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MARCH 29-30, 2014
Volume 13 Issue 114

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

HISTORY LESSON
SEE PAGE 8

THE FLYING SOLO ISSUE

Group wants future of SMO to be decided by voters

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor-in-Chief

CITY HALL The nation's largest lobbying group for pilots and aircraft owners is backing an effort to amend the City Charter so that voters, not the City Council, will decide the fate of Santa Monica Airport.

The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) has pledged its support for the ballot initiative, which is being spearheaded by supporters of SMO who claim the City Council is in favor of shutting down the airport so the 227 acres it sits on can be redeveloped.

Supporters filed paperwork with the City Clerk's Office Thursday, just two days after the City Council voted in favor of studying options that would chip away at the airport's operations, including closing a 20-acre parcel on the west end of the runway and restricting or prohibiting the sale of aviation

SEE SMO PAGE 10

The hunt continues for international tourists

Chinese shop, but still aren't staying the night

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE They spend more, they stay longer, and they tend not to use cars.

International tourists are a no-brainer for the city by the sea and tourism officials continue a recruitment process that's been ongoing for more than two decades.

English-speaking visitors from the United Kingdom, followed by Australia and New Zealand are still the most common groups staying in Santa Monica. However, as the incomes of the residents of non-English speaking countries, like China, rise some businesses are adapting.

In the fall, international tourists made up 56 percent of the bay city's tourism market, up from the previous fall, according to data from the Santa Monica Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB).

The CVB is making a push in, among other places, Brazil through trips, local media, and marketing. Vogue Brazil did a 10-page photo shoot of Santa Monica and CVB officials have taken trips to the country.

Despite the fact that Australia, New Zealand, and Brazil boast world-class beaches, the beach is still a centerpiece of Santa Monica's draw, said CVB President and CEO

SEE TOURISM PAGE 10



SLIME TIME Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Ella Morgan (left) and her older sister Selia Morgan (right) get slimed during the Toyota and Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards promotion event at Santa Monica Place Friday. The awards show, hosted by Mark Wahlberg, takes place March 29. Getting slimed is a big part of the show.

Candidates for Congress cordial in Dem Club forum

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

MAIN LIBRARY Six candidates hoping to fill retiring Rep. Henry Waxman's (D-Santa Monica) seat focused primarily on their similarities to each other and to the 20-term congressman at a Santa Monica Democratic Club meeting Thursday night.

Waxman announced earlier this year that he would step down at the end of his current term after 40 years in office. Following the announcement, numerous candidates quickly declared their intentions for the 33rd congressional district slot.

The district includes some of the wealthiest communities in the country, including Santa Monica.

Former Los Angeles City Controller Wendy Greuel said the magic word for many Santa Monica residents, promising — through support of affordable housing, bike lanes, public transportation, and job disbursement — to fight traffic.

The former L.A. mayoral candidate also hit on environmental issues of fracking, clean water, and the drought.

State Sen. Ted Lieu (D-Santa Monica) said the other magic word, reiterating his intent to help City Hall gain control of the future of the Santa Monica Airport.

He lauded City Council's recent decision to study the impacts of downsizing the airport following complaints from residents about noise and pollution, as well as concerns about safety.

"I held hearings on that airport and the hearings have shown that residents of Santa Monica and Los Angeles are breathing in

SEE FORUM PAGE 10


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, March 29, 2014

History on the move
16th Street and Olympic Boulevard
8 a.m.
The historic Shotgun House will be making its way down city streets to its new home at Second Street and Norman Place. The house is the last of its kind. From 16th Street and Olympic Boulevard, it will travel west down Olympic, south on 14th Street, west on Pico Boulevard and south on Main Street. For more information, visit smconservancy.org.

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

Grow right
Montana Library
1704 Montana Ave., 12 p.m.
Get ready for spring and summer veggies and herbs with master gardener Emi Carvell. Bring the following: 1. Pots/containers filled with potting soil (plus extra soil just in case). 2. Note pad and marker. 3. Salad bowl, fork, and napkin to taste Emi's organic garden salad. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Big on reading
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 12:30 p.m.
Kick off The Big Read with a musical celebration. Alfredo Lopez, leader of the Mexican musical group Quetzalcoat, Isaac Ruben Izquierdo and Jorge Andres Herrera take visitors on a musical tour of Mexico in an outdoor concert. Pick up a copy of "Into the Beautiful North," this year's The Big Read selection, while you're there. For more information, visit smpl.org.

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

Going dark
Citywide
8:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.
Join millions of people across the globe and switch lights off for an hour to raise awareness for the planet. Participants in Santa Monica include the solar-powered Pacific Wheel on the Santa Monica Pier. For more information, visit earthhour.org.

Sunday, March 30, 2014

Family secrets
SMC - Theatre Arts Main Stage
1900 Pico Blvd., 2 p.m.
The Santa Monica College Theatre Arts Department is pleased to present "Yellow," which follows a "perfect" family that falls apart when an unexpected tragedy rocks them to the breaking point. The play by Del Shores explores the themes of cowardice, intolerance, and the damage caused to families by secrets, rejection, and the difficulty of forgiveness. Advance tickets range from $12 to $15 ($8 for preview), plus a service charge, and can be purchased by going to www.smc.edu/eventsinfo or by calling (310) 434-4319. Tickets are $3 more at the door. Parking is free on Friday evenings and weekends.

Blast from the musical past
Mt. Olive Lutheran Church
1343 Ocean Park Blvd., 3:30 p.m.
Orchestra Santa Monica will play a selection of 18th century music, including early Mozart and an appealing Handel concerto. Allen Robert Gross serves as the conductor. Tickets: $20 general admission; $15 seniors; $10 students. Buy tickets at http://orchestrasantamonica.org/ or call (310) 525-7618.

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

New bus stops arriving

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor-in-Chief

BBB HDQTRS Shade canopies, seating and real-time arrival information are coming to a bus stop near you.

On Monday the Big Blue Bus, Santa Monica's public transportation company, will start replacing more than 300 bus stops, a process that is expected to take up to two years to complete and cost roughly $7 million, officials said.

The work will be done in waves of six to 10 stops at a time. Affected bus stops will be closed for three to four weeks, but passengers will be able to board and alight at the stop before or after their usual spot.

The following stops will be the first to close.

• Along Lincoln Boulevard:

At Ashland Avenue heading to UCLA; board at Marine Street or Ocean Park Boulevard

At Ashland heading toward LAX; board at Ocean Park or Navy Street.

• Along Main Street:

At Hollister Avenue heading to Downtown Santa Monica; board at Pacific or Ocean Park

At Hollister heading toward LAX; board at Ocean Park or Pacific

At Marine heading toward Downtown; board at Ashland or Rose avenues

SEE **BUS** PAGE 11



Rendering courtesy City of Santa Monica

TAKE A SEAT: A rendering of one of the new bus stops coming soon to a street corner near you.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS



Photo courtesy Kambiz Taleghani

WINNER: Samohi junior and scholarship winner Claire Goldberg (left) receiving her award from Joe Justice, principal donor.

SMO

Samohi student wins pilot scholarship

Claire Goldberg, a junior at Santa Monica High School, was announced the winner of the Flying Scholarship for Girls Joe Justice award, which affords her the opportunity to get her pilot's license.

Goldberg received her award at a ceremony at Santa Monica Airport on Saturday March 22. Clara Glassman (12th grade) was the first alternate and Kiana Saberi (12th grade) was the second alternate.

Flying Scholarship for Girls is a Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM)-related effort designed to encourage high school girls to explore opportunities in aviation and aerospace, by helping them realize their dream of learning to fly.

A small group of volunteers got together to create the scholarship. Funds are solicited through fundraisers and online at www.flysmo.com. Each award is named after the main contributor. The Joe Justice Award was made possible through flight instruction time donated by Joe Justice, owner of Santa Monica-based flight school Justice Aviation. The plane to be used was donated from Kelar Aviation.

The winner of the scholarship receives 40 hours of airplane and instruction time during a 30-month period.

Although a Light Sport Pilot's license is the stated objective of the scholarship, the students learn about aerodynamics, theory of flight, meteorology, geography, navigation, propulsion systems and other aspects of aviation.

The scholarship was announced last November, and Samohi candidates in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades submitted their applications online last December. After review by a panel of judges and reviewers, five finalists were selected. The finalists underwent personal interviews at the Museum of Flying by a panel of judges, which included a girl from another high school who has been learning how to fly.

"The Samohi girls submitted some incredible essays," said Kambiz Taleghani, one of the organizers of the scholarship. "They had to state why they wanted to be pilots, provide insights about themselves, and express their aspirations. An applicant from an East African country wants to be a role model for other females in her country. Another applicant has already visited NASA's Johnson Space center in Houston as an intern and wants to be an astronaut. One finalist is already on her path to becoming an industrial designer for automobiles and aircraft. The winner's aspirations include journalism and serving the country as a congresswoman — and remember, these are all high school girls."

– DAILY PRESS

EASTSIDE

Elementary school reduces lunchtime trash

Students at McKinley Elementary School are getting a lesson in sustainability by helping to divert lunchtime trash from entering landfills.

For their efforts the school has been named a finalist in environmental nonprofit Grades for Green's Trash-Free Lunch Challenge, it was announced this week.

Sponsored in part by the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, the program teaches kids to reduce trash and care for the environment by using reusable lunch containers and by sorting compostable and recyclable materials.

Lowell Elementary School in Long Beach and Vista del Valle Elementary School in Claremont were also selected from a group of 24 entrants countywide.

The Trash-Free Lunch Challenge has diverted 100,000 bags of trash from area landfills and saved schools thousands of dollars in trash liners and waste hauler pick-ups over three years, Grades for Green said.

A judging panel of five environmental experts will visit the three elementary schools to select the winner on April 3, and the winning school will be honored with a celebration on April 29. All schools will receive education grants from Chevron. The winning school will receive a $1,000 grant. The two runners-up will each receive a $750 grant.

Additional sponsors include the city of Santa Monica, LAcarGUY, Fourth District County of Los Angeles Supervisor Don Knabe, Warner Brothers, Wean Green, and the Johnson Ohana Charitable Foundation.

"The finalists ... have cut waste 80 percent on average. The judging panel will have a challenging time picking the winners," said Grace Robinson Hyde, Sanitation Districts' chief engineer and general manager. "With 24 schools participating in this year's program, more than 13,000 students have been inspired to care for the environment now and for years to come."

"Once we show kids how important it is to reduce waste and how easy it is, they realize they can make a difference and begin habits they will carry with them for life," said Lisa Coppedge, Grades of Green co-founder and director of programs. "And now that the Trash-Free Lunch Challenge is wrapping up its third year, we will have changed the habits of more than 28,000 students just with this program alone."

Even though this year's Trash-Free Lunch Challenge is nearly complete, any school may initiate Grades of Green's Trash-Free Lunch program, as well as more than 40 other environmental activities, at any time. Complete instructions are available at no cost to schools at www.gradesofgreen.org.

– DP

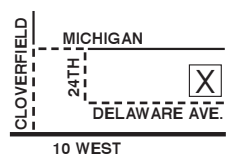
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Objection to lack of objectivity

Editor:

Please consider enrolling your staff in some brush up classes in news writing and in newspaper ethics.

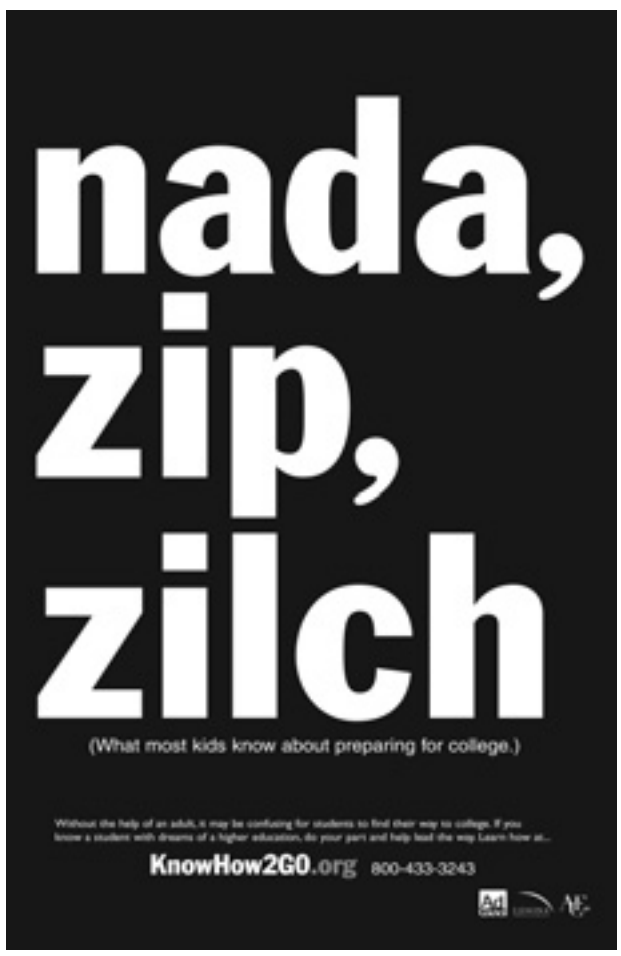
In the last week, you published two articles relating to candidates for supervisor for the Third District in Los Angeles County. In each, the content of headlines and copy and story placement are, in the opinion of this former journalism and communication professor, skewed to present one candidate in a more favorable way than the others. The photos you chose for each are of Bobby Shriver, with one showing candidate Sheila Kuehl looking up from a distance, not looking happy, at the candidates' table during a debate while Mr. Shriver speaks at the microphone, looking confident. There were no photos of the other candidates in this election, although each candidate was a part of the events or issues you're writing about.

The news story on March 26 ("Shriver takes fundraising lead in supervisor race") features Mr. Shriver in the first six paragraphs, with no mention of the others, although the story is about campaign fundraising, which involves them all. Then, in paragraph seven, you introduce Kuehl, but only, it appears, to show how inadequate her fundraising has been compared to Mr. Shriver. You consciously or unconsciously do this by featuring the prominent celebrities who have contributed to Mr. Shriver before you write about Ms. Kuehl.

Are you aware that by featuring only photos of Mr. Shriver, you are calling him to the attention of readers at the expense of the others, building his name recognition at the others' expense? Responsible journalism would have utilized photos with all of the candidates. If the use of only Mr. Shriver's photo was not done in ignorance of basic principles of journalism, then you ought to tell your readers if you are a community newspaper, presenting the news without bias, or a publication representing a commercial or political group or interest. There's nothing wrong with being the latter, but this city deserves a local source to present the news objectively and not selectively.

Dolores Sloan
Santa Monica

YOUR OPINION MATTERS! SEND YOUR LETTERS TO Santa Monica Daily Press • Attn. Editor: • 1640 5th Street, Suite 218 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • **editor@smdp.com**



All good things must come to an end

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor-in-Chief



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

PEN AND PAPER **Editor-in-Chief Kevin Herrera conducts interviews during a rally against a controversial development in front of City Hall earlier this month. We'll miss you, homie.**

THE NEWSROOM It's been a wild ride, but it's time for me to get off this crazy train.

After roughly eight years as a journalist in this wonderfully complex city full of compassion and contradiction, I have decided to leave while I still have some sanity — and hair — left. But I won't be going far. I have accepted the position of senior communications manager for Downtown Santa Monica, Inc., where I will be working just as hard to ensure Downtown remains a vibrant entertainment destination and economic engine so that Santa Monica can continue to take care of its own to the level they have become accustomed.

And believe me, if I don't, I'll certainly hear about it.

That's what's been so great — and at times frustrating — about being a journalist in this town. People are extremely passionate about the bay city. It seems to be their most prized possession, a paradise that must be protected at all costs, which includes staying up past 2 a.m. on a weeknight to make sure your voice is heard at one of the notoriously long City Council meetings. (I will never forget those fatigue-fueled rants and am sure I'll be attending a few in the near future.)

While some may have different opinions on how to protect Santa Monica, a city I have known since birth, there is always energy and enthusiasm, a willingness to participate in shaping this world.

I want to continue to play a role, which is why I am excited to be joining the team at Downtown Santa Monica, Inc. I spend nearly every waking moment in Downtown anyway so it just seemed to make sense.

When I graduated from the Annenberg School for Journalism at USC, I was filled with a sense of activism, a desire to do right and affect change. I began my career as a cub reporter under the tutelage of my mentor, the incomparable Betty Pleasant, at the Los Angeles Sentinel, the largest black-owned newspaper west of the Mississippi. It was a paper with foundations in the civil rights movement, championing the "Don't Buy Where You Can't Work" campaign, which dissuaded African-Americans from patronizing businesses that had discriminatory hiring practices during the 1930s.

Ever since those humble beginnings, I have worked long hours with little pay because I felt compelled to tell stories of those who have been wronged. Integrity was paramount, as was an attention to proper grammar and the Associated Press Stylebook. Homonyms gave me trouble, as did the old "effect v. affect" battle, but I kept fighting. Many editors, including Don Wanlass, Andre Herndon, John Moreno, Michael Tittinger and the late Ron Dungee, gave me the encouragement I needed to never give up. I credit them for helping me understand the true importance of my profession.

Then the floor gave way and the industry began to tumble to the depths of "kittens get clicks." As soon as I heard that phrase in a newspaper's conference room during a discussion about "web strategy" (when I graduated from USC, no one even talked about the web), I knew my dreams were dead. It was no longer about shedding light on the corrupt or holding those in power accountable for their actions. It was about page views. How could I twist a headline to get someone to click on a link? What salacious details could I find to make a reader's jaw drop and then share it on Facebook? It wasn't about making a difference. It became all about survival.

More media outlets consolidated, papers folded, reporters were laid off and the Internet grew more powerful. Attention spans continued to deteriorate and long-form journalism, my favorite aside from court reporting, withered. That's not what I signed up for and I have fought every day to maintain the integrity of the Santa Monica Daily Press and feel confident that the paper is in a good place and heading in the right direction, which is why I am at ease about leaving.

Sure, there are always more stories to cover, more PDFs and 100-page staff reports and cryptic e-mails to scour, but with a full-time staff of just three, I feel we've done a commendable job. Did we hit the mark 100 percent of the time? Of course not. But, we did make an impact. It's not easy. So please, excuse the typos. (Rob, is it Rader, Radar or Radir?)

I leave the paper with a sense of pride, knowing that we've presented well-balanced articles and never compromised ourselves — despite what some would like to believe.

I say all this not to justify my leaving the profession, even though many journalists feel compelled to make some sense of it all, to have some dignity, as if starting a new career is something to be ashamed of. No, not me. I leave knowing I gave it my all and have no regrets — well, except that year or so covering entertainment. The food was great, but those celebrity press junkets can get pretty repetitive. ("So, how was it to work with … ")

I must give thanks to my publisher, Ross Furukawa, and my former editor, Carolyn Sackariason, for their leap of faith in hiring a young reporter with no daily experience and then promoting him roughly two years later to editor-in-chief. Their guidance, support, critiques and willingness to step back and let me work helped me become a better journalist, manager and person. I am truly grateful for the roles they played in my career and will remember them fondly.

I would also like to thank my managing editor, Daniel Archuleta, and all of the staff writers, columnists, contributing writers and photographers who have helped me more than they probably know. You all are truly amazing people who did far more than you should have, but you did it because you care. That's rare.

That same admiration goes to all of those in the community who gave me their time, shared their stories (some of which were very personal and emotionally painful) and offered their help over coffees, lunches and late night libations following a Planning Commission or school board meeting. Santa Monicans are very intelligent and generous people, willing to give you what you need to be a successful journalist, and that includes their slant as well as their criticism. I know we didn't always agree on everything, but at least we could come together peacefully and hash things out. I can't say that about some people and I hope, as the city moves forward, the discourse can be civil and respectful. Social media can be great for spreading the word, but it also can spread hate. Be careful how far you take it.

Santa Monica, it's been real. Now, on to the next one.

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

The Q Line

High and dry

The Planning Commission recently voted to deny the Palihouse hotel a permit to sell alcohol. A number of residents came out against allowing booze at the hotel, which is located in a residential neighborhood.

This past week, Q-line asked:
Do you think Palihouse should serve alcohol or are residents right in objecting to the practice?

Here are your responses:

"THE PLANNING COMMISSION MADE the right decision denying the Palihouse hotel a liquor license. Remember, it was originally an apartment building and they kicked everybody out to make it a hotel. It was not built as a hotel. It's in a residential neighborhood and right near a nursing home. You know if they serve alcohol there are going to be many drunks walking around and making too much noise. If you want to drink in your room, bring the liquor up to your room, but don't sell liquor on the property. It just creates problems for the entire neighborhood."

"THERE ARE NO ARGUMENTS THAT THE damage that has been done and is being done to the city is justifiable for the gains of outside interests. Asking residents to absorb noise, parking problems and more traffic is unconscionable. It is time for the Planning Commission to sober up and stop making decisions based on a dry drunk. Get with the program. The residents are tired of being victims."

"THE PALIHOUSE SHOULD NEVER HAVE been allowed to think they could sell booze in a residential neighborhood. Every developer and property purchaser should be on notice before they plunk down their money that there are clear and firm city codes they must adhere to. That would avoid all of the anxiety our residents have to go through to fight off these invaders of our sanctity."

"YES, THE RESIDENTS ARE RIGHT IN objecting to the practice of selling alcohol at that hotel. We have enough drunks in Santa Monica, let's not have them there."

"I JUST WONDERED WHY IT IS OK for the Oceana Beach Club Hotel at 849 Ocean Ave. to have a liquor license, but it's not OK for Palihouse? Both are in residential neighborhoods. I kind of think that's unfair to Palihouse."

"WE DON'T NEED ANY MORE TO DEAL with. The neighborhood was there before these people came in. If liquor wasn't sold there before, it shouldn't be sold now."

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"THE PALIHOUSE SHOULD NOT SERVE alcohol. The residents are right in objecting to the practice. Residential neighborhoods are clearly defined in Santa Monica and certain restrictions apply to those areas. Residents should not be disturbed by commercial activities, especially in the evening when most hardworking neighbors are trying to sleep. Any guest at Palihouse has only a short walk to the promenade where food and alcoholic beverages are easily found at many establishments. Please let Santa Monica keep residential zones clear of commercial activity."

"THERE ARE ALREADY ENOUGH drunkards running around in Santa Monica, police don't need any more to deal with. The neighborhood was there before these people came in. If liquor wasn't sold there before, it shouldn't be sold now."

"THERE SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN a hotel there in the first place, but the City Council screwed the residents over and allowed the legal conversion of apartments to a hotel just so they could save a dozen or so rent-controlled apartments. They got bad legal advice from the city attorney, and then found themselves without any leg to stand on. So, naturally, they caved. It's a shame that many neighbors have to suffer because of the council's misguided, socialist agenda which assumes everyone should be equal, even if it means destroying one's quality of life."



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City of Santa Monica

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City Hall HVAC Replacement Project
SP2312

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, 90401, not later than 2:30 p.m. on **Thursday, April 17, 2014** to be publicly opened and read aloud after 3:00 p.m. on said date in City Hall Council Chambers. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Bids.

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California Senate suspends 3 Democratic lawmakers

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. The Democratically controlled California Senate has voted to suspend three Democrats who face charges in separate criminal cases, after the latest lawmaker to be hauled into court refused to step down.

Friday's 28-1 vote in the 40-member chamber came amid one of the most severe ethical crises in modern times for the Legislature in the nation's most populous state.

The resolution prevents Democratic Sens. Ron Calderon, Leland Yee and Rod Wright from exercising any power of their office until the pending criminal cases against them have been resolved. Even so, they will continue receiving their $95,291 annual salaries.

Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg of Sacramento acknowledged the public criticism of the chamber but defended his leadership and the integrity of the 37 senators who have not run afoul of the law. Nevertheless, he said he has been shocked by having 7 percent of the chamber face felony charges this year, which will be his last as leader.

"One is an anomaly, two a coincidence, but three? That's not what this Senate is about," Steinberg said to his fellow lawmakers before the vote.

Yee, who had championed gun control legislation and bills targeting violent video games sold to minors, is the latest of the three senators to be charged. The San Francisco Democrat was indicted this week on federal charges that included accepting bribes and coordinating an international gun-running operation.

Yee's attorney, Paul F. DeMeester, issued a statement immediately after the Senate vote saying suspension was "the right step for now" because it acknowledges the presumption of innocence.

Steinberg noted that the Senate already has "intensive" ethics training for its lawmakers and staff.

"But there are some things, members, that you just can't teach," he said. "I know of no ethics class that teaches about the illegality or the danger of gun-running or other such sordid activities."

He called the allegations against Yee unfathomable.

Steinberg also announced an unprecedented step of canceling a Senate floor session in April for a mandatory ethics review, with Senate officials going office-by-office to emphasize ethical conduct and to ask staffers to come forward if they are aware of any unethical or potentially criminal activity by lawmakers or Senate staffers.

The lone lawmaker to vote against the resolution, SR38, was Republican Sen. Joel Anderson of Alpine. He argued that all three should be expelled outright and said it was wrong that they should continue receiving their salaries when facing such serious charges.

"If you reward bad behavior, you will get more of it," Anderson said.

Calderon and Wright previously took leaves of absence, which also let them keep their pay. The California Constitution says lawmakers can lose their pay only if they are expelled or resign.

The three suspensions drop Senate Democrats below the two-thirds majority they won in the last election, a supermajority that allowed them to act in all matters without needing support from Republicans in the 40-member chamber.

The vote comes just days after federal authorities arrested Yee as part of a broader corruption probe centered on San Francisco's Chinatown district.

Steinberg was under intense pressure to take tough action with three members of his own party facing criminal charges. Both the state's U.S. senators, Democrats Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein, weighed in.

Feinstein, in a statement Thursday, called the allegations against Yee "shocking."

"It has become clear he has lost the confidence of his colleagues and for the good of his constituents should step down," she said.

Senate Minority Leader Bob Huff, R-Diamond Bar, said in a statement calling for Yee's suspension that the three arrests are "tarnishing the California State Senate."

Yee was arrested and released on bond Wednesday following a series of raids in Sacramento and the San Francisco Bay Area. According to an affidavit, he is accused of accepting more than $42,000 to provide introductions, influence legislation and for introducing an undercover FBI agent to an arms trafficker.

Investigators said Yee discussed helping the agent get weapons, including shoulder-fired missiles, from a Muslim separatist group in the Philippines to help pay off campaign debts.

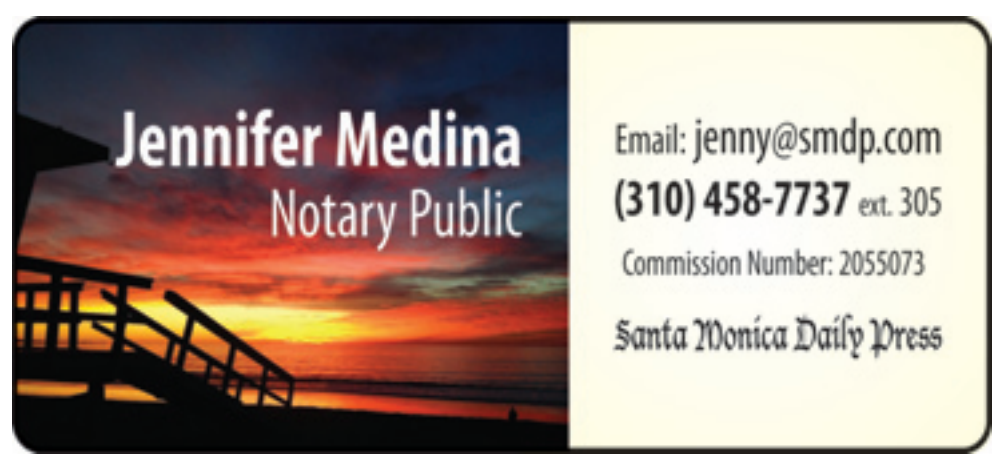
Wright was convicted of voter fraud and perjury and faces sentencing in May. Calderon faces federal charges for allegedly accepting $100,000 in bribes for friends and family in exchange for pushing certain bills.

Democratic Sen. Kevin de Leon of Los Angeles, who will succeed Steinberg as Senate leader later this year, defended the chamber's reputation and noted that none of the bills Calderon pushed as a favor to those who were giving him cash passed the Senate.

He said that shows that the legislative system actually worked.

"This is the best legislative institution in the country, hands down," he said. "And we're going to get past it."

Associated Press writer Tom Verdin contributed to this report.



U.S. consumer spending up modest 0.3 percent

BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON Americans barely increased their spending in February following a weak January performance, strong evidence that the severe winter will hold back the economy in the first quarter.

Consumer spending rose 0.3 percent in February following an even weaker 0.2 percent rise in January, the Commerce Department reported Friday. The January performance was cut in half from an initial estimate of 0.4 percent.

For February, spending on autos and other durable goods actually fell and much of the small gain reflected higher utility payments to pay heating costs.

Analysts said consumer spending, which accounts for 70 percent of economic activity, has slowed significantly in the January-March quarter and will hold back overall economic growth. But they are looking for a rebound in the spring as the weather improves.

Based on the weak February performance and the downward revision to January, economists at Barclays said they were trimming their forecast for overall economic growth in the first quarter to a 2 percent rate, down from a previous estimate of 2.4 percent.

Analysts believe a second quarter rebound will be driven by pent-up demand for the purchase of items such as cars that were put off during the winter storms.

"We expect consumer spending to be significantly stronger in the second quarter," said Chris G. Christopher, director of consumer economics at Global Insight. "Auto sales are expected to heat up in March and for the remainder of the year."

The report showed that after-tax income was up 0.3 percent in February, the same as in January.

The saving rate edged up slightly to 4.3 percent of after-tax income compared to January, when the saving rate was 4.2 percent.

The report showed that inflation remains very low. An inflation gauge tied to consumer spending was up just 0.9 percent in February compared to a year ago, significantly below the 2 percent target set by the Federal Reserve.

The Fed last week approved another reduction in its monthly bond buying, which the central bank is doing to lower long-term interest rates and boost economic growth. But some economists are concerned that if the Fed removes its support too quickly, it could undermine efforts to get prices rising closer to the target.

Economists expect that spending will rebound in the April-June period, helping to boost overall economic growth to its strongest pace in nearly a decade.

Many analysts foresee the economy growing 3 percent for the year, after a weak first quarter. It would be the most robust annual expansion since 2005, two years before the Great Recession began.

The National Association for Business Economics is predicting that the economy will grow 3.1 percent this year, far higher than the lackluster 1.9 percent gain in 2013.

If that forecast proves accurate, it would make 2014 the strongest year since the economy, as measured by the gross domestic product, expanded 3.4 percent in 2005. Since the Great Recession ended in June 2009, annual growth over the past four years has averaged a weak 2.2 percent.

The U.S. economy has been hit by a series of blows since then from a prolonged European debt crisis which hurt U.S. exports to three years of Washington budget fights, which fueled uncertainty about the government's spending and tax policies.

Tax increases and deep spending cuts that took effect in 2013 subtracted an estimated 1.5 percentage points from growth last year.

With Congress having reached a budget agreement and a deal to raise the government's borrowing limit, companies now have more certainty about federal fiscal policies and because of that, analysts say businesses are likely to boost their hiring and investment spending.

The number of people seeking unemployment benefits last week reached its lowest level since November — an encouraging sign that hiring should be picking up. In February, U.S. employers added 175,000 jobs, far more than in the two previous months. With more people working, more consumers will have money to spend to boost the economy, analysts believe.

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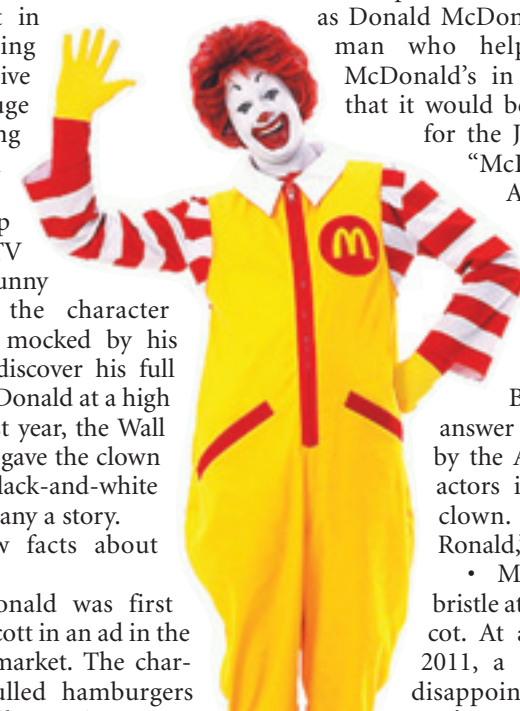
Ronald McDonald: A brief history

BY CANDICE CHOI
AP Food Industry Writer

NEW YORK Ronald McDonald evidently hasn't lost his magic.

Taco Bell is using real-life people named Ronald McDonald in a marketing campaign to promote its new breakfast menu, a nod to the famous clown known for his bright red hair and a yellow jumpsuit. The chain is hoping to go after McDonald's, the No. 1 player in breakfast.

Though Ronald has faded to the background in McDonald's own advertising, Taco Bell's appropriation of the name is a testament to the spokesclown's lingering cultural power.



Since his debut in 1963, the smiling clown has helped give McDonald's a huge advantage among kids. The clown turns up in countless aspects of pop culture. In the FX TV show "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia," the character known as Mac is mocked by his friends after they discover his full name is Ronald McDonald at a high school reunion. Last year, the Wall Street Journal even gave the clown one of its familiar black-and-white portraits to accompany a story.

Here are a few facts about Ronald McDonald:

• Ronald McDonald was first played by Willard Scott in an ad in the Washington, D.C. market. The character magically pulled hamburgers out of his belt, while wearing a nose made out a McDonald's cup. His hat was a tray holding a Styrofoam burger, a bag of fries and a milkshake.

• Before Ronald McDonald became the national mascot for McDonald's, the company's ad agency considered changing him into a cowboy given the popularity of TV westerns, according to the book "McDonald's: Behind the Arches." Others said he should be made into a spaceman as a nod to the country's budding space program.

• For the first national ads, Scott was dropped because the agency thought he was too heavy to play the part of an "extremely active" Ronald, according to the book.

"It was the first time I was really screwed by the mass media," the book quotes Scott as saying.

• One of the most popular first national ads first featuring Ronald McDonald showed him landing at a restaurant on a flying saucer shaped like a hamburger.

• In Japan, Ronald McDonald is known as Donald McDonald. A local businessman who helped open the first McDonald's in the country decided that it would be easier to pronounce for the Japanese, according to "McDonald's: Behind the Arches."

• McDonald's doesn't like to acknowledge that Ronald McDonald isn't real. The company, based in Oak Brook, Ill., wouldn't answer when asked repeatedly by the AP in 2011 how many actors it uses to portray the clown. "There's only one Ronald," an executive said.

• McDonald's executives bristle at criticism of their mascot. At an annual meeting in 2011, a shareholder expressed disappointment that Ronald wasn't present as the company faced criticism over use of the clown in marketing to children.

In response, then-CEO Jim Skinner said: "Ronald hasn't been here because he's out in the field busy doing work and fighting through the protesters."

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25 drug companies to phase out animal antibiotics

BY MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Twenty-five pharmaceutical companies are voluntarily phasing out the use of antibiotics for growth promotion in animals processed for meat, the Food and Drug Administration said this week.

Citing a potential threat to public health, the agency in December asked 26 companies to voluntarily stop labeling drugs important for treating human infection as acceptable for animal growth promotion. The FDA did not name the one company that has not agreed to withdraw or revise its drugs.

The companies will either withdraw the drugs from animal use completely or revise them so they would only be able to be used with a veterinarian's prescription.

Many cattle, hog and poultry producers give their animals antibiotics regularly to make the animals grow faster and ensure that they are healthy.

Withdrawing the animal drugs is designed to limit antibiotic-resistant diseases in humans as that resistance has become a growing public health problem. Repeated exposure to antibiotics can lead germs to become resistant to the drug so that it is no longer effective in treating a particular illness.

In September, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released estimates that more than 23,000 people a year are dying from drug-resistant infections.

The biggest risk is from germs spread in hospitals, and it's not clear how much of the problem is related to the use of drugs in animals that become meat. But the FDA has said this is one step toward addressing the problem.

FDA said it was working with industry on the issue because it was an easier and faster route than the protracted regulatory process. Two of the leading manufacturers of animal antibiotics, Zoetis and Elanco, said they would comply.

The FDA said the 25 companies represent 99.6 percent of the supply the agency is targeting.

Consumers increasingly have clamored for antibiotic-free meat. McDonald's, among other companies, has moved to limit the drugs in the animals that supply their meat, pushing many animal producers to go along.

Some advocacy groups said the FDA needs to go even further to curb animal antibiotics, including limiting companies who use them for disease prevention when holding animals in crowded conditions. The current guidelines address antibiotic use for growth promotion.

"If the voluntary guidelines do not rein in antibiotic use, compliance from drug companies is meaningless," said Keeve Nachman of the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future."



The Better Option

Lori Salerno
Send comments to editor@smdp.com



Photo courtesy *omgyummy.wordpress.com*

COLORFUL: This refreshing spring spinach salad with strawberries is loaded with antioxidants and flavor, making for a healthy lunch.

Chasing the rainbow for health

WITH SPRING COMES THE FRUITS AND vegetables on the outer spectrum of the rainbow — the reds, blues, and purples. These rich pigments most commonly found in berries are from the compounds anthocyanins. Also found in red wine, eggplants and red cabbage, these plants produce anthocyanins as a protective mechanism against environmental stressors.

More recently the specific pharmacological properties of these compounds have been isolated and studied in animals and humans and suggest that anthocyanins may play a role in helping to reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD), cognitive decline, and cancer. Known for years because of their antioxidant properties, current research suggests the health benefits are likely the result from unidentified chemical properties and phytochemicals.

Several studies have found an association between the consumption of anthocyanin-rich foods and decreased risk of CVD, in part, due to a reduction in arterial stiffness and central systolic blood pressure. Production of metabolites by gut microflora may decrease inflammatory markers associated with increased CVD.

More promising is the anti-carcinogenic activities found in cell culture and in animal studies due to anthocyanins and their rich extracts. They not only act as antioxidants, but also activate detoxifying enzymes, prevent cancer cell proliferation, induce cancer cell death, prevent cancer cell invasion, and induce differentiation.

Although human studies have been less promising, animal studies on anthocyanins inhibit cancer development in animals given carcinogens. In cell culture, anthocyanins from a purple sweet potato stopped the reproduction of colon cancer cells and initiated cancer cell death.

With regard to cognitive function, research suggests that flavonoids, including anthocyanins, have the ability to enhance memory and help prevent age-related declines in mental functioning. Several other studies have found that berries, most notably blueberries, which are rich in anthocyanins, can effectively reverse age-related deficits in certain aspects of working memory.

Ximena Jimenez, MS, RDN, LD, a spokesperson for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, says that while anthocyanins haven't reached star status yet, consumers are starting to hear more about them.

"Aim for three or more servings per week. Start your day with blueberries or blackberries, grape juice for lunch, and add eggplant, purple cauliflower, or purple onions to your favorite recipes," Jimenez said.

So the next time you're at one of our local farmers' markets pick up a basket of berries and try this refreshing spring salad loaded with antioxidants and flavor or pair this raspberry vinaigrette with your favorite greens.

LORI SALERNO, M.S., R.D.N, C.P.T. is a registered dietitian nutritionist and certified personal trainer who provides medical nutrition therapy to groups and individuals in Santa Monica and recipe and menu analysis for restaurants nationwide. Learn more at www.eatwelldailynutrition.com.

The Better Option spinach salad

Serves four

1/2 shallot, finely chopped
2 tablespoons raspberry vinegar
2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
1/2 pound baby spinach
1/2 cup strawberries, thinly sliced
1/2 cup blueberries
1/3 cup chopped pecans, toasted
2 ounces fresh goat cheese, crumbled

In a large bowl, whisk together shallot and vinegar. While whisking constantly, drizzle in oil to make vinaigrette. Add spinach, strawberries, pecans and goat cheese and gently toss to combine. Serve immediately.
Per Serving: 180 calories, 13g total fat, 3.5g saturated fat, 5mg cholesterol, 140mg sodium, 11g carbohydrate (4g dietary fiber, 2g sugar), 6g protein

When fresh is not available try:
The Better Option raspberry vinaigrette
1/2 cup unsweetened frozen raspberries, thawed
1/4 cup extra-virgin olive oil
2 tablespoons red wine vinegar
1 tablespoon honey
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

Place the raspberries, olive oil, vinegar, and honey in a blender. Blend until smooth. Season with salt and pepper to taste.


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FORUM
FROM PAGE 1

higher levels of air pollution. They're experiencing noise pollution," he said. "I'm just so excited that council acted the way they did and I'm going to work with Congressman Henry Waxman's office and fight to make sure the (Federal Aviation Administration) respects your decision."

Matt Miller, a journalist and the KCRW radio host of the political debate show, "Left, Right & Center," took a broader approach, saying that Democrats need to aim higher.

He believes America is suffering from an economic cancer that's been building over decades and that the response to the 2008 financial meltdown has been a patch, not a cure.

"We spend today twice per person what every other wealthy nation spends on healthcare without better results," he said. "That, nationally, is one trillion dollars a year taken right off the top by the medical industrial complex. It affects every business, every family, every worker, every senior in this district."

Miller, who's written two books on the economy, has a plan to remedy our financial woes that he's posted on his website.

David Kanuth, a former Los Angeles public defender, focused on his lack of experience as a positive.

"I don't think we can vote for and elect people who look and sound exactly like what we don't approve of in Congress and expect to get a different result," he said. "I have been a public servant, not a politician."

Government should be a friend to business in the Westside's tech quarter, he said. Kanuth also expressed a desire to fix a broken criminal justice system.

Barbara Mulvaney, a Santa Monica resident who's worked for many years in the United Nations and the U.S. Department of the State, brought a global approach to many of the issues.

Kristie Holmes, a social worker and USC professor, wants more female leadership, the legalization of marijuana, and no fracking off the coast.

On the issue of campaign finance reform, all candidates agreed that the current system is inadequate.

On the issue of climate change, Lieu stressed a need for adaptation.

"We know that even if we went completely dark tomorrow, we're still going to have a hotter earth because of the carbon that's already been released," he said. "We need to start adapting to that and we need to also mitigate. I support a carbon tax. If we can't get a carbon tax, I support cap and trade."

Greuel called climate change a moral and economic issue and, like all the candidates, lauded Waxman's environmental stance. She promised to introduce tough regulations.

"I will be a fighter," she said. "I have a history of doing that and bringing the kinds of people around me who will put forward environmental protections."

Miller explained that he's been a fan of the carbon tax for years but believes the critique that by itself it's regressive and will end up impacting middle and lower-income taxpayers more. He supports a carbon tax and rebate.

"You impose a new carbon tax, which raises taxes and is going to result in higher energy prices for people and they need to be held harmless for that," he said. "So as part of the package you reduce or eliminate payroll taxes."

Republican and Democrat policy wonks agree with this idea, Miller said, which creates an opportunity for new leadership to drive the issue.

The primary election will be held June 3.

So far there are 18 certified candidates, according to the Secretary of State's Office, including three independents, one Libertarian, one Green Party candidate, three Republicans and 10 Democrats.

dave@smdp.com

TOURISM
FROM PAGE 1

Misti Kerns. These tourists notice the subtle differences that some Santa Monicans might take for granted.

"They want to go there because it's different," she said. "We have very unique aspects to our visit: Healthy lifestyle, the casualness. You can have a five-star meal in jeans. It's easy to live like a local."

The language barrier in Brazil — the official language is Portuguese — is actually more of a challenge for the CVB than for the Santa Monica businesses.

"There are so many languages, which one do you pick for marketing?" Kerns said. "Most of the Brazilian visitors are multi-lingual so when they come here they adapt."

Visitors from other countries, like China, aren't necessarily as interested in the differences in American culture. Some businesses, like the Santa Monica Place mall, are adapting to the Chinese tourists.

The Chinese are flocking to Los Angeles but they aren't yet staying in Santa Monica, Kerns said. On the list of international visitors staying overnight, the Chinese are "not even showing up yet," Kerns said.

They're very rate-conscious, she said, so they often choose to stay in Los Angeles. But they like shopping and they are definitely stopping by.

"Because we just came through Chinese New Year, they were our number one international visitor," said Santa Monica Place's Senior Marketing Manager Shoshana Puccia.

Chinese shoppers have since dropped to number three on Santa Monica Place's list but will likely return to the top by the end of the year, Puccia said. It should be noted that Santa Monica Place mall still pulls in many tourists from numerous countries including France, Italy, Brazil, and Australia, but in the last year business from the Chinese traveler is booming.

As a service to these international travelers, Santa Monica Place offers discounts to those who present passports. They also deliver purchases to hotels up to 11 miles away — Puccia said they make about 30 deliveries a month.

Additionally, the concierges are extensively trained to understand the cultural differences.

"One of the challenges for the Chinese is finding food that's authentic for them," Puccia said. "It's like anybody: If we go to China you reach a point where you just want a hamburger. It's the same for them. It's one of those things that you have to be open to. They may not want (Santa Monica Place) food but you have to help them find the right place."

Santa Monica Place hosted a large Chinese New Year celebration and held a fundraiser for Chinese hospitals in honor of their new Chinese shoppers.

Listening is key, Puccia said, as the new tourists sometimes speak less English.

"Our people really do stop to listen to what the needs of our Chinese guests are," Puccia said. "Sometimes their English is not very good so they'll travel with a tour guide, so it can be a little challenging, but we really do our best to meet their specific needs."

Publisher Matthew Gibbons recently printed free maps of Santa Monica in nine different languages — including Mandarin, Japanese, Korean, and Portuguese — that he distributed throughout the region. "Million Maps Santa Monica" is meant to draw international tourists who are in the region and could choose to spend their days in other parts of Southern California.

There's cachet for the Chinese tourist to be able to say they bought an item in Santa Monica, Puccia said.

"The Chinese visitor is always also very focused on authenticity of the product that they're purchasing," she said. "So they will actually go into the Louis Vuitton store and buy the handbag that they want in the United States versus in their country because they want to be sure that they got the real product. "

dave@smdp.com

SMO
FROM PAGE 1

fuel.

Nearby residents have long protested the existence of the airport, complaining of noise and pollution created by jets and propellor planes. Others fear for their safety, noting that the end of runway is about 300 feet from homes. Some have lobbied to shut it down and turn the land into a park.

Advocates point to the City Hall-sponsored report that estimates the airport brings in roughly $275 million every year. If nearby freeways were to collapse again, as occurred during the Northridge earthquake, SMO would be Santa Monica's lifeline to the outside world, advocates say.

Several contracts from different years dating back to World War II govern the airport land. The Federal Aviation Administration believes that one key contract expires in 2023 and that another obligates City Hall to operate the land as an airport indefinitely. City Hall maintains that it is out of the deal in July of next year.

Last year, City Hall sued the FAA, attempting to find out who will control the airport after 2015, but the judge threw the case out saying, among other things, that the issue was premature.

In their filing, the initiative proponents note that the airport and associated business park are "low- density, valuable community land uses that generate business, jobs and tax revenue for the city," while closing the airport would likely lead to higher density development, according to a report by AOPA.

Proponents add that the city itself has said that it does not have the resources to develop and maintain such valuable property for low-density use, like a park.

"This political game by politicians and special interests who hope to profit from redeveloping 227 acres of Santa Monica has gone on too long. It is clear from their statements and their actions that the politicians can't be trusted to maintain a low-density land use and therefore it is left to the people to express their vote before the city of Santa Monica takes any action to redevelop airport land," proponents of the charter amendment wrote.

Mayor Pam O'Connor responded to some airport advocates' claims that City Hall will over-develop the area if the land opens up during Tuesday's council meeting. She called them "alarmists" and noted that because it is public land, the community will decide what happens.

The proposed amendment would require voter approval before the council can make airport land available for non-aviation uses or can close or partially close the airport. It also requires the council to continue to operate the airport "in a manner that supports its aviation purposes" and stipulates that City Hall cannot impose new restrictions that would "inhibit the sale of fuel or the full use of aviation facilities."

AOPA has committed to offering nationwide support to the effort to protect the airport, which it says plays a significant role not only in the local economy but also in the regional and national transportation system.

SMO acts as a vital general aviation reliever airport for nearby LAX and other airports. Ongoing battles over the airport land also have implications for more than 200 other airports nationwide that benefit from similar post-WWII property agreements with the federal government, said Bill Dunn, AOPA vice president of airports.

"We're pleased to see the citizens of Santa Monica moving to put these issues in the hands of the voters," Dunn said. "Support for the airport is strong, but some city leaders seem intent on doing everything they can to close the field and redevelop the property, regardless of what it costs taxpayers, business owners, working families, and the community as a whole."

It is currently unclear who is behind the initiative. Listed as contacts with the City Clerk's Office are Flora Yin, an attorney with the Los Angeles law firm of Reed & Davidson, which specializes in politics and elections and two others.

Calls to Yin were not returned by presstime.

The group, Community Against Santa Monica Airport Traffic, is already gearing up for a fight.

On the group's website, they said, "AOPA … is bankrolling this effort to dupe Santa Monica's citizens into giving up their one and only chance to fix the lack of park space in this city.

"[W]e will of course be organizing widespread opposition to this outrage. We are going to kick their butts on this one and it begins today!"

Robert Rowbotham, president of Friends of the Santa Monica Airport, said his group isn't behind the initiative, but he is excited by the possibilities. He believes only a "small group" of residents want SMO closed and wants the voters to have the final say, not "a few elected officials who seem easily manipulated."

He believes if SMO is closed the land will be redeveloped into more offices and apartments.

To qualify a charter amendment for the November ballot, supporters must gather signatures of support from 15 percent of registered voters living in Santa Monica. As of 2012 there were 60,909 registered voters.

kevinh@smdp.com

BUS
FROM PAGE 3

At Marine heading toward LAX; board at Rose or Ashland

Riders will notice the following at new ADA-compliant bus stop: shade canopies; route information; trash and recycling containers; no smoking sign.

At heavily utilized bus stops, passengers will also find seating, lighting and/or signage that provides real-time bus arrival times.

Ten to 14 days prior to the start of construction, BBB promises to install a temporary sign that tells riders when their stop is closing and reopening, and alternative locations to board the bus. Riders may also subscribe to an e-mail list. Construction of a stop will always begin on a Monday.

Sign up to get updates by e-mail at www.bigbluebus.com. BBB will inform you of all stop closings and reopenings. Or follow the bus company on Twitter — www.twitter.com/smbsip/

The project is funded primarily by the federal government. Twenty percent of the cost is covered by City Hall, BBB officials said.

Lorcan O'Herlihy Architects (LOHA) was chosen in 2009 by the City Council to work with BBB to design the new stop amenities. LOHA was directed to develop designs that would:

- Enhance the streetscape
- Take into account physical constraints of the streets
- Allow for maximum visibility to businesses and signage located around it
- Feature the use of alternative energy
- Be as impervious to vandalism as possible
- Offer easily readable and aesthetically pleasing transit information
- Be simple and cost effective to maintain and service
- Adhere to ADA regulations
- Allow for the most current and future transit technologies

LOHA did a comprehensive site survey of all bus stops across the city and conducted focus groups with riders, residents, business groups and city staff to develop a list of key attributes to consider in the design process. Some of these key issues identified included a design that:

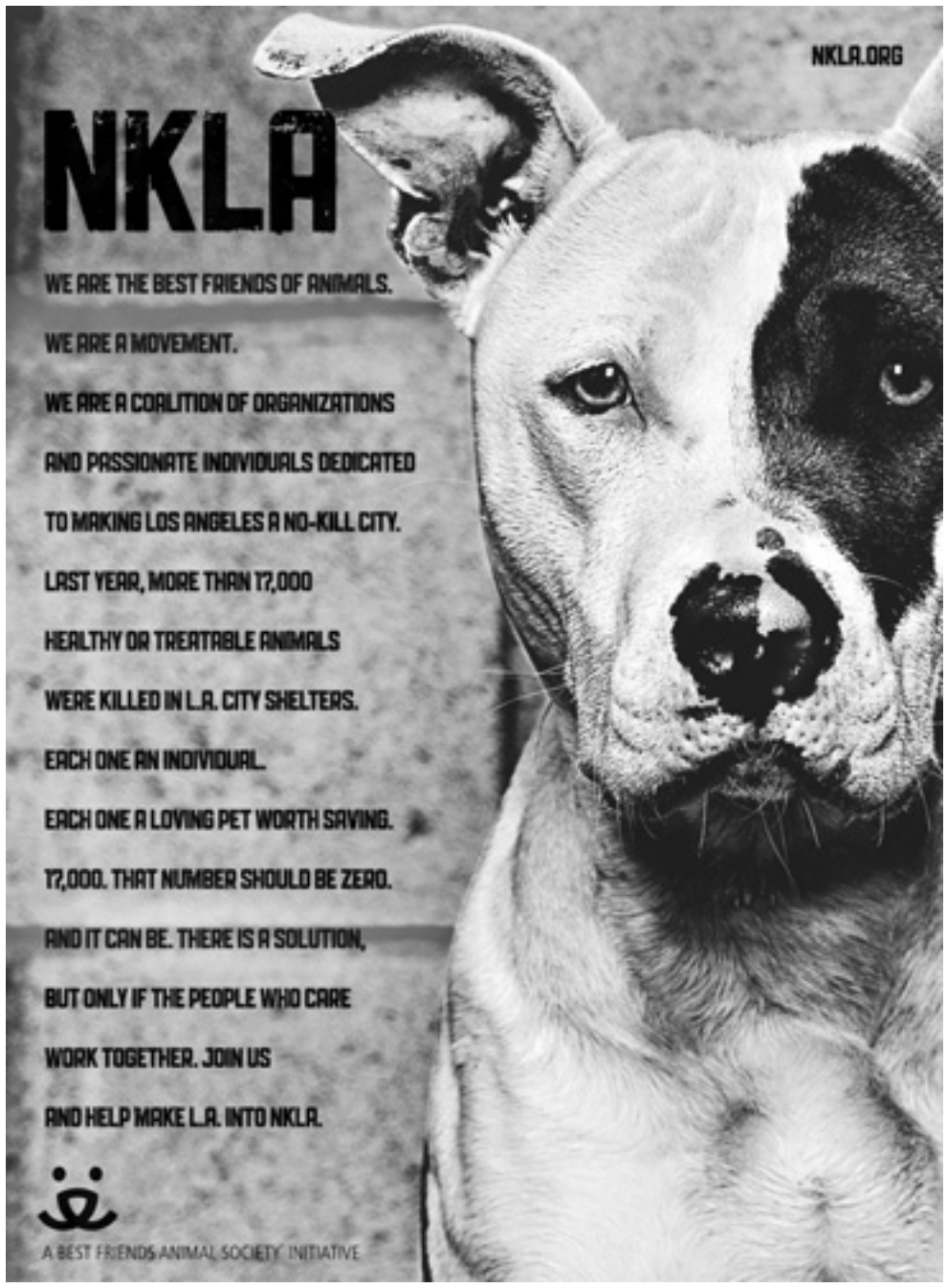
- Was unique and representative to the image of Santa Monica
- Offered shade protection
- Was safe and offered lighting
- Offered visibility to others and the environment
- Offered seating
- Was easy to use offering clear transit information
- Promoted alternate forms of transportation
- Was modular in design for easy replacement and to fit within various site conditions
- Offered trash and recycling cans

The design chosen met the criteria above. Called "Big Blue Dots," the sustainably forward shelters and information signs have great flexibility, offer maximum visibility and information to transit riders, while providing shade throughout the day, BBB officials said.

For questions about BBB service, dial (310) 451-5444.

kevinh@smdp.com







SURF REPORT



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131 BROADWAY SANTA MONICA, CA 90401 | (657) 859-3721
FACEBOOK.COM/ONEILLSANTAMONICA

Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **61.9°**

SATURDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high occ. 3ft
Trace WNW/SSW swells - New S swell creeps in late

SUNDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high
New WNW swell builds - more size out west; small S swell blend in

MONDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** thigh to waist high
Small S/SSW swell; potential WNW swell continues...stay tuned

TUESDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** Knee to chest high
New WNW swell may show as old WNW swell fades; watching for a fun new SSW swell to show

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 26, 2014**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 6
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 36 / 22
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 7 / 18

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

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

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

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

LEGEND

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

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

Heal the Bay

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.

Study: MMA brain injury risk higher than boxing

BY MICHAEL VIRTANEN
Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. About one-third of professional mixed martial arts matches end in knockout or technical knockout, indicating a higher incidence of brain trauma than boxing or other martial arts, according to a new study in the American Journal of Sports Medicine.

University of Toronto researchers examined records and videos from 844 Ultimate Fighting Championship bouts from 2006 to 2012 for the study published this month. They found that 108 matches or nearly 13 percent ended in knockouts. Another 179 matches, or 21 percent, ended in technical knockouts, usually after a combatant was hit in the head five to 10 times in the last 10 seconds before the fight was stopped.

"We're taking the premise with this that what you see on TV is one thing, but to kind of add scientific rigor to document it objectively," said Michael Hutchison, co-author and director of the concussion program at the university's MacIntosh Sports Medicine Clinic. With the technical knockouts, or TKOs, they reviewed videos and found "an increasing number of repetitive strikes to the head" during the last 30 seconds of a match, he said.

Professional mixed martial arts includes elements of wrestling, judo, boxing and kickboxing inside an enclosure with fighters wearing small, fingerless gloves and no headgear.

Officials from UFC, the sport's major brand, seeking approval to stage bouts in New York have argued that mixed martial arts has evolved over 20 years with many safety regulations to protect fighters, including mandatory suspensions after concussions. They say it's safer than boxing, where fighters tend to take repeated blows from padded gloves, with no history of deaths or traumatic brain injuries sustained in the ring.

Lawrence Epstein, chief operating officer of UFC, called the Toronto study "somewhat flawed" and said a forthcoming study by researchers who have enrolled nearly 400 active and retired fighters will provide better insight.

"By partnering with the Cleveland Clinic, one of the world's leading medical research institutions, on advanced studies aimed at not only preventing long-term brain injuries, but also identifying those predisposed to them, the UFC demonstrates true commitment to the safety of all professional athletes," Epstein said.

Preliminary results from the Cleveland studies found athletes with higher exposure to head trauma — based on a formula including number of fights, years fighting and fights per year — were likelier to score lower on cognitive testing. Researchers conducting the free, ongoing assessments of fighters' brain health are examining factors like genetics, lifestyle or head trauma exposure and susceptibility to injury.

The Toronto researchers, who examined UFC matches, found the time from a knockout blow — often a punch to the jaw — until matches were stopped averaged 3.5 seconds with losers on average getting hit 2.6 more times to the head. With TKOs, they found that in the last 30 seconds before a match was stopped the loser was hit on average 18.5 times, 92 percent of those to the head.

Hutchison acknowledged that unlike the knockouts, which meet the criteria for brain concussions, they can't definitively identify the particular injury from a TKO. Professional rules say that happens when a referee stops a fight because one competitor can no longer defend himself. "We can accurately suggest ... this can't be good for their health," he said.

Citing data from other research, the study said the mixed martial arts head trauma rate also outpaces football and hockey.

The researchers proposed introducing rules like in boxing where a fighter gets a 10-second count and evaluated after a knockdown. They also proposed more training to help referees to identify fighters who are defenseless or have lost consciousness so they can stop fights more quickly.

"Given that participation at amateur levels of the sport is growing rapidly, we expect to see high rates of traumatic brain injuries at more junior levels of amateur competition," the researchers wrote. "These points strongly argue for banning the sport in youth and for preventive strategies to reduce the burden of traumatic brain injuries in professional MMA fighters who elect to fight."

Hutchison wasn't saying whether mixed martial arts should be legal or not, only that adults should know the risks so they can make informed decisions. People are inherent risk takers, and some do it with drinking, smoking, skydiving or other activities, but they should be aware, he said.

Most states have legalized and regulated professional mixed martial arts although some are silent on the matter. New York is the only state that prohibits such fights and long-standing efforts to get it legalized recently stalled again for advocates hoping to gain access to Madison Square Garden and other New York venues.

The state Senate has passed the bill for several years and put it in a proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year, but it has not cleared the state Assembly.

New York state Sen. Joseph Griffo sponsored legislation that would legalize the sport and subject amateur mixed martial arts to state oversight that would include more stringent rules and regulations like those employed by amateur boxing. Regulation would also help the state go after the underground fights with paying audiences that are occurring now, especially in New York City, he said.

"I think everybody would agree the objective is to be very sensitive and do everything possible with preventing trauma to the head," Griffo said. "I don't think in any way that should prevent the sport."

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Saturday, March 29
Troma Marathon
7:30pm
Discussion between first and second films with Troma Entertainment co-founder Lloyd Kaufman. All audience members will have a chance to win Troma posters and art!

Sunday, March 30
It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World (NR) 2hrs 42min
7:30pm

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

300: Rise of an Empire (R) 1hr 42min
2:30pm, 8:00pm

Sabotage (R) 1hr 49min
11:10am, 1:50pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:25pm

300: Rise of an Empire 3D (R) 1hr 42min
5:00pm, 10:30pm

Divergent (PG-13) 2hr 19min
11:00am, 12:15pm, 3:40pm, 7:00pm, 10:20pm

Non-Stop (PG-13) 1hr 50min
11:20am, 2:00pm, 4:50pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

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

Noah (PG-13) 2hrs 18min
11:10am, 12:30pm, 4:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:45pm

Need for Speed (PG-13) 2hr 10min
5:00pm, 10:55pm

Mr. Peabody & Sherman (PG) 1hr 30min
10:45am, 1:30pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Divergent (PG-13) 2hr 19min
10:15am, 1:00pm, 4:20pm, 7:45pm, 11:00pm

Bad Words (R) 1hr 29min
11:30am, 2:15pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:45pm

Muppets Most Wanted (PG) 1hr 52min
11:00am, 2:00pm, 5:00pm, 8:00pm, 10:00pm

Grand Budapest Hotel (R) 1hr 40min
10:30am, 1:40pm, 2:30pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 8:15pm, 10:10pm

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

Le Week-end (R) 1hr 33min
1:00pm, 3:15pm, 5:30pm, 7:50pm, 10:10pm

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

Tim's Vermeer (NR) 1hr 20min
11:10am

Teenage (NR) 1hr 20min
11:00am

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

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

HEY PISCES, GOOD THINGS AHEAD

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Read between the lines if someone is hemming and hawing. Some people just get shy; others become nervous. You will want to see more of what is happening, and you finally might be able to stabilize the situation. Tonight: Choose to do something rewarding.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ This is the perfect day to meet up with friends and make the most of what is happening. Letting off steam and dissolving some stress will become fun. Make the most out of the moment. Tonight: Nap, then decide.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Friendships determine your decisions. You know what is needed to make an important person in your life feel special. You will have a much easier time with this person if you do. Tonight: Let your wild side emerge.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You might want to make time to have some relaxing moments today. Choose a type of entertainment that allows your mind to drift, and let go of any tension. A new romance could be difficult at the moment. Just stay clear-headed. Tonight: Happiest at home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Defer to someone else in order to come to a better understanding of what needs to happen. Follow through on an offer that really might be too good to refuse. Determine what needs to happen with a person at a distance. Is it time for a trip? Tonight: Be forthright about your desires.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Someone will want to bridge an emotional gap between the two of you. You have your limits, and you might feel like stating your boundaries. Work on adding in a touch of diplomacy. Make it OK to respect different views. Tonight: How about a good old-fashioned date?

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Decide to get your errands done before leaping into a fun happening with friends and a loved one. You might find that you need to use a good part of the day for a project. Tonight: Where you are, the action is.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You could be in touch with many people, but you will be happiest today with one person whom you really care about. Together you will conjure up some fun plans. Tonight: Play the night away.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You might want to put a difficult situation behind you, but a knee-jerk reaction could prevent it. Work on responding to situations and not reacting. Once you achieve that self-control, you will create more of what you desire. Tonight: Make it a party with friends.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Examine a personal matter in order to root out an issue. Consider changing your plans, if need be, though you might want to be wary of disappointing a friend. Look at the situation from a different perspective, but make the necessary choices. Tonight: The action is at your place.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Understand that you might need to handle a personal matter. Recognize what is happening with your finances, as you could feel as though they are dwindling. Explore opportunities openly, and get others' feedback. Tonight: Have dinner with friends.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You will want to be where your friends are; however, news might cause you to rethink your plans. You could discover the power of excellent communication as you discuss your options with a loved one. Tonight: This is the first day of the rest of your life.

Weekend Edition, March 29-30, 2014

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

This year you often clash with close associates and partners. Understand that they are more likely to be the agitators in these scenarios. Still, you will need to deal with their discontent on some level. If you are single, you will know when you meet Mr. or Ms. Right, as the connection will be instantaneous. The most likely period for this encounter will be after spring 2014. If you are attached, the two of you often find yourselves in heated discussions. Make sure to respect each other's views. Summer could be memorable and passionate for you as a couple. Do not test the limits of another ARIES.

INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?
Check out the HOROSCOPES above!
smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office **(310) 458-7737**

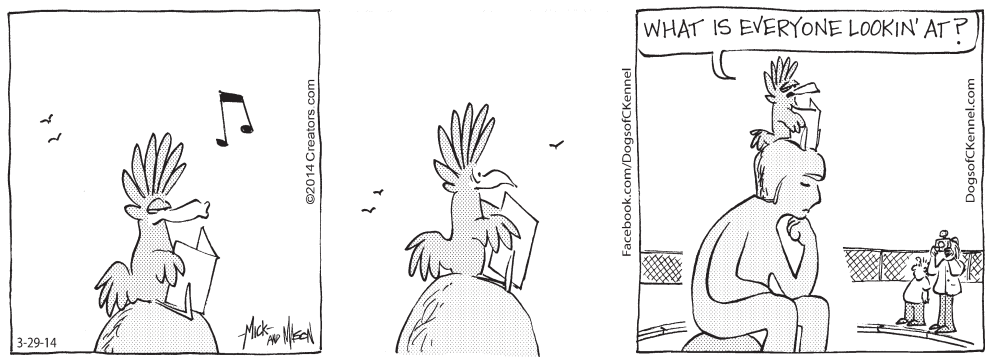
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



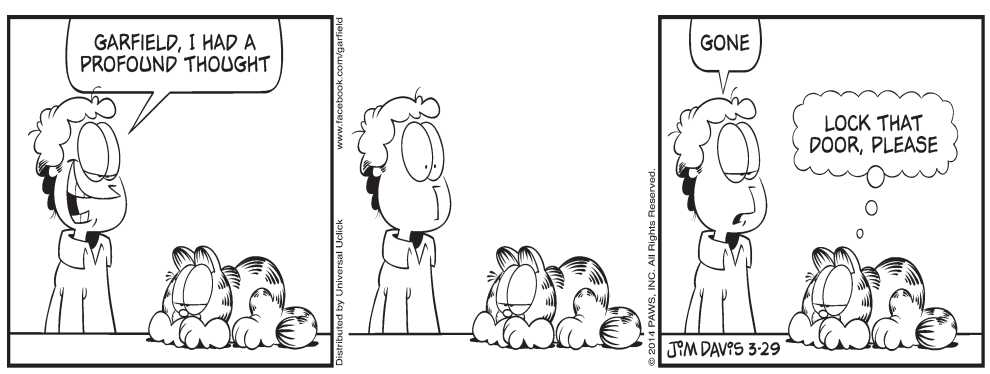
Strange Brew
By John Deering



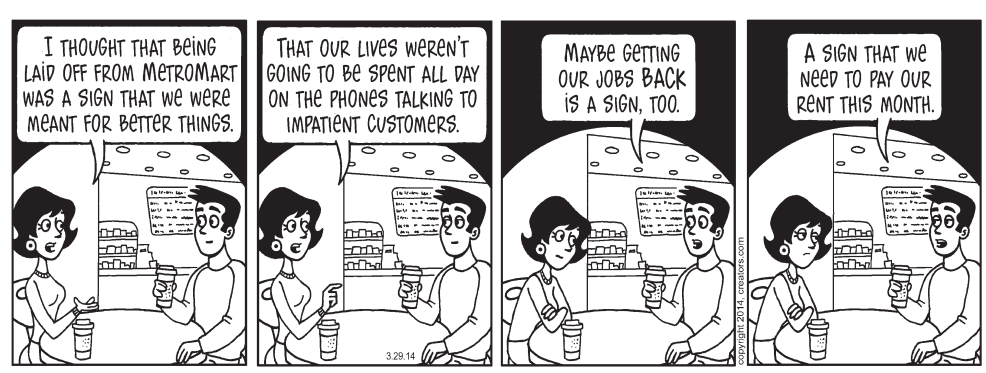
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

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

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

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70 cents
stays right here - supporting our schools, services and the community.

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MYSTERY REVEALED

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

Reader Wes Thompson correctly identified this photo of the IMAX headquarters on Exposition Boulevard near Stewart Street. He will receive a prize from the Daily Press. Check out Monday's paper for another chance to win. Send your mystery photos to *editor@smdp.com* to be used in future issues.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

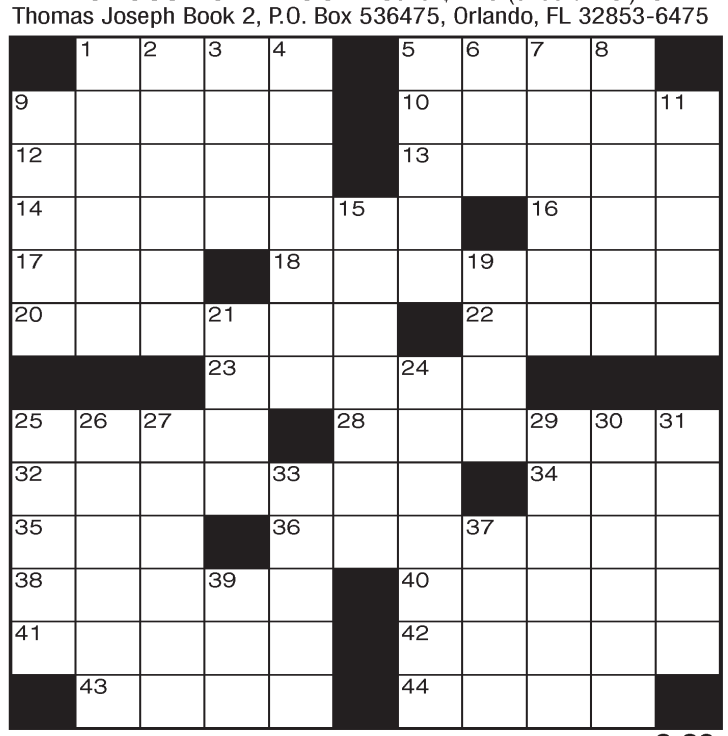
ACROSS
1 Play group
5 Pear-shaped instrument
9 More sage
10 Make better
12 Foreword
13 Left over
14 Scent
16 Gift topper
17 Punk rock offshoot
18 Sheet material
20 Sounded hoarse
22 Hideous
23 Verdi pieces
25 Egg outline
28 Region of eastern France
32 Arrange in every possible way
34 Crew director
35 Compass trace
36 Lie in court
38 Yoga position
40 Circus star
41 Shore bird
42 Three-time Wimbledon champ
43 Bank statement no.
44 Martial arts levels

DOWN
1 Movies
2 Houston team
3 Lowly worker
4 Good sport
5 Powerful beam
6 Diamond judge
7 Brewing item
8 Sign up
9 Windshield clearer
11 Loser to Truman
15 Oversee negotiations
19 Swear
21 Tropical tree
24 Warned
25 Milky stones
26 "Romeo and Juliet" setting
27 Very cold
29 Savvy
30 Kitchen gadgets
31 Put to use
33 Sports surprise
37 Coffee, in slang
39 Bars for scanning

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

Yesterday's answer

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3-29



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

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

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

TODAY IN HISTORY

1930 – Heinrich Brüning is appointed German Reichskanzler.

1936 – In Germany, Adolf Hitler receives 99% of the votes in a referendum to ratify Germany's illegal reoccupation of the Rhineland, receiving 44.5 million votes out of 45.5 million registered voters.

WORD UP!

catharsis
\ kuh-THAHR-seez \ , noun;
1. the purging of the emotions or relieving of emotional tensions, especially through certain kinds of art, as tragedy or music.

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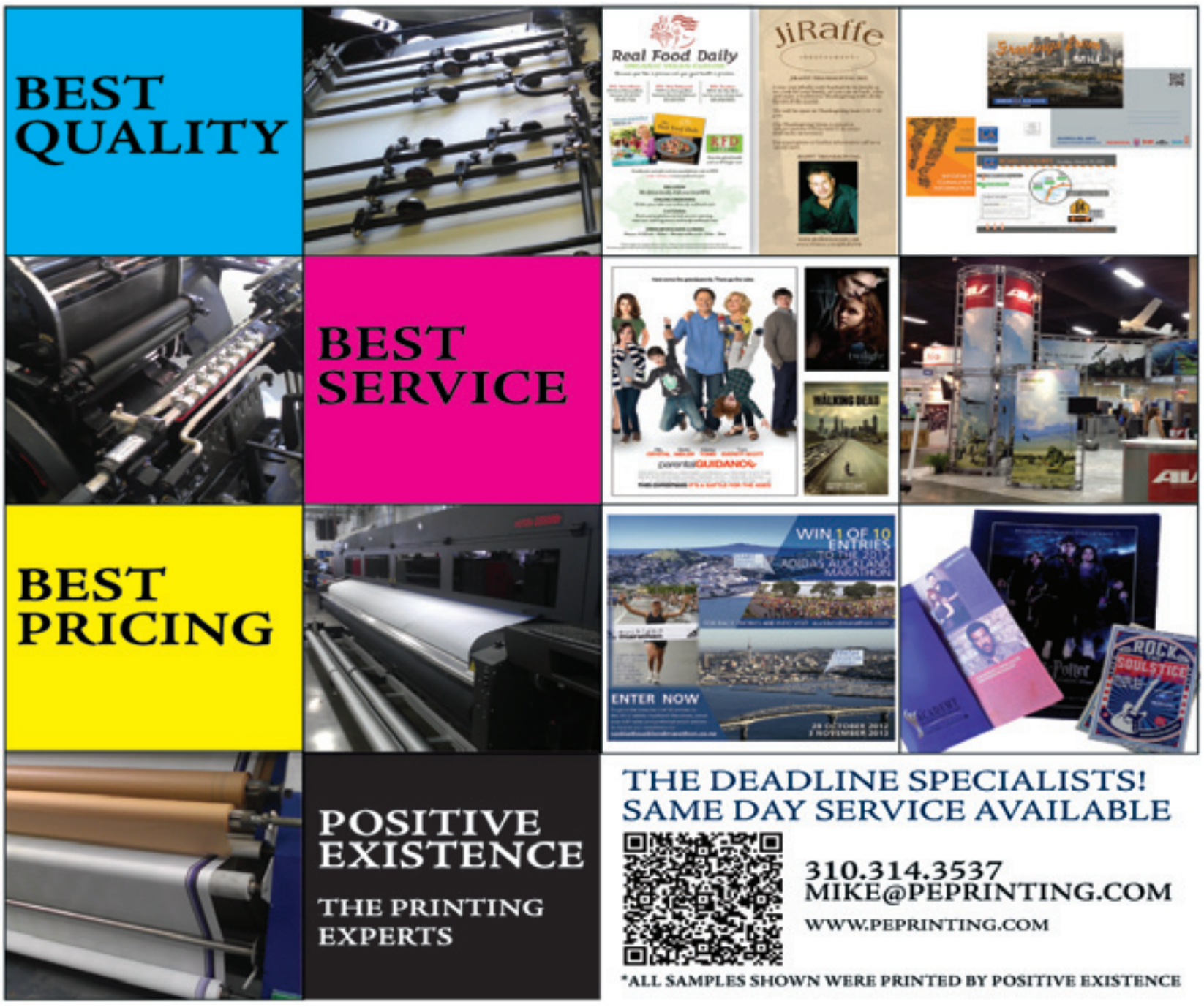
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