialized in providing accounting and campaign reporting services for political committees for state and federal offices, as well as local elections in Santa Monica.

She faces five counts of mail fraud, and is expected to be in court Friday.

The information item, released Tuesday, details allegations that Durkee moved large

SEE CHARGES PAGE 11

Reward offered in '08 slaying of Santa Monican

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

DOWNTOWN LA A $75,000 reward has been reinstated by the city of Los Angeles for information leading to the identification and arrest of the person or people responsible for the murder of a Santa Monica resident and his friend in 2008.

Councilwoman Jan Perry on Wednesday joined Southwest Division detectives and the families of Clifton Hibbert Jr. and Kenneth Patterson to call on members of the public to come forward.

"For the families of the victims it is extremely painful to recount the loss this crime represents," Perry said in a statement to the Daily Press. "It is imperative that we not forget and do all that we can as a city to solve this case and see that justice is served."

Hibbert, 22, of Santa Monica, and Patterson, 23, were found dead on the 4200 block of Figueroa Street near USC on March 28, 2008. According to police, Hibbert, who graduated from Santa Monica High School, and Patterson were returning from a party in

SEE REWARD PAGE 10



JUSTICE FOR ALL

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

Markashia Jeter, a volunteer at Pico Youth & Family Center, calls out to passing cars Wednesday demanding justice for Trayvon Martin, a Florida teen who was shot and killed by a neighborhood watchman. PYFC, a Santa Monica-based nonprofit for teens, organized the rally.

Parking structure proposed for pier

Loss of surface spots would free up 24 percent of structure's deck

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The City Council gave the go ahead to explore building a parking structure next to the Santa Monica Pier, although members cautioned staff to pay attention to the structure's aesthetics and to avoid creating a traffic snarl in nearby neighborhoods.

The structure, proposed for what's now a beach maintenance yard, would be short enough not to disrupt views from the bluffs immediately to the east of the pier, and would actually be below the majority of the pier bridge.

A small bridge would span the gap between the structure and the pier at the point where the two structures intersect.

As proposed, the structure would provide 270 spaces, the same number as are currently offered in the parking lot on the pier deck, which might then be closed.

Killing the surface lot would free up ocean views and 24 percent of the pier deck space and eliminate the conflict between the pedestrians that crowd the pier and the cars trying to get down the pier bridge to park in the lot.

"Cars and pedestrians are not an ideal mix," said Martin Pastucha, director of public works.

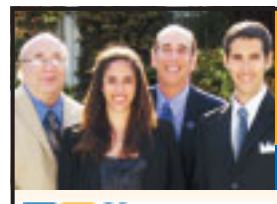
At present, cars and pedestrians have an uneasy relationship on the pier. Both use the old pier bridge to descend to the deck. Pedestrians are supposed to keep to the sidewalks on either side of the main roadway, but often spill over the thin, concrete paths and into the street.

The Santa Monica Police Department shuts the bridge down for car traffic during big events, like the Twilight Dance Series summer concerts or the movie series on the

SEE PIER PAGE 10


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, March 29, 2012

Thinking about your health
Santa Monica Senior Center
1450 Ocean Ave., 1 p.m.
In this guided meditation, participants engage in a process that is very restful and can be rejuvenating. Cost: Free for Senior Center members. Must be 50 years of age to attend. For more information, call Jaime Fiallos at (310) 458-8644.

Capturing the coast
Santa Monica Pier Aquarium
1600 Ocean Front Walk,
2 p.m. — 5 p.m.
From gorgeous coastlines and beautiful birds to underwater sea life and happy kids, photographs from the California Ocean and Coastal Amateur Photography Contest are on exhibit.
The photos selected for the exhibit represent winning entries from over the years.

Learning the basics
Fairview Branch Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Spanish speakers are invited to learn how to use the Internet and other basic functions. For more information call Martha Castillo at (310) 458-8681.

Friday, March 30, 2012

The best way to move
Senior Center
1450 Ocean Ave.,
1 p.m. — 2 p.m.
Tai Chi and Chi Gong are Chinese exercise systems that, through the practice of gentle, flowing movements, train the body to move in the very best way it can — while simultaneously calming the mind. Join Shanaz Baligh, who has been practicing Tai Chi and Chi Gong for 10 years. Must be a Senior Center member and 50 years old and above to participate. Membership is free. For more information, call (310) 458-8644.

Jesus in Georgia
First United Methodist Church
1008 11th St., 7 p.m.
What if Jesus were born today in Gainsville, Georgia? That is the premise behind the musical "Cotton Patch Gospel," written by Tom Key and Russell Treyz, with music and lyrics by Harry Chapin. It is based on the translations of pastor and theologian Clarence Jordan. The high-energy show features an adult ensemble who bring the Biblical story of Jesus to life — with 20th-century touches. Performances to be held March 31 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Cost: $10 for adults/$5 for seniors and children. For more information, call (310) 393-8258.

That's deep
Electric Lodge
1416 Electric Ave., Venice, Calif.,
8 p.m.
Internationally recognized choreographer and dance ethnologist Kimberly Miguel Mullen collaborates with prolific singer/songwriter Mia Doi Todd and producer Alberto López for the world premiere of "Yemanja: Mother of the Deep." This inspirational performance piece is a creative interplay of live music, song and dance that will engage and transport its audience on a journey evoking the transformative spirit of the sea. Cost: $20/$15 for students with ID, children and seniors. To buy tickets go to www.kimberlymiguelmullen.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





BIG WIN!

Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

Santa Monica High School freshman Denise Reynoso attempts to score as Beverly Hills' Shyra Costas makes the tag on Wednesday at Beverly Hills. Samohi would win the game 12-0, improving its record to 2-0 in Ocean League play.

Early skateboard innovator Larry Stevenson dies

BY ANDREW DALTON
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Larry Stevenson, a skateboard maker who helped take the sport from an early 1960s kid's gimmick often compared to the hula hoop to a respectable and eventually professional sport on par with surfing, has died.

Stevenson died at age 81 on Sunday at Ronald Reagan-UCLA Medical Center in Santa Monica, his son Curt Stevenson told The Associated Press.

The elder Stevenson had dealt with Parkinson's Disease since the early 1970s, and he'd been in a nursing home for much of the past decade. His death was first reported by the Los Angeles Times.

Larry Stevenson was a design innovator who developed features still found on skateboards 50 years later and a businessman who was among the first to make professional and mass-produced boards.

But many skaters say his greatest achievement was getting the public to accept skateboards by permanently linking it to surfing, a sport that had become a national craze and was inspiring movies and music.

"That freedom of being in the waves, he wanted to transfer that to land," said Michael Brooke, author of the 1999 history of skateboarding "The Concrete Wave" who often interviewed Stevenson.

"He basically was the godfather of skate culture. Before him, skateboards were toys."

A Southern California native, Stevenson was working as a lifeguard in Venice Beach in 1959 when he saw kids tooling around on mostly homemade boards with clay or metal wheels.

Before he started manufacturing, he became a pioneer in promoting the sport through magazine pictures and stories, an element that would be almost as essential to skate culture as the boards themselves.

He pushed skateboarding in Surf Guide, a magazine he founded with a friend, showing pictures of skaters carving up sidewalks alongside surfers riding waves.

Stevenson then began designing and selling boards with his wife out of their garage.

His first commercially produced board was known as the "Makaha Surf & Ski Skateboard," in an attempt to link the sport to the slopes as well as the waves.

He used the Makaha name, taken from a Hawaiian surf spot, for the company he'd run for the next several decades.

By 1965, the company had sold $4 million worth of skateboards, according to the Los Angeles Times.

The sport would go through a horrible dropoff by the end of 1965, with police and politicians spreading fear about the dangerous skateboard menace on city streets.

SEE **OBIT** PAGE 12

High court may throw out parts of health care law

MARK SHERMAN & PETE YOST
Associated Press

WASHINGTON The Supreme Court signaled Wednesday that it could throw out other key parts of President Barack Obama's health care law if it first finds the individual insurance requirement unconstitutional.

On the third and last day of arguments, the justices appeared to accept the administration's argument that at least two important insurance changes are so closely tied to the insurance requirement that they could not survive without it.

Less clear was whether the court would conclude the entire law, with its hundreds of unrelated provisions, would have to be cast aside.

The justices also spent part of the day considering a challenge by 26 states to the expansion of the Medicaid program for low-income Americans, an important feature in the effort extending health insurance to an additional 30 million people.

The court's liberal justices made clear they will vote to uphold the Medicaid expansion, which would take in 15 million people with the federal government paying almost all the costs.

Justices Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer voiced strong disagreement with the states' contention that the expansion of the joint state-federal program is unconstitutionally coercive.

"Why is a big gift from the federal government a matter of coercion?" Kagan asked.

The day's earlier session was unusual in that it assumed an answer to the central question in the historic health care case: that the requirement that Americans carry health insurance or pay a penalty will be struck down. In fact, if they follow their normal practice, the justices have not even met yet to take a preliminary vote in the case.

In their questions, the liberal justices took issue with Paul Clement, the lawyer for the states seeking to have the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act tossed out in its entirety.

"What's wrong with leaving this in the hands of those who should be fixing this?" asked Sotomayor, referring to Congress.

Chief Justice John Roberts also spoke about parts of the law that "have nothing to

SEE **COURT** PAGE 12

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Inflicting damage

Editor:

The City Council has no business telling a private business owner what to pay his employees ("Council quibbles on living wage," March 22). There are minimum wage laws already in place, and the market dictates whether wages above that level are necessary in order to hire the best suited for a particular employment position.

Not surprisingly, this high wage directive comes from council members who have never owned and operated a business and who obviously lack common sense. But these same council members certainly know how to waste taxpayer money.

The City Council claims high wages for hospitality employees is necessary so the employees can afford to live in Santa Monica and thus reduce traffic. Yet this same foolish and wasteful City Council has spent hundreds of millions of dollars on affordable housing projects that are not rented to those who come from or work in Santa Monica, but instead are given to outsiders with no connection to the city and Santa Monica residents and employees are effectively locked out. But this same City Council has never met a large commercial development, and its increased traffic, it doesn't like.

It's apparent this City Council only wants to keep getting re-elected and continue to inflict damage on our once proud and grand Santa Monica.

George Kaplan
Santa Monica

The big payback

Editor:

The three SMRR puppets – City Council members Terry O'Day, Gleam Davis and Kevin McKeown – voted for the excessive SMRR-backed wage sought by the hotel union that funnels contributions to SMRR campaigns. But SMRR-backed Mayor Richard Bloom opposed it and voted against the SMRR party line for a more reasonable wage for the new hotel project that is then passed by the City Council.

Several days later SMRR "leadership" holds a guarded, unadvertised session that ended up endorsing a candidate for the state Assembly district that includes Santa Monica ("Renters' rights group endorses Osborn," March 27). One of the Assembly candidates is Mayor Bloom, who did not receive the party's endorsement, even though it has endorsed him since 1998. Mayor Bloom then complains the so-called "leadership" of this ruling political party subverted the endorsement process.

SMRR claims to want transparency, but certainly the only thing that is visible here is a small number in the "leadership" of this ruling political party conspired behind closed doors to pay Mayor Bloom back and deny him the Assembly endorsement for not towing the party line and kowtowing to a union SMRR is reliant on.

Afterward, SMRR "leadership" claimed that it was concerned with Mayor Bloom's support of development. Of course, in SMRR, it's all right to support massive development, like the three puppets above did, but only if you can do it by paying back a union upon which you are dependent for political contributions. That's transparency at work.

Sam Feinberg
Santa Monica





Life Matters

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

Making sure meetings matter

DEAR LIFE MATTERS,

My company recently re-structured and I am now part of several cross-functional teams. While I am looking forward to the opportunity to work with additional staff members throughout the organization, I am a bit nervous about adjusting to the varying needs of each team. Given that I will be leading two new initiatives as a result of this reorganization I need advice on running effective meetings and effectively communicating with a variety of personalities. Please help!

Sincerely,
Cross-functional team leader

DEAR TEAM LEADER,

Cross-functional teams are often designed to ensure that new projects take in the perspective of multiple units within the company. While these teams present a great opportunity to provide innovative solutions to company issues, being successful as a cross-functional group may require additional effort to manage expectations, deal with the varying personalities of the team, and to set reasonable goals. Committing yourself to the process and managing expectations from the start will help ensure that your new teams are effective and successful.

As you are probably aware, there are several different philosophies on meetings. A lot has to do with the culture of your organization and the personal style of the individual leader. No matter what advice you get, I would encourage you to think about what style or approach will be most comfortable to you. Feeling as though you have to put on an act or follow pre-determined guidelines will only be exhausting and difficult to maintain over the long term. Try leveraging your personal strengths to execute effective meetings and meaningful communications with colleagues.

Before you schedule a meeting, consider not having a meeting. Consider whether the information could be distributed through a memo or e-mail. Examining the value of a physical meeting can help reduce unneeded meetings and ineffective use of staff time and resources, two things you'll have to pay close attention to as a team leader for these new projects. One way to distinguish whether a meeting is needed is to consider the method of communication. If your news focuses on one-way communication, meaning that you need to inform staff of something, a memo or e-mail may work best. However, if the topic requires discussion or two-way communication, holding a meeting may most effectively meet your objective. Ultimately, by only holding meetings when they are truly necessary your colleagues will know upfront that meetings are important.

As you prepare to schedule your first team meeting, make sure you know what your initial goals are. What do you hope to accomplish during the meeting? Break your answer down into specific and tangible outcomes. After determining the purpose and the goals, draft the agenda. Having a clear path set out ahead of time will help you to manage staff expectations while ensuring that you run the meeting in an organized and efficient manner. If possible, send the agenda to staff ahead of time so they can review the topics and prepare accordingly. Establishing a meeting with a focused intention and concrete goals will ensure that you start things off right.

Although you may be leading certain aspects of this new initiative, you do not have to be the only one who runs the meetings. Delegating responsibilities to others on your team can be a great way of building team ownership over staff meetings. If an agenda topic requires input from other staff members, consider having them prepare the materials for the meeting or lead the discussion on that particular topic. You may also choose to have team members submit topics for the agenda. Rather than asking for updates at the beginning or end of the meeting, your staff will feel as though they are valued contributors. Effectively involving others in the planning of the meeting should reduce off-topic discussions, allowing you to stay on track. This method will need to be carefully outlined and managed, so again your own personal leadership style needs to dictate your approach.

Finally, end the meeting with a recap of what was discussed, focusing specifically on action items. Detail out the next steps and ensure that everyone has a clear understanding of their individual responsibilities. During your first few meetings you may want to welcome process questions. First frame the approach to your staff members and note that responses must come in the form of action statements. For example "ideas should be to the point" as opposed to "she talks too much." Asking the team about what worked well or what type of meetings work best for them will again allow them each to feel invested in the process and will also allow you to gain more insight into their underlying thoughts on meetings. Good luck, you will do great!

KATRINA DAVY is a Santa Monica-based professional career counselor who has worked in university and private settings. She 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!





PUBLISHER
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Kevin Herrera
editor@smdp.com

MANAGING EDITOR
Daniel Archuleta
daniela@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Ashley Archibald
ashley@smdp.com

CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHER
Brandon Wise
brandonw@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Morgan Genser
news@smdp.com

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

NEWS INTERN
Colin Newton
news@smdp.com

PHOTOGRAPHY INTERN
Ray Solano
news@smdp.com

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

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

ADVERTISING TRAFFIC COORDINATOR
Rebecca Martinez
admin@smdp.com

OPERATIONS COORDINATOR
Michele Emch
michele.e@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Darren Ouellette
production@smdp.com

PRODUCTION DESIGNER
Alejandro Cantarero
production@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
Osvaldo Paganini
circulation@smdp.com

Santa Monica Daily Press
We have you covered

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

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Your column here

Tim Rowland

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

When will natural foods become just groceries?

AS WE SINK OUR TEETH DEEPER INTO the 21st century we have come to know a thing or two about food. We know that pastured poultry is superior; we know that grass-fed beef is healthier; we know that heirloom tomatoes are tastier; we know that hogs shouldn't be raised in high-rises.

OK, got it. Now what?

What's the next step for healthy eating, now that its foundations have been laid, best-sellers have been printed and the chickens have been turned loose on a world of unsuspecting grubs? How do we make natural food commonplace and get people to stop thinking of it as "locally sustainable agriculture" and start thinking of it as, simply, "groceries?"

It's a fair question. Yet no one (this writer included) seems to have an efficient and commercially-viable model for small-farm-product distribution. That's going to be the next big issue, because gathering healthy food is still an effort. It requires going out of one's way — sometimes a long way — to score a pasture-raised pork loin.

We rely on quaint but horribly archaic delivery systems, such as farmers markets and subscription baskets. To some, this is a necessary step. Consumers must be educated, and they say that the best way farmers can do this is face to face. Perhaps this slow but steady pressure will one day turn the tide; it has worked for glaciers. But along with being painfully slow, it often seems that for every convert, another customer loses interest or energy and gravitates back to the megamart.

The obvious response to this problem is to, as some enterprises are doing, employ the classic middleman.

But as logical as this sounds, the business model is likely to be less sustainable than the food itself. Healthy foods already cost more than traditional supermarket fare, so adding a middleman's cut elevates prices that many Americans already see as prohibitive. Largely, of course, this price difference is because factory farm food is government-subsidized, and because it's produced on a mass scale that facilitates major profits derived from razor-thin margins. But when we try to sermonize about "the true cost of food," eyes begin to glaze. Many shoppers consider price per pound, and if properly raised food isn't competitive — oh well.

It is true there have been efforts and inroads. Some community "farm to fork" concerns match producers with shoppers, in some cases even delivering groceries to the cook's doorstep. Other government-supported programs reward food-stamp shoppers with deals that double the value of their vouchers if they spend them on healthy, local food. Good for them.

But can a taxi service for groceries ever make economic sense? And how do these governmental fits and starts translate into a revolution when the No. 1 public-school cafeteria meal remains chicken tenders and fries? Decades of being told, explicitly and implicitly, how food "should" taste has colored our culinary worldview. So we have to argue that this is what broccoli is supposed to taste like, or that beef or pork that's slightly chewy is superior to flavorless but fork-tender meat from animals whose muscles haven't been called on to move around at any point in their miserable lives.

It has been a long, calculated journey into blandness, and now that we have arrived, it won't be easy to turn back.

If all this paints a grim picture of the nation's future food supply, it's because raising food in a careful, conscientious, and economically viable manner is tough. And good food certainly cannot be taken for granted, or it will quietly recede back into the purview of a few pigtailed people who name their kids Butterfly and Truth.

This means that every food-buying decision matters. It means leaders in urban and suburban neighborhoods not only need to be aware of healthy food issues, but should conceive strategies that allow for greater shopping efficiencies for members of the community.

In short, sustainable farming has to pay. And for it to pay, many more people must join the party. Once it has the numbers, distribution will take care of itself.

A lot of small farmers out there are trying to make a go of it, and their lives and viability become much easier when an urban or suburban cook becomes even a casual patron. The purchase of a dozen eggs raised with care, or a couple of grass-fed steaks every now and then might not seem to matter. But if a million of your closest friends and neighbors in the greater metropolitan areas are doing the same, it will matter to the farmers — and to the future of your food — a great deal.

TIM ROWLAND writes from western Maryland's highlands. Distributed by Bay Journal News Service.

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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Culture Watch

Sarah Spitz
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Finding Falkenstein

CLAIRE FALKENSTEIN (1908-1997), A female artist in her 50s, arrived in Los Angeles during the '60s when the mantra was "trust no one over 30" and when the art scene was dominated by hard-partying young men of the "cool school" who were creating their own new art and lifestyles.

This may be one of the reasons that the Bay Area artist, who established an international reputation in Paris and came to L.A. for the third phase of her prolific career, has been mostly overlooked by the citywide Pacific Standard Time art festival.

Another reason could be that the minute she mastered one medium she moved on to the next, ceaselessly experimenting. She drew, she painted, she made prints, she sculpted, she worked in ceramics, glass, wood and plastics. She was commissioned to create more public art than any Southern California artist; she welded massive but intricate wire and metal pieces alongside bold yet delicate jewelry. She practiced abstraction, expressionism, surrealism, assemblage, biomorphic shapes, she melded different styles and was a conceptual artist before it had a name.

Ultimately she did whatever interested or challenged her, and did it brilliantly, refusing to be dictated to by the demands of the art market. In an oral history, Falkenstein described art as "a life force."

"It's a real touch upon the nerve of life. That's what art is. And not many people are awakened to that," she said.

It's time for a museum to awaken interest in this overlooked multi-media talent, whose dynamic work is Promethean in its reach and refined in its craftsmanship.

Not one for career management, many of Falkenstein's works are still not catalogued more than 10 years after her death. Her archives contain a treasure trove of letters between her and the 20th century's most famous artists that's just begging to be mined. And given the colorful nature of the tales told about her, her bohemian and contrary way of life sounds ready-made for movies.

If there's any justice in the art world, the full-color book just published — the first-ever scholarly and readable examination of her work, titled "Claire Falkenstein" — and the stunning show at Jack Rutberg Fine Arts Gallery, "Claire Falkenstein: An Expansive Universe," will provide some enterprising Los Angeles curator the fodder for overdue re-appraisal and recognition of her life and career. This beautifully hung and expertly lighted must-see show walks us through the many phases of Falkenstein's art explorations.

On Saturday night the gallery hosted a panel with Rutberg and the three authors — Susan M. Anderson, Michael Duncan and Maren Henderson — moderated by art writer/curator/director Jay Belloli.



Photo courtesy Long Beach Museum of Art

TWISTED: **Claire Falkenstein's fountain titled 'Structure and Flow' at the Long Beach Museum of Art.**

A student of anthropology and philosophy at UC Berkeley, she took up drawing — her drawings were so impressive that she was given a solo show upon graduation. She taught alongside some of the Bay Area's big names: Clyfford Still, Richard Diebenkorn and David Park. Then at age 42, she left her San Francisco career and husband behind and moved to Paris, as Rutberg said, "an American woman with a blowtorch in her hand," to learn from the towering giants of European sculpture — Hans Arp, Alberto Giacometti, among others. Upon seeing her work, Henry Moore said, "At last, someone is doing something new."

With variety as her defining characteristic, the authors explained the thread that unites all phases of her work is found in her love of science and nature. Influenced by new discoveries in physics, Falkenstein tried to capture motion in sculpture using abstract forms, "exploding the volume" of solid sculptures, and creating works that would continue infinitely into space with her "endless screens" and "moving point" paintings.

Many of her public commissions have disappeared, including the famous "Structure and Flow" fountain on Wilshire Boulevard. Another "Structure and Flow" fountain is located at the Long Beach Museum of Art. In fact, their restaurant "Claire" is named in her honor.

SEE WATCH PAGE 12





Play Time

Cynthia Citron

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

‘The Seagull’ soars high

MEDVEDENKO THE SCHOOLTEACHER IS IN love with Masha, the daughter of the manager of a country estate. Masha is in love with Konstantin, a would-be playwright. Konstantin is in love with Nina, a would-be actress. Nina is in love with Trigorin, a successful novelist. Trigorin is in love with Irina Arkadina, a prominent actress and the mother of Konstantin. And Irina Arkadina is in love with herself.

If all this sounds terribly Russian, that’s because it is. It’s the always-brilliant Antaeus Company’s production of Anton Chekhov’s “The Seagull.” In this translation by Paul Schmidt the emphasis is on the pursuit of happiness, fame, self-expression, and love. But for these characters, marooned in a tedious summer vacation in the country, there is frustration, ennui, Pinteresque silences, and subdued humor.

Under Andrew Traister’s subtle direction, however, this play in which nothing much seems to happen is endlessly fascinating. Packed with emotional undercurrents and ravishing conversation, “The Seagull” is as relevant now as it was in 1895 when it was written.

Both Konstantin, who is attempting to find “a new form” for theater, and Trigorin, who is considered “quite good, but not as good as Turgenev,” have reached a point in their work where they are questioning its worth. In a stunning soliloquy Trigorin explains to Nina what it means to be a writer. He deplores his own obsession with writing, which consumes all his thoughts and all his time.

To her questions: “What is it like to be famous? What sensations does it give you?” he replies, “What sensations? I don’t believe it gives any.”

She persists. “If you only knew how I envy you! Men are born to different destinies. Some dully drag a weary, useless life behind them, lost in the crowd, unhappy, while to one out of a million, as to you, for instance, comes a bright destiny full of interest and meaning.”

“I see nothing especially lovely about it,” he responds. “I write ceaselessly. I am, as it were, on a treadmill. I hurry forever from one story to another and can’t help myself. Do you see anything bright and beautiful in that?

“I hear my desk calling and have to go back to it and begin to write, write, write, once more,” he continues. “And so it goes for everlasting. I cannot escape myself, though I feel that I am consuming my life.”

Nina, however, refuses to be discouraged by his words. She says, “For the bliss of being a writer or an actress I could endure want, and disillusionment, and the hatred of my friends, and the pangs of my own dissatisfaction with myself, but I should demand in return fame, real, resounding fame!”

And although she had previously revealed herself to be an ill-prepared actress, she runs off to Moscow to seek fame in the theater.

In the fourth and final act of this two-hour play, all the characters are reunited in the house in the country. It is two years later, and Sorin, who owns the estate and is Irina Arkadina’s brother, is dying, presumably of old age. (He is 62, which was probably “the new 92” in the 19th century.)

Masha, who always wears black (“in mourning for my life,” as she explains) has married the schoolteacher Medvedenko and added a white collar to her black dress.

Nina, who has returned momentarily, has had a fateful two years, which is revealed in a gossipy narrative by the others in the house. She talks to Konstantin about a seagull he had once shot and presented to her as a gift. Trigorin, who had arrived on the scene at the time, viewed the seagull as a subject for a short story:

“A young girl lives all her life on the shore of a lake. She loves the lake, like a seagull, and she’s happy and free, like a seagull. But a man arrives by chance, and when he sees her, he destroys her, out of sheer boredom. Like this seagull,” Trigorin said.

Ever afterwards, Nina confesses, she had seen herself as “the seagull.”

Ironically, this play, considered one of Chekhov’s masterpieces, was a dismal failure when it premiered in 1896. But two years later, when Constantin Stanislavski remounted it and directed it and played the role of Trigorin, it was deemed a triumph and “one of the greatest events in the history of Russian theatre,” according to the critics.

The Antaeus Theatre Company’s double-cast production adds a glow to this superb play’s reputation. Laura Wernette is absolutely perfect as the self-absorbed coquette Irina Arkadina, and Bo Foxworth is mesmerizing as Trigorin. (On alternate nights these parts are played by Gigi Bermingham and Adrian LaTourelle.)

Less perfect are the performances of Micheal McShane as Sorin, Antonio Jaramillo as Konstantin, and Abby Wilde as Nina, but the minor roles played by Bill Brochtrup as the schoolteacher, Joanna Strapp as Masha, and Armin Shimerman as the estate manager, add zest and variety to the proceedings.

The 23 members of both casts are backed up by the best technicians in the business. A. Jeffrey Schoenberg has designed his usual array of sumptuous costumes, most especially those worn by Irina Arkadina, and Jeremy Pivnick has provided his award-winning skills to the lighting. Jeff Gardner’s sound design works well, and the scenic design, consisting of an impressionistic lake and woods, is the work of Lechetti Design.

“The Seagull,” presented by the Antaeus Company at The Deaf West Theatre, 5112 Lankershim Blvd. in North Hollywood, will run Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through April 15. Call (818) 506-1983 or visit www.Antaeus.org for tickets.

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

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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

Disclaimer: this article does not constitute legal advice and does not create an attorney client relationship.

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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.
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Feds: Nuke plant to remain shut for probe

MICHAEL R. BLOOD
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES The troubled San Onofre nuclear plant in Southern California will remain shut down until federal regulators can determine why tubes carrying radioactive water in the plant's massive generators are rapidly decaying.

The announcement Tuesday formalized an agreement with operator Southern California Edison on the same day that a report commissioned by an environmental group claimed the utility misled the Nuclear Regulatory Commission about design changes that are the likely culprit in excessive tube wear.

A four-page letter from NRC Regional Administrator Elmo E. Collins laid out a series of steps Edison must take before restarting the seaside reactors located 45 miles north of San Diego.

Elmo wrote that the problems in the generators must be resolved and fixed and "until we are satisfied that has been done, the plant will not be permitted to restart."

The plant's four steam generators each contain nearly 10,000 alloy tubes that carry hot, pressurized water from the reactors. The Unit 3 reactor was shut down as a precaution in January after a tube break, and extensive wear was found on similar tubing in its twin, Unit 2, which has been shut down for maintenance.

Authorities in California have been scrambling to find additional power in case the reactors remain off-line through summer, when energy use typically peaks. That could include restarting retired plants in Huntington Beach in northern Orange County.

The company has found that the tube wear is being caused by vibration and friction with adjacent tubes and bracing, however investigators don't know why that's happening.

The company "has been committed from the beginning to not returning Unit 2 or Unit 3 to service until we are satisfied it is safe to do so," SCE spokeswoman Jennifer Manfre said in a statement.

The problems have raised questions about the integrity and safety of replacement generators the company installed at the two reactors in a multimillion-dollar makeover in 2009 and 2010. Traces of radiation escaped during the January leak, but officials said there was no danger to workers or neighbors.

The report by nuclear consultants Fairewinds Associates warned that a more detailed study is needed on the alloy tubing in the generators before the reactors are restarted.

The study was produced for nuclear watchdog Friends of the Earth and was authored by engineer Arnie Gundersen, a former nuclear industry executive who was a licensed reactor operator.

A series of equipment and design changes to the generators "created a large risk of tube failure at the San Onofre reactors," the report found, citing a review of publicly available records. It said the rapid tube wear can raise the potential for an accident that could release radioactivity.

Among the modifications, the report said the tube alloy was changed, bracing was redesigned and more tubes were added. It said the company never disclosed that such extensive changes were made, instead describing it as an exchange of similar equipment that allowed SCE "to avoid the requisite NRC oversight of a steam generator replacement."

Manfre, the company spokeswoman, said SCE provided "open and transparent information" to the NRC. Agency spokesman Scott Burnell said in a statement that the agency was aware of the design changes.

The company "had to show by analysis that their design was acceptable. All the information available at that time showed the replacement steam generators would meet our requirements for safe operation," Burnell said.

Gundersen, however, said he believed the additional tubes were a way to allow SCE to set the stage to generate more power at San Onofre, while avoiding more scrutiny from regulators that would come with ramping up power.

"They made too many changes. The only thing I can conclude is the ultimate goal was a power upgrade, to squeeze more power out of the plant," Gundersen said.

A team of federal investigators was called in to try to determine the cause of heavy wear.

Following the January leak, tests found that eight tubes that carry radioactive water from the reactor were in danger of rupturing under high pressure in Unit 3.

The company has said a total of 321 tubes will be plugged and taken out of service at the two reactors, well within the margin to allow them to keep operating.

Inside a steam generator, hot pressurized water flowing through bundles of tubes heats a bath of non-radioactive water surrounding them. The resulting steam is used to turn turbines to make electricity.

The tubes are one of the barriers between the radioactive and non-radioactive sides of the plant. If a tube breaks, there is the potential that radioactivity from the system that pumps water through the reactor could escape into the atmosphere.

Serious leaks also can drain cooling water from a reactor.

The steam generators were manufactured by Japan-based Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, according to company officials.

Fairewinds is a Vermont-based consultant that has worked with groups critical of nuclear power.

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Ex-official pleads guilty in L.A. Coliseum investigation

LINDA DEUTSCH
AP Special Correspondent

LOS ANGELES The former general manager of the taxpayer-owned Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum entered a surprise guilty plea Wednesday to a conflict-of-interest charge in a yearlong investigation of alleged mismanagement at the historic stadium.

Patrick Lynch, standing before a judge in a blue jail uniform with his hands cuffed, answered "guilty" in a nearly inaudible voice when Los Angeles Superior Court Judge George Lomela asked for his plea.

Lynch agreed to pay back $385,000 that prosecutors say he received in a side deal on Coliseum maintenance contracts. The payment is due in 45 days.

Deputy District Attorney Max Huntsman indicated outside court that Lynch's agreement to quickly pay full restitution of such a large amount played a key role in the plea agreement.

"It's something I've never seen a defendant do," he said.

Lawyers for others charged in the case said outside court they expect to call Lynch as a witness during their clients' trial.

Lynch, another former Coliseum executive, two rave promoters and two contractors were named in a 29-count grand jury indictment alleging schemes involving bribery, embezzlement, conspiracy and conflict of interest.

Lynch, who managed the Coliseum for 17 years, pleaded guilty to only one of six felony counts against him and will serve no jail time under the agreement. He will complete 1,500 hours of community service and possibly pay additional fines.

After he serves three years of probation, he will be eligible to apply to reduce the felony charge to a misdemeanor, according to the plea agreement.

The judge told Lynch he will no longer be allowed to hold a position of public trust.

The indictment alleged Lynch had a lucrative side deal with a maintenance services provider, Antonio Estrada. The conflict of interest charge states that between July 2006 and November 2010, Lynch became involved in making a contract in which he had a financial interest.

Outside court, Lynch's attorney, Anthony Capozzola, portrayed Lynch as a victim of his friendship with Estrada.

"The person responsible for this whole situation, a guy named Tony Estrada, has skipped," he said.

Estrada is believed to be out of the country, and a warrant has been issued for his arrest.

"My client got a very fair sentence," Capozzola said.

STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Bail unchanged in teacher lewd conduct case

A judge has refused to lower the $23 million bail set for a former Los Angeles-area elementary school teacher accused of extensive lewd conduct with his students.

A prosecutor argued against a reduction Wednesday, saying some of defendant Mark Berndt's alleged victims are having nightmares.

Judge Marcelita Haynes cited that in turning down the defense request for bail to be reduced to $1 million.

Prosecutors say Berndt made students at Miramonte Elementary play a bizarre "tasting game," blindfolding and feeding them his semen on cookies and spoons from 2005 to 2008.

The case surfaced when pictures of the students were sent to a photo processor.

Public defender Victor Acevedo asked that prosecutors turn over all photos collected during the investigation but the judge declined that request as well.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO

Pepper-spray report can be released without names

A judge has ruled the University of California can release a report on the pepper-spraying of student demonstrators by UC Davis police but must first remove most officers' names.

After a hearing, Alameda County Superior Court Judge Evelio Grillo ruled Wednesday the report does not contain confidential personnel records and can be released.

But Grillo says he wants the university to redact the names of officers other than Police Chief Annette Spicuzza and Lt. John Pike, who became known after online videos of the incident went viral.

Grillo says the report cannot be released for at least 21 days to give officers a chance to appeal.

The report was produced by a task force created to investigate the Nov. 18 crackdown on Occupy protesters.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Prosecutors charge Bobby Brown with DUI

Prosecutors have charged Bobby Brown with drunken driving.

Los Angeles city attorney's spokesman Frank Mateljan says Brown was charged Wednesday with three misdemeanors, including two DUI-related counts and one for driving on a suspended license.

The R&B singer was arrested Monday by the California Highway Patrol on suspicion of driving under the influence.

Mateljan says one of the counts alleges Brown was driving with a blood-alcohol content above .08, the level a person is presumed to be impaired.

A phone message for Brown's attorney Tiffany Feder was not immediately returned.

Mateljan says Brown could face up to six months in jail if convicted.

Brown was pulled over after a patrolman reported seeing him speaking on his cell phone without a hands-free unit.

AP







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PIER

FROM PAGE 1

pier, said Sgt. Richard Lewis, spokesperson for the department.

"It can be a public safety issue when you have vehicles weighing 4,000 pounds driving down a pier ramp packed with pedestrians," Lewis said. "We're fortunate we haven't had a major event recently."

Moving parking to an adjacent structure would solve that conflict and free up a considerable amount of the pier's surface, which could then be included in the larger planning effort for the pier set to begin in the near future.

Councilmember Kevin McKeown stressed that while taking the parking off of the pier was desirable, the proposed location would put more traffic into nearby neighborhoods and encouraged staff to explore other options as well, including different locations.

"It might be good enough, but I'd like to see us go for something much better," McKeown said.

Environmentally, at least, it would be an improvement, McKeown said.

When cars drive on the pier, they leak pollutants and leave residues that get washed onto or near the ocean.

Removing cars from the pier could "conceivably be a positive" for the environment, said Jessica Lass, spokesperson for the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Other impacts from construction could be mitigated through compliance with storm water permits and the Clean Water Act, which Santa Monica does very well, Lass said.

Council members also focused on the look and feel of the structure.

Although it is not meant to interfere with the beach and ocean views, the structure had to be visually appealing and come with elements that would enliven the beach, like a bike rental or small retail, said Councilmember Terry O'Day.

The example of the night was a parking structure in Miami Beach so prized for its eye appeal that people rent it out for weddings, bar mitzvahs and other large occasions.

The concept has been on the radar since the City Council accepted the Land Use Plan of the Local Coastal Program in 1992 that requested 471 spots for the pier.

The program allowed Santa Monica to phase in new parking for the pier, as long as parking was provided before new development took place. Off-site parking was acceptable as long as the there was an effective shuttle system to get people to and from remote lots.

Representatives from the Pier Restoration Corporation and local businesses urged council members to pursue a larger amount of parking than simply replacement spaces for the 270 spots that would be lost from the pier.

"People do visit the beach and pier by car," said Jeff Klocke, director of sales and marketing for the Pacific Park amusement park on the pier, urging for an incremental increase in the number of available spaces.

ashley@smdp.com

REWARD

FROM PAGE 1

Northridge and had stopped to drop off a friend at an apartment building on Figueroa.

Hibbert, an aspiring lawyer, was just a few weeks away from earning his college degree from Cal State Northridge. Patterson was a musician pursuing a career in the industry.

Donna Brown, Hibbert's mother, said her son grew up in Santa Monica and attended local public schools.

"It's still very difficult," Brown said regarding the loss of her son. "My heart is breaking knowing that there is a murderer out there who still hasn't been found."

At a candlelight vigil held at CSUN shortly after Hibbert's death, family and friends described Hibbert as compassionate, funny and a dedicated student.

A $75,000 reward was issued shortly after the shooting. Rewards must be reinstated every six months, according to a spokesperson with Perry's office.

Anyone with information regarding the shooting is urged to contact the LAPD's Southwest Division at (213) 485-1383, or the 24-hour, toll-free number (877)-Lawfull (1-877-529-3855). Anonymous tips can be left at the 24-hour hotline number.

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CHARGES
FROM PAGE 1

sums of money between campaign accounts for clients like Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-California) and Assemblymember Jose Solorio (D-Santa Ana) in order to conceal the fact that she was siphoning funds for things like her mortgage on a condominium in Long Beach and her phone bills.

There are at least 50 victims of the scheme and, in total, Durkee is accused of taking over $7 million from her clients, including Santa Monica officials.

A separate legal action filed by First California Bank in September, which held the nearly 400 accounts under Durkee's control, alleged that local officials, including City Council member Terry O'Day, Rent Control Board member Chris Braun and the Committee to Protect Community and Schools, lost thousands of dollars while under Durkee's control.

The five charges of mail fraud against Durkee stem from allegedly falsified campaign finance disclosures that she mailed to the Federal Elections Commission between July 2010 and February 2011.

She was arrested by federal agents in September 2011 and released on $200,000 bail.

According to the document, Durkee took $200,000 between December 2006 and April 2008 from the campaign committee for Jerome Horton, who was running for the California State Board of Equalization.

In June 2010, when Durkee was aware that she was under investigation by the Fair Political Practices Commission, she repaid some of the money she took from Horton's account by taking money from three other accounts.

Those included $25,000 from the committee Feinstein for Senate, $30,000 from the Committee to Re-Elect Loretta Sanchez and $15,000 from the Committee to Re-Elect Linda Sanchez.

Durkee reported none of the transfers in federal disclosure forms that she filed with the California Secretary of State.

Additionally, money from the various accounts was used to cover Durkee's personal bills, payroll for her company and costs for an assisted living center in which her mother lived.

Durkee was originally arrested for allegedly removing $700,000 from the money market account of Solorio for Assembly 2010.

The assemblymember, who represents areas of Southern California including Santa Ana and Anaheim, released a statement Tuesday in response to a report by Politico News that Durkee is expected to plead guilty to the charges, asking federal officials to stick her with the most time possible in prison.

"In finalizing a long sentence term, I'm hoping the FBI and courts send a message to treasurers, accountants and book keepers around the country that defrauding their clients is a serious matter," Solorio wrote.

He also accused First California Bank, which held many of the accounts controlled by Durkee, of complicity.

"Many red flags were raised, and the First California Bank did nothing in over 10 years to stop Durkee," Solorio wrote.

When the scandal first came to light, First California Bank froze all accounts, preventing even the rightful owners from finding out immediately whether or not they had lost money.

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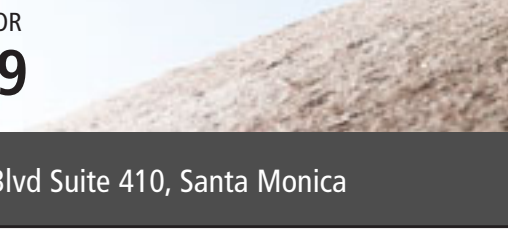
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WATCH
FROM PAGE 6

Discover Falkenstein at the Rutberg Gallery for a broad overview of her oeuvre. But for the full soaring effect of her art, visit the stained glass windows at St. Basil Church in Los Angeles. In a classic contemporary architectural setting, these amazing windows reveal the spirit that animated her life's work.

UPCOMING/ONGOING

In honor of the soon-to-close Pacific Standard Time regional festival on March 31, 20 exhibitions will offer free admission. For the complete list visit: www.pacificstandardtime.org.

The Mark Taper Forum's production of Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot" is a new benchmark for this 20th century classic. Pairing two of Beckett's most experienced actors — Alan Mandell and Barry McGovern — you'll laugh, you'll sigh at the existential conundrum of these "two tramps under a tree." Don't miss it.

And for three nights only John Malkovich directs Julian Sands in a "A Celebration of Harold Pinter" at West L.A.'s Odyssey Theatre Ensemble, April 6, 7 and 8. More info: www.odysseytheatre.com

SARAH SPITZ is a former freelance arts producer for National Public Radio and a producer for public radio station KCRW-Santa Monica. She reviews theatre for LAOpeningNights.com.

OBIT
FROM PAGE 3

Manufacturers and skaters disappeared almost overnight.

"Everyone in the skateboard industry at the time was wondering if skateboarding was the next hula hoop," Stevenson said in the 2011 book "The Skateboard: The Good, the Rad and the Gnarly." "I still had the feeling that skateboarding would come back, and it did."

Stevenson kept making boards, and amid the drought in 1969, he left his most lasting mark on design with the kicktail, an upward curve at the end of the previously flat board that is used to do nearly every modern trick. He had to fight in court for years to keep fellow board makers from violating his patent.

When the sport revived, more or less permanently, in the 1970s, he and Makaha were perfectly poised to thrive again.

COURT
FROM PAGE 3

do with any of the things we are" talking about.

For example, Ginsburg observed that the act deals with issues such as black lung disease.

"Why make Congress redo those?" she asked. "There are many things" that have "nothing to do with affordable health care."

But Clement said the court would be leaving "a hollow shell" if it decided to excise the several key provisions. "The rest of the law cannot stand," he contended.

Roberts and Justice Anthony Kennedy also asked hard questions of Deputy Solicitor General Edwin Kneedler that indicated they are at least considering Clement's arguments. Kneedler said that the only other provisions the court should kill in the event the mandate is stricken are revisions that require insurers to cover people regardless of existing medical problems and limit how much companies can charge in premiums based on a person's age or health.

Justice Antonin Scalia suggested many members of Congress might not have voted for the bill without the central provisions, and he said the court should not go through each and every page to sort out what stays and what goes.

"What happened to the Eighth Amendment?" Scalia asked, referring to the Constitution's ban on cruel and unusual punishment. "You really expect us to go through 2,700 pages?"

As the arguments resumed Wednesday morning, a smaller group of demonstrators than on previous days gathered outside.

Supporters of the law held a morning news conference where speakers talked about the importance of Medicaid. And, marching on the sidewalk outside the court, supporters repeated chants they've used the past two days including "Ho, ho, hey, hey, Obamacare is here to stay." Most of their group departed not long after arguments began inside.

Opponents of the law, including Susan Clark of Santa Monica, Calif., also stood outside the court. Clark, who was wearing a three-cornered colonial-style hat, carried a sign that read "Obamacare a disaster in every way!"

"Freedom, yes. Obamacare, no," other opponents chanted.

The first two days of fast-paced and extended arguments have shown that the conservative justices have serious questions about Congress' authority to require virtually every American to carry insurance or pay a penalty.

The outcome of the case will affect nearly all Americans and the ruling, expected in June, also could play a role in the presidential election campaign. Obama and congressional Democrats pushed for the law's passage two years ago, while Republicans, including all the GOP presidential candidates, are strongly opposed.

But the topic the justices took up Wednesday only comes into play if they first find that the insurance mandate violates the Constitution.

The states and the small business group opposing the law say the insurance requirement is central to the whole undertaking and should take the rest of the law down with it.

The federal appeals court in Atlanta that struck down the insurance requirement said the rest of the law can remain in place, a position that will be argued by a private lawyer appointed by the justices, H. Bartow Farr III.

On Tuesday, the conservative justices sharply and repeatedly questioned the validity of the insurance mandate.

If the government can force people to buy health insurance, justices wanted to know, can it require people to buy burial insurance? Cellphones? Broccoli?

The court focused on whether the mandate for Americans to have insurance "is a step beyond what our cases allow," in the words of Justice Kennedy.

"Purchase insurance in this case, something else in the next case," Chief Justice Roberts said.

But Kennedy, who is often the swing vote on cases that divide the justices along ideological lines, also said he recognized the magnitude of the nation's health care problems and seemed to suggest they would require a comprehensive solution.

And Roberts also spoke about the uniqueness of health care, which almost everyone uses at some point.

"Everybody is in this market, so that makes it very different than the market for cars or the other hypotheticals that you came up with, and all they're regulating is how you pay for it," Roberts said, paraphrasing the government's argument.

Kennedy and Roberts emerged as the apparent pivotal votes in the court's decision.

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Supporters of shooter fearful of speaking out

HOLBROOK MOHR & MARINA HUTCHINSON
Associated Press

Trayvon Martin's supporters pack churches, swarm rallies and wear hooded sweat shirts in solidarity while friends and family of George Zimmerman, the neighborhood watch volunteer who shot the unarmed teen to death, remain largely out of sight. The few who have defended Zimmerman have done so reluctantly, most fearing public backlash.

Zimmerman, 28, has gone into hiding. His version of what happened on the rainy night of Feb. 26 has only trickled out from police and his attorney. Zimmerman said he was pursuing the 17-year-old Martin because Martin was acting suspiciously. He said he lost sight of the teenager and Martin attacked him as he headed back to his sport utility vehicle.

Zimmerman told police he fired in self-defense and police did not arrest him, touching off widespread public outrage and protests across the country.

Martin's supporters believe race played a role in the shooting. Martin was black; Zimmerman's father is white and his mother is Hispanic.

"The family has had death threats, the father and mother, George has had death threats. Anything related to George is a target," said Miguel Meza, who identified himself as Zimmerman's cousin.

George Hall, a retired Presbyterian minister, said he was Zimmerman's neighbor for 20 years in Manassas, Va., until about 2001. Hall said Zimmerman and his brother attended church, and he wrote a recommendation for Zimmerman for a police academy in 2004.

"Their parents taught them to treat everybody with respect. I'm tired of hearing about this race thing," Hall said. "It could be an element in it ... but I never would have thought of him as being a racist. His father was in the Army and was a white American and his mother was Peruvian. That makes him 50 percent Peruvian. A lot of stuff I hear, it irks me because people are drawing their own conclusions with very little evidence."

Meza spoke only briefly over the telephone to a reporter from The Associated Press. It wasn't immediately clear if he had talked to Zimmerman since the shooting, but he said other relatives are afraid to comment publicly, even though they think he is being treated unfairly.

"The media has been quick to demonize George, but Trayvon Martin was no angelic boy walking," Meza said.

Zimmerman's attorney, Craig Sonner, has said in more than one interview that his client's nose was broken during the fight with Martin.

The Orlando Sentinel, citing anonymous sources, has reported that Martin grabbed Zimmerman's head and banged it several times against the sidewalk. A statement from Sanford police said the newspaper's story was "consistent" with evidence turned over to prosecutors.

Sonner said the gash on the back of Zimmerman's head probably was serious enough for stitches, but he waited too long for treatment so the wound was already healing.

Zimmerman said he began crying for help; Martin's family thinks it was their son who was crying out. Witness accounts differ and 911 tapes in which the voices are heard are not clear.

Martin was at least 6 feet tall, several inches taller than the 5-foot-9 Zimmerman. Meza said Martin was not the child he appears to be in photos flashed across television and newspapers.

"George was in a fight for his life," Meza said.

Martin's supporters, including a host of outspoken celebrities and civil rights leaders who have appeared on television for the past two weeks, don't believe Zimmerman's story. They want him arrested and prosecuted, and his parents think their son is being painted in a negative light by a police department leaking information to the news media.

The teenager was suspended from school three times this year. In October, he wrote obscene graffiti on a door at his high school. During a search of his backpack, campus security officers found 12 pieces of jewelry, a watch and a screwdriver that they thought could be used as a burglary tool, according to a school police report obtained by the Miami Herald.

When campus security confronted Martin, he told them a friend had given him the jewelry, but he wouldn't give a name. The Miami-Dade Police Department said Tuesday the jewelry could not be tied to any reported thefts.

Martin had previously been suspended for excessive absences and tardiness and, at the time of his death, was serving a 10-day suspension after school officials found an empty plastic bag with marijuana traces in his backpack.

His parents spent Tuesday at a forum organized by Congress on racial profiling and hate crimes. They spoke briefly before a Democrats-only congressional panel as cameras clicked noisily in front of them.

"Trayvon was our son, but Trayvon is your son," Sybrina Fulton, Martin's mother, told the panel. "A lot of people can relate to our situation and it breaks their heart like it breaks our heart."

Eric Gross, who was Zimmerman's classmate in high school in Virginia, said the shooting was surprising because he remembered Zimmerman as a "good guy."

"We had a couple classes together. He was just fun-going, got along with everybody that was in our classes," Gross said.

Another of Zimmerman's friends said Zimmerman would tell the teen's parents he's "very, very sorry" if he could.

Speaking Monday on ABC's "Good Morning America," Joe Oliver said Zimmerman is not a racist and has virtually lost his own life since the shooting.

"This is a guy who thought he was doing the right thing at the time, and it's turned out horribly wrong," said Oliver, one of the few blacks to come forward in support of Zimmerman.

Victor Rodriguez, who lives in Zimmerman's neighborhood, said he often saw him walking around, but he didn't know if that was part of his patrol. Now, he's not sure what to think.

"It makes you feel a little bit safe but knowing what happened and everything, it's kind of like confusing in a way. We don't want people to be in the neighborhood. You have kids running around. You don't want robberies going down," Rodriguez said.

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Studies: Surgery can put diabetes into remission

MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP Chief Medical Writer

CHICAGO New research gives clear proof that weight-loss surgery can reverse and possibly cure diabetes, and doctors say the operation should be offered sooner to more people with the disease — not just as a last resort.

The two studies, released on Monday, are the first to compare stomach-reducing operations to medicines alone for "diabesity" — Type 2 diabetes brought on by obesity. Millions of Americans have this and can't make enough insulin or use what they do make to process sugar from food.

Both studies found that surgery helped far more patients achieve normal blood-sugar levels than medicines alone did.

The results were dramatic: Some people were able to stop taking insulin as soon as three days after their operations. Cholesterol and other heart risk factors also greatly improved.

Doctors don't like to say "cure" because they can't promise a disease will never come back. But in one study, most surgery patients were able to stop all diabetes drugs and have their disease stay in remission for at least two years. None of those treated with medicines alone could do that.

"It is a major advance," said Dr. John Buse of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a leading diabetes expert who had no role in the studies. Buse said he often recommends surgery to patients who are obese and can't control their blood-sugar through medications, but many are leery of it. "This evidence will help convince them that this really is an important therapy to at least consider," he said.

There were signs that the surgery itself — not just weight loss — helps reverse diabetes. Food makes the gut produce hormones to spur insulin, so trimming away part of it surgically may affect those hormones, doctors believe.

Weight-loss surgery "has proven to be a very appropriate and excellent treatment for diabetes," said one study co-leader, Dr. Francesco Rubino, chief of diabetes surgery at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center. "The most proper name for the surgery would be diabetes surgery."

The studies were published online by the New England Journal of Medicine, and the larger one was presented Monday at an American College of Cardiology conference in Chicago.

More than a third of American adults are obese, and more than 8 percent have diabetes, a major cause of heart disease, strokes and kidney failure. Between 5 million and 10 million are like the people in these studies, with both problems.

For a century, doctors have been treating diabetes with pills and insulin, and encouraging weight loss and exercise with limited success. Few very obese people can drop enough pounds without surgery, and many of the medicines used to treat diabetes can cause weight gain, making things worse.

Surgery offers hope for a long-term fix. It costs $15,000 to $25,000, and Medicare covers it for very obese people with diabetes. Gastric bypass is the most common type: Through "keyhole" surgery, doctors reduce the stomach to a small pouch and reconnect it to the small intestine.

One previous study tested stomach banding, a less drastic and reversible procedure for limiting the size of the stomach. This technique lowered blood sugar, but those patients had mild diabetes. The new studies tested permanent weight-loss surgery in people with longtime, severe diabetes.

At the Cleveland Clinic, Dr. Philip Schauer studied 150 people given one of two types of surgery plus standard medicines or a third group given medicines alone. Their A1c levels — the key blood-sugar measure — were over 9 on average at the start. A healthy A1c is 6 or below.

One year after treatment began, only 12 percent of those treated with medicines alone were at that healthy level, versus 42 percent and 37 percent of the two groups given surgery.

Use of medicines for high cholesterol and other heart risks dropped among those in the surgery groups but rose in the group on medicines alone.

"Every single one of the bypass patients who got to 6 or less got there without the need for any diabetes medicines. Almost half of them were on insulin at the start. That's pretty amazing," said a study co-leader, Dr. Steven Nissen, the Cleveland Clinic's cardiovascular chief.

An obesity surgery equipment company sponsored the study, and some of the researchers are paid consultants; the federal government also contributed grant support.

The second study was led by Dr. Geltrude Mingrone at the Catholic University in Rome, with Rubino from New York. It involved 60 patients given one of two types of surgery or medicines alone. The researchers set as their goal an A1c under 6.5 — the level at which someone is considered to have diabetes.

Two years later, 95 percent and 75 percent of the two surgery groups achieved and maintained the target blood-sugar levels without any diabetes drugs. None of those in the medicine-alone group did.

There were no deaths from surgery and only a few complications. Four patients in the Cleveland study needed second surgeries, and two in the Italian study needed hernia operations. Doctors note that uncontrolled diabetes has complications, too — many patients wind up on dialysis when their kidneys fail, and some need transplants.

An adult who has a body mass index (a calculation based on height and weight) of 30 or more is considered obese. That's 203 pounds or more for a 5-foot-9 man, for example.

The government recently lowered the criteria for use of gastric bands from a BMI of 35 down to 30 in diabetics or people with heart disease, opening the way for wider use of this and other procedures for obesity.

Dr. Alvin Powers, director of the Vanderbilt University diabetes center, said the results are very encouraging for people like those in these studies — very obese, with diabetes that can't be controlled through less drastic means.

"We still don't know the long-term outcomes of these surgeries" and whether the benefits will last for more than a few years, he said.

Others were more positive.

The studies "are likely to have a major effect on future diabetes treatment," two diabetes experts from Australia, Dr. Paul Zimmet and George Alberti, wrote in an editorial in the

SEE DIABETES PAGE 15



Materials lead U.S. stocks lower as commodities dip

DANIEL WAGNER
AP Business Writer

Falling commodity prices punished materials and energy companies Wednesday, pushing Wall Street's major stock indexes to a lower close.

Crude oil lost nearly $2 to $105 a barrel, hurting energy stocks. Peabody Energy fell 3.4 percent, Chevron 1.1 percent and Exxon 0.9 percent.

Materials fell the most among the 10 industry groups in the Standard & Poor's 500 index. Aluminum producer Alcoa Inc. fell 2.6 percent. The only stock in the Dow Jones industrial average that lost more was heavy equipment maker Caterpillar Inc., which dropped 3.5 percent.

All three major indexes lost a half-percent. The Dow closed down 71.52 points at 13,126.21. The broader S&P 500 index lost 6.98 to 1,405.54. The Nasdaq composite index, heavy with technology stocks, fell 15.39 to 3,104.96.

One bright spot was the strong debut of Annie's Inc., a company that sells prepared organic foods. In its first day of trading on the New York Stock Exchange, Annie's leapt 89 percent to $35.92. The company, based in Berkeley, Calif., had priced its shares at $19 late Tuesday.

The broad declines came in spite of a government report that orders for durable goods rose strongly last month, a sign that businesses continue to invest.

The Commerce Department said before the market opened that orders for durable goods, which are defined as products expected to last at least three years, rose 2.2 percent in February. Orders for machinery, computers, autos and aircraft led the rise.

The positive economic news reduced demand for U.S. Treasury debt. The yield on the 10-year Treasury rose to 2.21 percent from 2.19 percent before the report. As stocks fell, traders again sought the safety of Treasurys and the yield fell back to 2.20 percent.

Health insurance companies declined more than the broader market as the U.S. Supreme Court wrapped up oral arguments in a challenge to President Barack Obama's massive health care overhaul. Aetna Inc. and Health Net Inc. lost 1 percent; Catalyst Health Solutions fell 1.4 percent.

Insurers lost ground because of tough questions from key justices, a signal to some observers that they might strike down the law. Dave Shove, an analyst with BMO Capital Markets, said most people expect the law to help big health insurers by extending coverage to millions more Americans.

"Stocks are following what most people think, which is that these exchanges were going to be a fairly good thing for insurers and bring a bunch of the uninsured in," Shove said, referring to the health policy exchanges where uninsured people would be able to buy coverage.

Shove said his firm has a contrarian view, namely that the law "is much less disruptive to the marketplace" than many people expect.

Many investors are holding back on major trades as they await news later this week on Europe's progress in resolving its debt crisis, said Andrew Goldberg, global market strategist with J.P. Morgan Funds.

"Investors know Europe is still in crisis" and fear a steeper drop if markets are spooked by a meeting of European finance ministers that begins Thursday and Spain's budget announcement on Friday, Goldberg said.

European markets closed sharply lower. London's FTSE 100 dropped 1 percent; benchmark indexes in France and Germany dropped 1.1 percent.

Futures for crude, natural gas, heating oil and gasoline all fell Wednesday, with crude leading the way. Oil prices fell after a report suggesting a larger-than-expected jump in U.S. crude supplies, a sign that demand remains weak.

If consumers get a break on what they have to pay for energy, that could provide a bump for the U.S. economy.

In corporate news:

• Sealy Corp. rose 6.4 percent after the mattress maker reported a surprise profit in the first quarter of 1 cent per share. Analysts surveyed by FactSet had expected a loss of 2 cents per share.

• Medco Health Solutions Inc. jumped 3.2 percent after the company said its $29.1 billion merger with Express Scripts Inc. could close as early as next week. Express Scripts rose 1.3 percent.

• JoS A. Bank Clothiers Inc. plunged 8.6 percent after the company said its first quarter began weakly because the mild winter weather crimped demand.

DIABETES
FROM PAGE 14

medical journal. Surgery "should not be seen as a last resort" and should be considered earlier in treating obese people with diabetes, they wrote.

Jon Diat is a success story. Diat, 50, who works at Citigroup and lives in New York, had been piling on pounds and pills for cholesterol and high blood pressure. After he needed an artery-opening procedure he was diagnosed with diabetes, but medicines for that failed to keep his disease under control and worsened his obesity.

"I was maxed out on the medications. It was very grim," he said. Two years ago, he had weight-loss surgery from Rubino.

"They told me, 'You're going to see rapid results,' but it was amazing. I literally lost 70 pounds in the first three months," he said. "I was off insulin within less than 72 hours of surgery. I am in complete, total remission of diabetes. My blood sugars are normal."

Now he eats right, plays tennis and hockey, walks the two miles home from work and takes 12 flights of stairs to his apartment.

"I look at this as a second chance at life," he said. "It's been liberating."

Tamikka McCray, 39, who also lives in New York and works for the city's Human Resources Administration, also had success from her surgery a year and a half ago. When she left the hospital, her diabetes had disappeared before any major weight loss had a chance to occur.

"That was the crazy part," she said. "I didn't understand that when they came in and they checked it. My sugars were normal." She added: "I left the hospital with no medication. And I haven't been on anything since."

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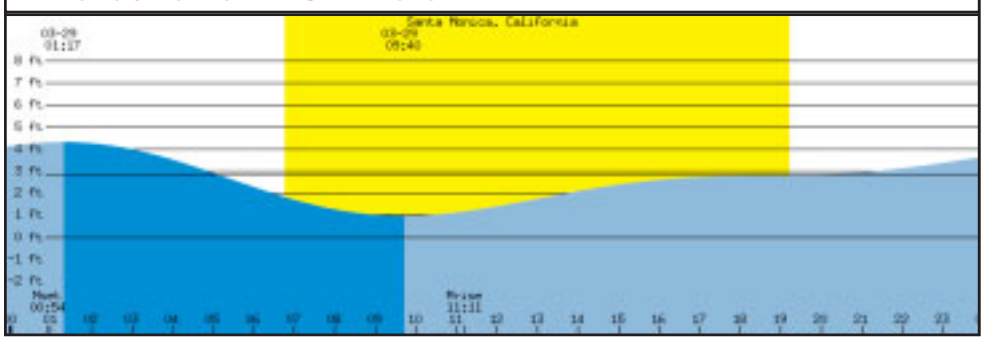
Swell Forecast

West facing breaks are looking at chest to head high NW swell.

Long Range Synopsis

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Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of: **March 21, 2012**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 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

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	D
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A	D
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisa creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Dread 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 Las 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 17300 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 Westward 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 ONW 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 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.

MLB

Dodgers players optimistic about imminent sale of team

ASSOCIATED PRESS

GLENDALE, Ariz. Los Angeles Dodgers players said they were happy and relieved Wednesday about the pending sale of the team to an ownership group including former Lakers star Magic Johnson.

"Great day for the Dodgers," said center fielder Matt Kemp, the runner-up for NL MVP last season. "As Magic used to say, the Dodgers were the team that used to run L.A. Definitely, we were going to have more fans out there this year anyway. Now, there's another reason to have the fans turn out."

The deal to sell the franchise for a record $2 billion was revealed Tuesday night, just hours after Major League Baseball owners approved three finalists for an intended auction. Besides Johnson, the ownership group includes longtime baseball executive Stan Kasten.

Mark Walter, chief executive officer of the financial services firm Guggenheim Partners, would become the controlling owner.

Players said they were relieved that the search for an owner had finally been resolved and that they were hopeful that the franchise can move forward amid newfound stability.

"If I'm a player, I'm excited," Dodgers manager Don Mattingly said before boarding a bus to Scottsdale for a spring training game against the San Francisco Giants. "Magic is coming in. They've been having to deal with all the negatives. As soon as you hear the name Magic Johnson, it turns into a positive. There's positive energy around the ball club, around the city."

In the clubhouse, the players welcomed Magic, who in the 1980s transformed the Lakers into Showtime when most of them were kids. Tony Gwynn Jr., who referred to himself as the biggest Lakers fan in the world, said he could still recall the day Johnson announced he had HIV.

"Other than my grandparents dying, the saddest day of my life was watching that press conference when he retired," Gwynn said. "So it's nice to have him as my boss."

Former Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda, now a special adviser to the club, said he was confident that the new ownership group means the imminent return of fans who stayed away last season. "I think Dodger fans will be back," Lasorda said. "I believe that."

NCAA BASKETBALL

Griner, Ogwumike among women's Wooden finalists

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Brittney Griner of Baylor, Nnemkadi Ogwumike of Stanford and Skylar Diggins of Notre Dame are among the finalists for the John R. Wooden Award given to the top women's college basketball player.

Griner and Ogwumike were finalists last year, when Maya Moore of Connecticut won for the second time. The other finalists are Elena Delle Donne of Delaware and Julie Wojta of Wisconsin Green Bay. All five women were named to the women's Wooden All-American team on Wednesday.

Griner, Ogwumike and Diggins have led their teams to the women's Final Four in Denver. Griner's team is ranked No. 1 and at 38-0 is two wins away from completing a perfect season.

The women's Wooden Award winner will be announced on April 6 in a ceremony at the Los Angeles Athletic Club.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

The Manchurian Candidate - 1962 (PG-13) 2hr 6min
7:30pm

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

Wrath of the Titans 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
12:01am

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, 7:20pm

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

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

4:44 Last Day on Earth (NR) 1hr 22min
1:00pm, 3:10pm, 5:30pm, 7:50pm, 10:10pm

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

Say 'yes' to living well, Sag

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Integrate different ideas as you put plans together. Whether they are for a vacation or work makes no difference. Others make suggestions that prove to be valid. Be aware that you could encounter a power play later today. Do not let this situation color the remainder of your day. Tonight: Head home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You have the ability to make a big difference emotionally, financially and intellectually. Where you point your radar is your call, but your efforts do pay off. You could encounter difficulties dealing with a foreigner, a distant friend or a very intellectual associate. Be smart. Tonight: Hang out.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Listen to what is being shared. A key person is determined to have you absorb the meaning behind his or her words. Do not get into a battle. Just listen. Tonight: Put your feet up.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Don't worry if you do not feel up to snuff. Your energy will build during the day. In fact, you could give quite a jolt to someone you feel is bullying you. Be sensitive to this person, yet establish your boundaries. Tonight: Act like you are feeling your Wheaties. Count on high energy.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Use the daylight hours to the max. You might ponder something too long and lose a winning proposition. If you need time to think, plan on going through Saturday without a decision. At that point, the Force will be with you. Tonight: Slow down and center yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Others want you to take a stand, but you might not be ready or want to. Honor your priorities. By late afternoon, focus on your desires and long-term goals. You will know what to do. Tonight: Now the fun begins.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Look at what is going on around you, especially in your personal life. Take a serious look at the situation. You also are changing within. Note what you are feeling. Resist power plays, and walk away from controlling people, if possible. Tonight: At home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Keep reaching out for someone you really care about. You also need to get more information about a project or key interest. If you hear grumbling, it is probably because your mind is elsewhere. Tonight: Explore and discuss opportunities.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Others share their thoughts and feelings. In a sense, you might feel as if you are getting too much information. Pull back, and speak with those you trust. You will get a better sense of what is happening and whether you want to be involved. Tonight: Say "yes" to living well.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Finish a project before you decide to relax. You will need to insulate yourself from talks and confusion in general. Your creativity mounts to a new level and opens a door. Tonight: Let it all happen.

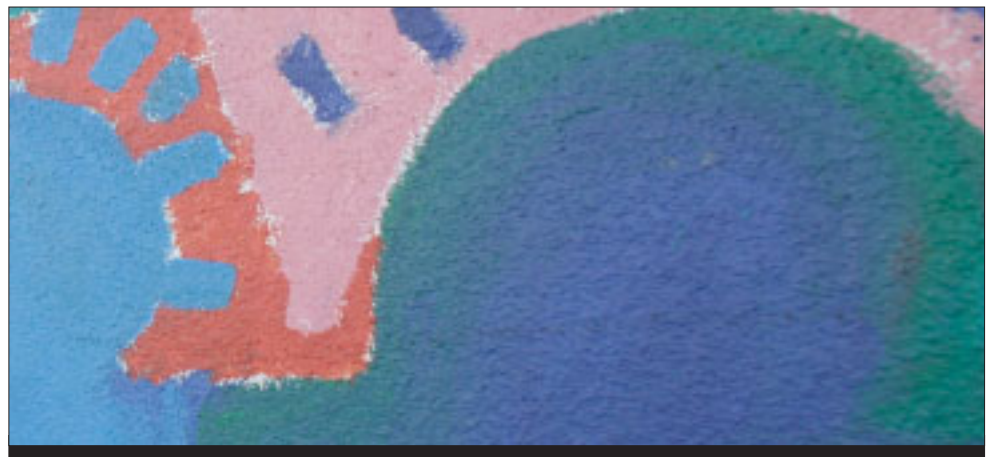
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Pace yourself, and honor a need to get a lot done in a small period of time. Fortunately, your creativity is high. Solutions will be found easily. Do not stand on ceremony with someone. Tonight: Feeling tired.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Your concerns involve your immediate circle and your friends. You might need to do something very differently from in the past. Think, and take your time. You will discover the right path when you least expect it. Tonight: Start the weekend early.

Happy birthday

This year you swing from emotional to intellectual and back again. If you think this constant change of feelings is hard on you, imagine how those who deal with you feel! Others might attempt to stabilize your moods. Claim your power, and honor the free spirit within. If you are single, you might think you want to settle down, but your feelings could rapidly change. If you are attached, share your feelings more often. Your partner will understand you better. CANCER naturally understands you.

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



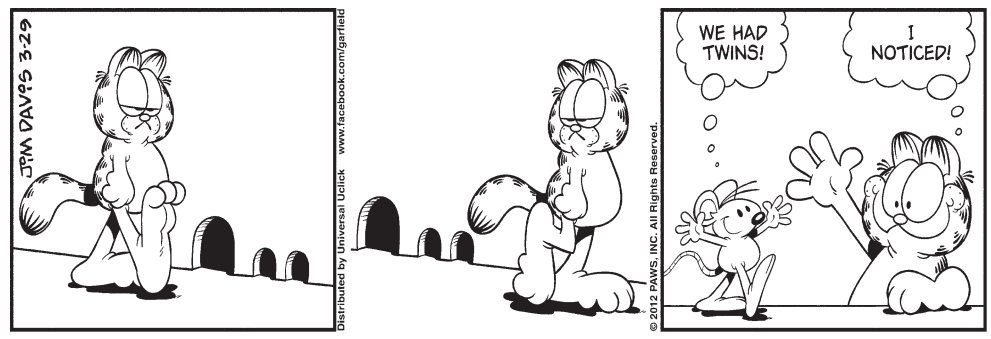
Dogs of C-Kennel

By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



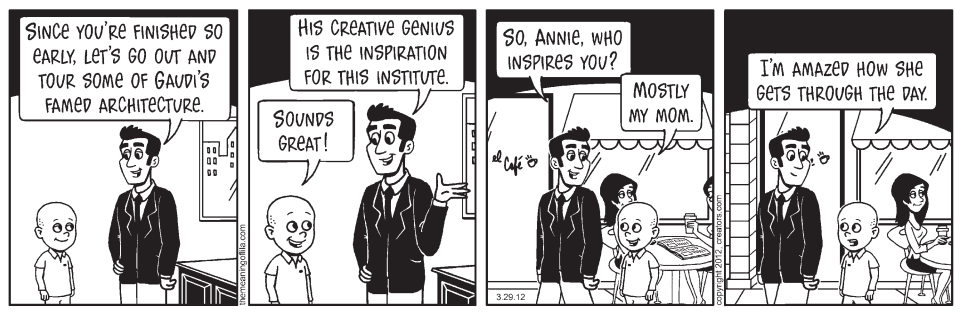
Garfield

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 ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Take turns
5 In a while
10 Wine grape
12 Make amends
13 Superfluous
14 Goes for
15 AFL affiliate
16 Polo shirt wearer
18 — doll
20 Drama division
21 Reactor parts
23 Legal matter
24 Gator's cousin
26 Course aids
28 "The Bells" author
29 Skewed
31 Cobbler's tool
32 Tearjerker
36 Kind of pie
39 What's more
40 Cabaret sight
41 Cease-fire
43 Include
44 Writer Sontag
45 Adam and Mae
46 Department-store section

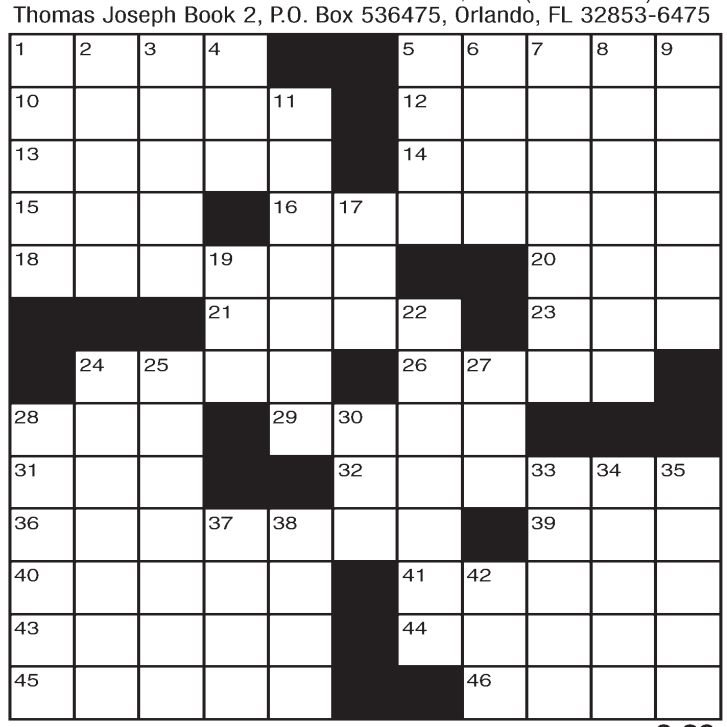
DOWN

1 Tiny dot
2 Mischievous fairy
3 As a companion
4 Negating link
5 Doily stuff
6 Resting on
7 Beyond what's needed
8 Lures
9 Fixes the clock
11 Pudding choice
17 Warning color
19 Debate side
22 Block surrounders
24 Baseball cover
25 Attaches another clip
27 Potato part
28 Custard apple's cousin
30 It ended on Nov. 11
33 Brief rest
34 Like Machu Picchu
35 Utopias
37 "Step —!"
38 Soprano Lily
42 Toddy base

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

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



3-29

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

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

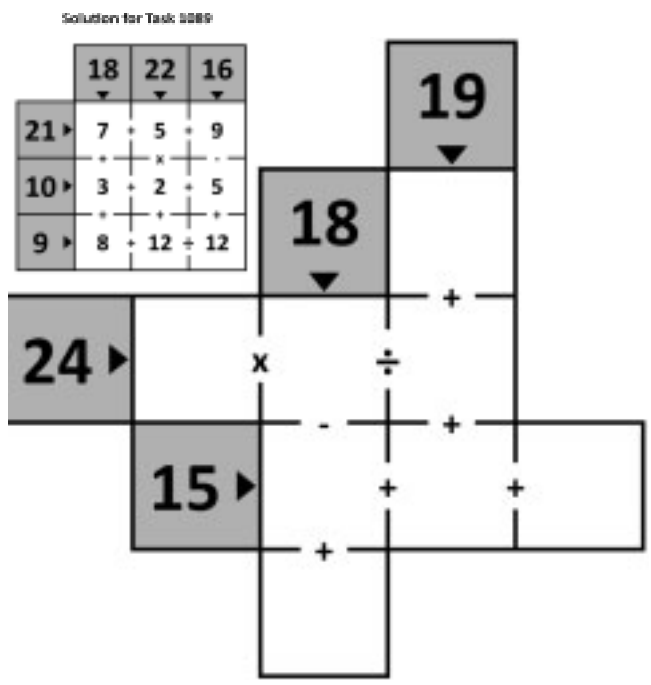
• Remember to multiply or divide before you add or subtract.

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:

1, 4, 4, 5, 10, 10, 12, 12

Solution for Task 3889



DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 3/27
9 19 34 44 51
Meganumber: 24
Jackpot: $500M

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

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 3/28
6 11 14 24 29

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 03/28
MIDDAY: 6 4 5
EVENING: 9 7 1

SANTA ANITA PARK
Draw Date: 3/28
1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 09 Winning Spirit
3rd: 04 Big Ben
RACE TIME: 1:45.15

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

■ David Myrland, an anti-government "sovereign" now serving three years in federal prison for threatening the mayor of Kirkland, Wash., filed a federal lawsuit in February accusing various officials of conspiracy -- by the manipulation of bad grammar, i.e., "backwards-correct-syntax-ing-modification fraud." Each word of the original complaint, coded by Myrland as to part of speech, "proves" to him that the complaint was "fraudulent" and "handicapping." (Random sentence from Myrland's filing: "For the WORDS OF an ADVERB-SYNTAX-GRAMMAR-MODIFICATIONS ARE with an USE of the SYNTAX-GRAMMAR with the VOID of the POSITIONAL-LODIAL-FACT-PHRASE with the SINGLE-WORD-MODIFIER AS THE: A, AS, AT, AM, BECAUSE (many words omitted) FACT by the VASSALEES.") ("Sovereigns" generally reject the federal government, and Myrland did not explain why he expected a federal judge would have authority to help him.) [Seattle Weekly, 2-14-2012] [Scribd.com, 1-23-2012]

■ Jason Bacon, 41, was arrested in Eureka, Calif., in March after responding to a classified ad for a used motorcycle by offering to trade about $8,000 worth of his home-grown marijuana for it. According to an officer on the scene, Bacon told a deputy, "I know you can't sell it, but I thought it was OK to trade it."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1993 - Catherine Callbeck becomes premier of Prince Edward Island and the first woman to be elected in a general election as premier of a Canadian province.

1999 - The Dow Jones Industrial Average closes above the 10,000 mark (10,006.78) for the first time, during the height of the internet boom.

WORD UP!

luxate
\ LUHK-seyt \ , verb;
1.
To put out of joint; dislocate.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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011 Pico #8. Work/Live Tri-level Loft. 2 Bd+2 Bth + Large loft. 2 sxs parkings spots. Master and 2nd bedroom have private entry. $2995

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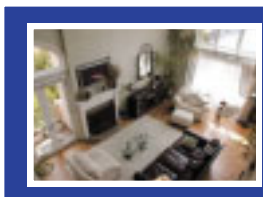
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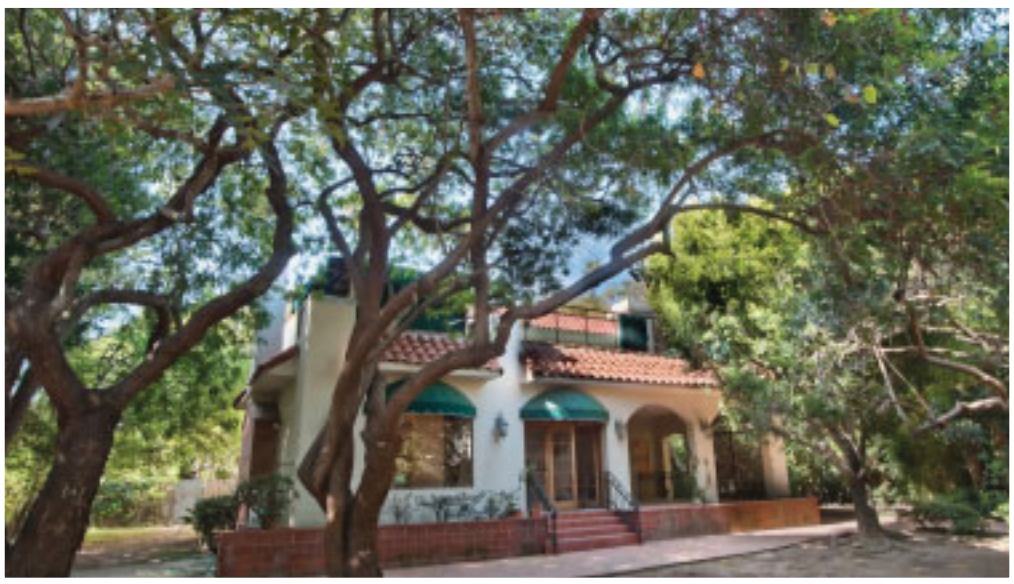
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Listed for Sale As of Late - March 2012

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North of Montana	=	$ 3,695,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$ 1,795,000
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