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Santa Monica Daily Press
MARCH 31 - APRIL 1, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 120

Santa Monica Daily Press

PEOPLE ARE SPLIT ON SAVING 'CHAIN REACTION'
SEE PAGE 5

We have you covered

THE BUY LOCAL ISSUE



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

HAPPY CAMPERS: **Dennis Woods (left) and Mayor Richard Bloom cut the ribbon Friday along with residents from the Borderline Neighborhood who got City Hall to spend over $2 million on improvements to Longfellow Street, which previously attracted prostitutes and drunkards.**

'DMZ' between Santa Monica, Venice no more

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

OCEAN PARK For many years, Dennis Woods looked down Longfellow Street, a two-block connector that runs behind rows of homes, and thought, "We deserve better."

Woods recalls the days that trucks from the adjacent auto repair shop staged on the small alley, rumbling, rattling and disturbing the neighbors. He also remembers the drive-by shootings — spillover from local gang violence — and what he delicately refers to as "ladies of the night" that used to frequent Longfellow, lightening wallets as they went.

Ask almost any resident that has lived on or near Longfellow for any period of time and they can share their own horror stories.

Annette Nickerson said she had to learn how to dodge drunk people who'd fallen asleep near the gate of her home. Nicole Picard said her entire house shook when large trucks used the portion of the road behind her home as a staging area.

Those days have been put quite firmly in the past, largely resulting from the efforts of Woods and the other neighbors who stood up in 2004 and told the City Council that they deserved better.

Eight years and over $2 million later,

SEE STREET PAGE 9

Bank robbery suspect linked to other heists

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN The man who attempted to rob the Wells Fargo on Fourth Street and Arizona Thursday is connected to a string of other successful bank robberies in the Los Angeles area, officials said.

The FBI calls the man the "Explosives Threat" bandit because he demands money from banks and leaves behind a device made of electronic components and wiring that he claims is a bomb or other explosive device, said Laura Eimiller, spokeswoman for the FBI.

The man goes into banks and either states that he has a bomb or that he has a friend waiting to detonate the device on the outside. He has demanded as much as $20,000 in cash from any single bank, both verbally and with a note slipped to a teller.

The man has been linked to at least six robberies in southern California since Nov. 15, 2011, and allegedly received cash from a bank in Marina del Rey on March 23.

SEE BANK PAGE 8

Campaign treasurer cops a plea

Court docs estimate 11 to 14 years in prison

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SACRAMENTO A disgraced campaign treasurer arrested in September for stealing over $7 million from her clients, including Santa Monica politicians, pleaded guilty Friday to five counts of mail fraud and could spend the next 11 and 14 years in prison.

SEE GUILTY PAGE 7

Once-warring actors unions finally merge

BY RYAN NAKASHIMA
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES The nation's two actors unions have merged, nearly a decade after their last attempt, bringing an end to years of conflict that had given Hollywood studios the advantage in labor negotiations.

The American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, the smaller of the two, had tried to merge with the Screen Actors Guild in 1998 and 2003.

Among AFTRA members, 86 percent approved the merger, while 82 percent of SAG members voted in favor.

"In a single day, our future has become brighter," said Ken Howard. The merger made him co-president of the new union, called SAG-AFTRA.

Roberta Reardon, the other co-president, echoed those remarks. "Finally, we are able to speak with one truly unified voice."

The decision to negotiate the prime-time TV and movie contracts separately in 2008 and 2009 caused a rift that allowed the studios to play the unions off each other. That strategic mistake led SAG members to bring in new leaders, who made merging a top pri-

SEE UNION PAGE 8


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, March 31, 2012

Keeping it local
City Wide
11 a.m. — 4 p.m.
The Buy Local Weekend is here. There will be an expo on the Third Street Promenade so businesses can showcase their wares and a citywide sidewalk sale with Main Street, Montana Avenue, Ocean Park Boulevard, Pico Boulevard and Downtown hosting. There's even a scavenger hunt going down. For more information on these activities and more, visit buylocalsm.com.

Mid-City neighbors unite
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
11 a.m. — 1 p.m.
The Mid-City Neighbors will hold its annual meeting to elect a board of directors, form committees and to make resolutions for the coming year.

Certifiable
Virginia Avenue Park
2200 Virginia Ave., 8 a.m. — 1 p.m.
Fresh, seasonal produce sold direct by California's farmers. Come on down to the weekly Farmers' Market and pick up ingredients for Sunday night dinner. Parking for the market is available in a lot along Pico Boulevard and at meters. For more information call Jodi Low at (310) 458--8712.

All in the family
Main Library, MLK Auditorium
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
2 p.m. — 4 p.m.
The Santa Monica Sister City Association will present "An Afternoon with Santa Monica's Sister Cities," featuring music, dance, refreshments and information about the city's "sisters" in four countries: Mexico, Germany, Japan and Italy. The program is part of an international "peace, one person at a time" effort implemented by President Eisenhower in 1956 and involves 2,500 sister city associations in 125 countries. For more information, call (310) 828-4559, e-mail monikawhite@earthlink.net or visit www.santamonicasistercity.org.

See Conrad
Vidiots
302 Pico Blvd., 3 p.m.
Attend a free screening of the documentary "Paul Conrad: Drawing Fire," which first appeared on PBS and is narrated by journalist Tom Brokaw. Filmmakers Barbara Multer-Wellin and Jeffrey Abelson will be on hand to answer questions. The screening is sponsored by a group working to save Conrad's "Chain Reaction" sculpture in the Civic Center, which is need of repair. For more information call Save Our Sculpture at (310) 399-1000. Donations to Vidiots are encouraged.

Sunday, April 1, 2012

Palm Sunday celebration
First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica
1220 Second St., 10 a.m.
Worship in the Sanctuary with the "waving of the palms." Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, an event mentioned in all four canonical Gospels. For more information call (310) 451-1303.

Jazzy
The Broad Stage
1310 11th St., 4 p.m.
The Santa Monica College Music Department is pleased to present three concerts in April, including a benefit concert for the distinctive Applied Music Program. The first concert features the SMC Jazz band under the baton of Keith Fiddmont. The ensemble performs jazz band arrangements from master musicians as well as contemporary works from aspiring composers and arrangers. Cost: $10.

To create your own listing, log on to smdp.com/submitevent

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

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com/communitylistings



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

SMMUSD HDQTRS

Permit students need apply

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District is currently accepting applications for students who do not live within the district but wish to attend grades K through 11 in the 2012-13 school year.

The school board recently voted to lift a moratorium on new permit students and increase the number the district will accept to 300. Typically students on permit have parents who work in the school district, at City Hall or other institutions within Santa Monica and Malibu.

To learn more about how to apply for a permit, call (310) 450-8338 ext. 70208 or go to www.smmusd.org/StudentServices/permits.html.

Public school officials said SMMUSD is "one of the premier" school districts in Los Angeles County with more than 90 percent of graduates continuing on to higher education.

KEVIN HERRERA

SM BAY

More than just a day

Santa Monica-based environmental watchdog Heal The Bay is expanding the concept of Earth Day to Earth Month by participating or hosting nearly 50 events across the county throughout the month of April.

The events include beach cleanups and outreach programs at schools, businesses and community groups.

A beach cleanup in Santa Monica has been scheduled for April 21 from 10 a.m. to noon where Ocean Park Boulevard meets the beach. Volunteers must be 13 years old or accompanied by an adult to participate. Bags and gloves will be provided.

That same weekend the Heal The Bay Santa Monica Pier Aquarium will host special presentations and activities for all ages and offer free admission to everyone who first cleans the beach.

For a complete list of Earth Month events and to pre-register, go to www.healthebay.org.

KH

MAIN STREET

Calling all musicians

City Hall is taking applications during the month of April for musical entertainment during the Sunday Farmers' Market.

Bands performing original and classic children's music, as well as those with original work suitable for a family environment, are encouraged to apply. Visit the Farmers' Market website for application details – www.farmersmarket.smgov.net. Or call (310) 458-8712 ext. 5.

KH



RUNNING WILD

Ray Solano *news@smdp.com*

Children from Will Rogers Elementary School run laps during the sixth annual Jog-A-Thon fundraiser. The money raised will help fund science and arts classes and purchase new technology. 'Last year we raised $10,000 and hopefully we can do the same this year,' said PTA member Shelly Nahass.

Suit planned to halt homeless property seizures

BY CHRISTINA HOAG
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES The city of Los Angeles faces a fifth lawsuit over the seizure of homeless people's belongings in street cleaning sweeps after recent crackdowns in the beachfront community of Venice.

A legal claim against the city was filed Thursday by Santa Monica civil rights attorney Carol Sobel, who has successfully sued the city in the last three cases over the same issue in Skid Row, the most densely populated homeless area in Los Angeles.

"It's just extremely disappointing that this city won't take a different approach to poor people who don't have a place to live," she said.

A spokesman for the City Attorney's Office did not immediately return a phone call for comment, but the city has defended its right to keep streets clean, saying that bulky items on sidewalks violate local ordinances and cause blight and health and safety hazards.

The city is currently appealing a federal judge's ruling last year that bars sanitation workers from picking up possessions from sidewalks without notice and without telling residents where they can reclaim their property.

In many cases, mentally ill people lost their worldly goods, including prescription medications and legal documents, when they left their bundles unattended while they went to shower or eat at a nearby shelter.

The latest case is the first contesting street cleanups outside Skid Row.

Homeless people have been protesting a spate of sweeps over the past two months in Venice, a longtime hub for transients especially many young drifters.

Homeless activist David Busch said his cart of worldly possessions, including a laptop computer, was taken in one sweep, but he managed to get the items back from a public works yard. Most people, however, were not able to retrieve their items because they did not have bus fare or could not arrange a ride over to the yard, he said.

The issue came to a head on Thursday when about 30 homeless people and activists stood guard over belongings when sanitation workers arrived with trucks to conduct a sidewalk sweep, Busch said.

"We were standing there next to every homeless person's property," Busch said. "We had quite a dramarama."

After City Councilman Bill Rosendahl intervened, the sanitation trucks left, Sobel said.

Sobel noted that although the previous cases dealt specifically with Skid Row, they are based on federal law so they apply to the entire city. However, she plans to use this case to get a citywide ban on homeless property seizures so it is clear.

The first case in Los Angeles over homeless property seizures was filed in 1987, which the city also lost. Los Angeles has the largest homeless population in the nation.


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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

No way to treat someone

Editor:

On Sunday, March 25, 2012, the Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights (SMRR) organization, which has run Santa Monica since 1978, showed their lack of loyalty to Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom, who has been an active and loyal member of SMRR for 23 years ("Renters' rights group endorses Osborn," March 27). SMRR has endorsed Mr. Bloom for City Council five times since 1998, but they chose to ignominiously dump him at an endorsing meeting that had not been previously announced as such to SMRR members.

I have known and admired Richard Bloom's wisdom, talents, intellect and commitment to Santa Monica. He certainly deserves more respect and support from an organization he has supported so long.

Mr. Bloom has said that he felt it would be in SMRR's best interest not to endorse any of the candidates running for Assembly in the 50th District. He was correct. In response to his intelligent recommendation, SMRR management chose to endorse another candidate.

How much longer will the voters of Santa Monica be fooled by the empty promises, the back door dealing and the disloyalty of SMRR to their own? SMRR claims to stand for Santa Monica. What support or chance do we have as citizens when the mayor of our city gets thrown under the bus.

Santa Monica voters should be very suspicious of SMRR's political shenanigans. SMRR had no reason to behave so disrespectfully to Mayor Bloom. Will they treat their other loyal members in the same fashion? Will you and your family be the next supporters they throw under the bus?

At what point, my fellow Santa Monica residents, will you stand up for your freedoms and your own interests?

Remember the immortal words of one of this country's founders, Benjamin Franklin:

"They who would give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety."

Robert Kronovet
Santa Monica

Deserves protection

Editor:

Nothing further needs to be done with the sculpture, "Chain Reaction." The fence and the "Danger," signs protect the innocent public well enough and are consistent with the message of the piece anyway ("Council gives 'Chain Reaction' backers time," March 22). It should be left alone behind its enclosure to dilapidate naturally.

Grave warnings of nuclear-doom aside, "Chain Reaction" is as much a part of Santa Monica as, say, the Church of the Flying Spaghetti-Monster nativity scene, only way older and much more so. It deserves to be registered and protected as a landmark. Removing the sculpture would be a regrettable loss to the culture of our unique little town.

Jeremy Reid
Santa Monica

Take the train

Editor:

Thanks for the informative article on the approaching Expo line ("Parking switch coming to Colorado Avenue," March 28). With regard to the reduction of parking on Colorado, what the businesses seem not to be considering is all those people arriving on the train, getting off at the 17th Street station and walking to their destination, resulting in less need for street parking. Yea!

Jane Urmston
Santa Monica

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On the Beat

NRO Scott McGee — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Keys to being a good witness

Q: IN LAST WEEK'S COLUMN, Neighborhood Resource Officer Glaser discussed private person's arrests. What are some of the things you are looking for so I know how to help the police department make this city safe?

A: Thank you for your concern. Crimes are frequently solved as a result of a partnership between the community and its police department. This partnership is vital to keeping our community safe from criminals who look to take advantage of our citizens. We consider the citizens the extra eyes and ears of the police department. Without this vital link between citizens and the police department crimes may go unreported and unsolved.

I want to remind you to never place your personal safety or the safety of those around you in jeopardy if you see a crime which is about to occur, a crime in progress, or one that has already occurred. Being a good witness means not placing yourself or others in danger. Remain calm enough to call the police and provide critical information. Some people's instincts are to scare suspects away, chase after them or confront the suspects after seeing a crime occur. It's better not to confront or get involved in a conflict with the suspect. Please allow the police officers to use their training and equipment to confront the suspects. Even police officers working in a non-uniformed capacity or off-duty will still act as good witnesses and allow the uniformed personnel to make contact with a suspect.

There are several things we would like to suggest to you to help you be a great witness. If you see suspicious activity or a crime in progress please call 911. The sooner a crime is reported to the police, the higher the chances are of apprehending the suspect. If possible, and without endangering yourself, continue to monitor any activity you can observe. A police dispatcher will answer and will ask a series of questions relating to the activity you're witnessing. Being able to quickly articulate your location will assist the officers in their response. During this stressful time it's important for you to remain calm so you can clearly answer the dispatcher's questions. Listen to the police dispatcher for direction and guidance. They are there to help. Some of the questions may not seem pertinent to you, but dispatchers are trained to know exactly what information the officers need to respond quickly and safely. This means that a dispatcher may need to interrupt you while you're relaying information. It is important that during emergencies, your answers are direct and brief.

Keep in mind that during emergencies officers are usually dispatched by a second dispatcher as the information is obtained by the dispatcher taking your call. The faster the dispatcher can obtain the necessary information from you, the faster it is relayed to the officers responding.

You may also be a witness to suspicious activity, which is anything that seems "out of place" for your area. Some things to look out for are (but not limited to):

- A person walking down the street peering into parked vehicles.
- A stranger entering your neighbor's property/house when they are away.
- Any vehicle driving slowly or repeatedly through your area, with or without lights on.
- A person selling expensive merchandise, such as speakers, at an extremely low price.
- Door-to-door salesmen/solicitors who do not have identification, refuse to show you identification, or turn the doorknob to see if the door is locked.
- Someone sitting in a parked car for an extended period of time.

These behaviors are some of the many signs that an individual is either committing a crime or looking for the opportunity to commit a crime. If you suspect unusual activity in your area, please call the Santa Monica Police non-emergency line at (310) 458-8491 and provide as much information to the dispatcher as possible. If you believe an actual crime is occurring, call 911 immediately. Our department is most effective when we receive the help of concerned, responsible citizens. So please don't hesitate to call us, even if you think someone else already has or will. Remember your safety comes first! Don't be afraid to call the police department. Crime prevention is everyone's responsibility. With your help, we can keep Santa Monica among the safest cities in the county.

CRIME ALERT

Throughout the city we are experiencing an increase in auto related break-ins. We are currently seeing a lot of window smash thefts. The SMPD reminds everyone to remove all valuables from your vehicle, place them in the trunk before arriving at your destination, or store them away so they are not easily visible. This includes laptops, cell phones, GPS devices, purses, backpacks, money, etc. Take these precautions at all times, whether parking on a public street or in a parking garage. These types of crimes are crimes of opportunity, so making it difficult for criminals to strike will help the effort significantly. Visit our website at www.santamonicapd.org for more information regarding crime prevention.

If you have police related questions or concerns we'd like to hear them. Send your questions or comments to nro@smgov.net and you may see your question in our weekly column accompanied by valuable feedback for the rest of the community. Please note that we will supply as much information as possible without jeopardizing any legal proceedings or investigations. Remember, if you have a question, chances are another reader may be wondering the same thing. So don't hesitate to ask!

This column was prepared by Neighborhood Resource Officer **SCOTT MCGEE** (Beat 5: Montana Avenue to north city limits, Ocean Avenue to 26th Street). He can be reached at (424) 200-0685 or scott.mcgee@smgov.net.

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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.

This past week, Q-line asked:
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?

Here are your responses:

"IT'S TOO SUBJECT TO THE ELEMENTS and vandalism where it is. I would like to see a bronze sculpture. I feel like it could be a landmark site. … I think that like the huge rock in L.A. that was brought to the museum for people to walk under, there are a lot of wealthy docents. …"

"COMRADES, YOU ARE NOT DECODING the City Hall progressive rap regarding art. Today it's private support for very questionable art of dog droppings. Tomorrow it is funded by the dummies in this town — the taxpayers. This is another non-issue to confuse the stupid in this city. Art is a subjective idea. Modern thought eventually requires the public support of unfit artistic visions supported by City Hall. The salt air rust should help you understand the rot to this suspect piece of dubious City Hall bourgeois art."

"I THINK THE 'CHAIN REACTION' IS worth saving, just because it is more than just a piece of art, it is art with meaning. And I know you guys have spent that much more on art that doesn't have much meaning at all. It's a great statement of peace and a great piece of art."

"I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WAS AN imitation tree. Use the money to save some real trees and let some billionaire art patron like Eli Broad have the thing. Otherwise, scrap it."

"THE 'CHAIN REACTION' SCULPTURE IS worth saving. It is even more relevant now than at its installation in 1991. The city and Arts Commission are delinquent in not maintaining this sculpture and therefore they should be responsible for paying for the repairs."

"MY OWN FEELING IS THAT THE progressive humanitarian genius Paul Conrad might very well be appalled at the spending of $400,000 on his 'Chain Reaction.' The focus of his work was often Washington, D.C. Donate the sculpture to the Smithsonian, which has the resources to care for it, and spend the $400,000 on the poor."

"I SUPPORT 'CHAIN REACTION,' BUT I think that it needs to be permanent and I would like to see a bust of the cartoonist and an explanation tab there for the public. Bronze would be my preference. I don't think $400,000 for repairs is where money needs to go. I would rather support politicians like Jerry Rubin for office."

"NO, BIG TIME, THIS IS SOMETHING that should not be saved."

"THE SCULPTURE SHOULD BE SAVED IF at all possible. Perhaps it is not beautiful, but nuclear war is not a party. Let us remember that Iran may one day pose a nuclear challenge to us, and we are directly on the coast making us vulnerable. A committee of residents who are interested in saving the sculpture ought to re-take bids for having it secured. I do not trust the council's $400,000 dollar estimate. City staff are also handmaidens to the council and their repair figures are highly questionable. Jerry Rubin should chair that committee, because peace is his passion! Council privately feels that the sculpture does not fit in for their plans about their new Civic Center. Never given credit for their veracity they came up with this solution instead."

"THIS IS BY FAR THE BEST OUTDOOR piece of art that Santa Monica has to offer. If the city wants to keep youngsters from climbing on it, place signage around it stating clearly, "Danger Radio Active!" Santa Monica College's old welding department could have repaired it for a donation."

"'CHAIN REACTION' IS ONE OF THE most important and unique peace sculptures anywhere in the United States. We are lucky to have it in Santa Monica and should do all in our power to save and restore it."

"WHILE IT IS NECESSARY TO KEEP IN mind the threat of nuclear destruction, I don't think that the sculpture is worth saving. No city money should be spent on it nor would I like to see citizens collecting the $400,000 plus needed to renovate it. That kind of money would be better spent on, for instance, helping the American Indians, helping eradicate tuberculosis, helping eradicate malaria and so on and on. Help people not things."

"TEAR IT DOWN, REPLACE IT WITH A real nuclear mushroom cloud. A low yield tactical nuclear warhead should be sufficient."

"PUBLIC ART HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT public value for Santa Monica for many years, and the repair of 'Chain Reaction' should be funded and completed by the city, which accepted the donation from the artist."

"THE MYRNA LOY STATUE AT VENICE High was too weathered to be restored and they replaced it with a more weather resistant copy. Maybe a nice replica can be constructed out of fiberglass or resin or something that would be weather resistant and be made for far less money than restoring this rotting hulk?"

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Highs and Lows of the Criminal Justice System – Drug Offenses

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BY TRACIE CONE
Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. A citrus disease that has killed millions of citrus trees and cost growers billions of dollars across Florida and Brazil has been detected in California, despite the industry's best efforts to keep it at bay.

After a week of testing the U.S. Department of Agriculture confirmed at noon Friday that citrus greening was detected in a lemon-grapefruit hybrid tree in a residential neighborhood of Los Angeles County.

The disease stands to threaten not only California's nearly $2 billion citrus industry, but treasured backyard trees scattered throughout the state.

"Huanlongbing is called the world's worst disease of citrus," said Dr. Robert Leavitt of the California Department of Food and Agriculture. "It had been present until now in all of the world's major citrus producing areas — except California."

The bacterial disease, also known as huanglongbing, is carried by the Asian citrus psyllid and attacks a tree's vascular system, producing bitter fruit and eventually killing the tree. Sap-sucking pysllids that feed on an infected tree become carriers of the disease.

It is not a threat to humans.

"It's disappointing," said Joel Nelson of California Citrus Mutual. "Now we'll see if this great program that we believe we have in place is going to work."

Detection of the disease has been state citrus growers' fear since the bug first crossed into San Diego County from Mexico in 2008, potentially threatening California's fresh citrus market. Despite 25 years of worldwide research, there still are no biological or genetic controls for the disease that keeps fruit from ripening.

The disease is present in Mexico and across the southern U.S., but nowhere is the problem more severe than in Florida, where the disease first appeared in 2005. The University of Florida estimates it has cost 6,600 jobs, $1.3 billion in lost revenue to growers and $3.6 billion in lost economic activity.

The pest and the disease also are present in Texas, Louisiana, Georgia and South Carolina. The states of Arizona, Mississippi and Alabama have detected the pest but not the disease.

California growers and state agricultural officials have been aggressively trapping and testing bugs for the disease since the first sighting four years ago.

"This is the other shoe dropping," said Ted Batkin of the California Citrus Research Board. "We're prepared, and now we'll put our game face on."

The industry group will ramp up trapping efforts and increase testing samples in an effort to keep the disease from crossing into the San Joaquin Valley, where 80 percent of the state's citrus grows. California growers have been contributing $15 million a year to fund efforts to fight both the psyllids and the disease on top of state and federal programs to fight its spread.

"We've been fortunate that we have been able to learn from the experiences of other citrus-growing areas of the world," Leavitt said. "They didn't know they had the psyllid or the disease until it was too late. We have learned from their scientists and have taken a proactive approach."

State officials are making arrangements to remove and dispose of the Los Angeles County tree, which so far is the only one found to be infected. They also will spray all citrus trees for psyllids within a half-mile of the infected tree. Testing on tissue samples from other trees within the half-mile radius is ongoing.

As of Saturday all sales and shipments of citrus trees within a 5-mile radius of the infected site will be suspended. State officials also are working on a larger quarantine that will extend into northern Orange County.

The closest commercial grove is 14 miles away.

State officials are unsure why Los Angeles County has a higher rate of psyllid infestations than areas closer to the Mexican border. But officials are investigating whether the bugs are hitchhiking through airports and seaports.

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GUILTY
FROM PAGE 1

According to documents released by the United States Attorney's Office, Kinde Durkee admitted to causing losses to her clients that exceeded $7 million, in what amounts to the largest embezzlement by a campaign committee treasurer ever prosecuted.

Under the terms of the plea deal, Durkee may have to serve between 138 and 168 months in federal prison, and will definitely be required to make restitution to her former clients.

Durkee's home, the equity on her former Burbank office and even her retirement account are all on the fire sale list to raise funds to pay people back.

Her retirement account has an estimated value of $100,000 to $120,000, according to the Associated Press.

The maximum sentence that the court could have imposed was 20 years in prison, a fine of $250,000, a three-year period of supervised release and a special assessment of $100 for each count.

In return for the plea, prosecutors have agreed not to pursue money laundering charges, each of which carry a sentence between 10 and 20 years, depending on the statute, according to Lauren Horwood, the public information officer for the U.S. Attorney's Office in California's eastern district.

The plea brings to a close an investigation into over a decade of malfeasance, with Durkee tapping into her clients' campaign accounts to pay personal bills and using money from one account to make it appear that another was whole.

In that time, Durkee managed campaign funds for almost 400 Democratic campaigns across California, and several local campaign accounts including Terry O'Day for City Council 2010, Chris Braun for Rent Control 2010, Santa Monicans for Quality Government and the Committee to Protect Community and Schools.

The theft impacted over 50 campaigns, and the total losses exceeded $7 million and could have run as high as $20 million. The U.S. Attorney's Office and Durkee's attorney, Daniel Nixon, could not come to an agreement on the amount.

It's unclear at this point how much of the $9,000 taken from the Committee to Protect Community and Schools account will come back, wrote Tom Larmore, a local attorney active on the measures Y and YY campaign, in an e-mail.

"I'll know more once the court rules how the remaining funds are to be distributed," he wrote.

The charges Durkee pleaded to refer to five incidents between July 2010 and February 2011, wherein Durkee sent in falsified campaign filings to the California Secretary of State and the Federal Elections Commission that covered up the money she'd taken from clients' accounts.

According to a documented filed Tuesday, the offenses investigated began with a $200,000 withdrawal in 2006 from the campaign committee for Jerome Horton, who was running for the California State Board of Equalization.

In June 2010, Durkee became aware that she was under investigation by the Fair Political Practices Commission and she repaid some of the money she took from Horton's account by taking money from three others, including the committee Feinstein for Senate, Committee to Re-Elect Loretta Sanchez and the Committee to Re-Elect Linda Sanchez.

Durkee reported none of those transfers on the disclosure forms that she later sent to the state and federal government, which became the basis of the mail fraud charges.

According to court documents, Durkee used the money she stole to pay her mortgage, her employees' salaries and various personal bills.

Durkee is scheduled for sentencing on June 20.

Her trouble won't be over then, however.

Durkee now faces civil lawsuits from U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who believes she may have lost as much as $5 million, and other victims, according to the AP.

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The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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BANK

FROM PAGE 1

The FBI describes him as a white male between 35 and 45 years of age, 175 and 190 pounds and 5-foot-10 and 5-foot-11 in height.

He should be considered armed and dangerous, officials said.

The FBI believes this to be the same man who entered the Wells Fargo and used a note to demand money. After a delay, he ran out of the bank south down Fourth Street.

He was still being sought by authorities as of Friday evening.

Anyone with information is urged to contact the FBI at (888) CANTHIDE (226-8443), or the SMPD at (310) 458-8427.

Anyone wishing to remain anonymous may call the WeTip hotline at (800) 78-CRIME (27463) or submit the tip online at www.wetip.com. Tipsters can also contact Crime Stoppers by either calling (800) 222-TIPS, texting from their mobile, or by visiting www.lacrimestoppers.org. Callers may remain anonymous and may be qualified to receive a $1,000 reward from Crime Stoppers.

ashley@smdp.com

UNION

FROM PAGE 1

ority.

Reardon, who led AFTRA to sign its contract a year earlier than SAG in that round of talks, said Friday's outcome was the best possible from a difficult time.

"We managed to make lemonade out of lemons," she said.

The combined union now has more than 150,000 members. SAG had about 125,000, while AFTRA had about 70,000. About 45,000 actors belonged to both unions and paid dues to both.

In materials supporting the merger, the unions said basic dues would go down for dual card-holders by 20 percent, while they would rise for actors who belonged to just one of the unions.

The combined union aims to keep revenue about $100 million the first year but expects to see savings in subsequent years.

SAG, founded in 1933, and AFTRA, begun in 1952, were created to handle different media. SAG was the union for motion picture work, while AFTRA handled radio and TV. Those distinctions eventually blurred and they became even less important with the rise of cable TV and then the Internet.

Together, the unions can negotiate with Hollywood studios from a position of greater strength. One area of focus is shows that air on pay-TV networks, which are employing increasing numbers of actors in scripted projects, such as "Mad Men" on AMC.

A handful of networks continue to hire non-union talent, including ESPN, CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, Fox Sports and Discovery, and the unions are looking to organize those performers.

The unions expect to exercise their joint heft in negotiations on a commercials contract that expires in October. The next primetime TV and movie contract is up in 2014.

The merger also makes the unions financially stronger. SAG-AFTRA aims to build a reserve fund to enable members to strike for six months if necessary.

The studios' bargaining arm, the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, which exploited the groups' rift several years ago, acknowledged the merger in a statement.

"The AMPTP looks forward to a cooperative relationship with the new performers' organization as we endeavor to address the challenges of operating in an industry undergoing transformation," it said.

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STREET

FROM PAGE 1

Longfellow Street has become a "living street," redesigned to subtract elements of the road that made it convenient for cars and uninviting to pedestrians, and incorporate things like landscaping, lighting and attractive pavement to encourage people to gather in the space.

Less than one year ago, Longfellow was a 40-foot-wide street marred by crude curbs, cracked pavement and parallel parking that blocked views and made it difficult to traverse comfortably.

Residents felt unsafe walking through what should have been their own back yard.

Now, the curbs have been replaced by trees and paving that pleases the eye and benefits the planet by cleaning rainwater as it percolates down into the ground.

Planners installed solar panels between the new trees, which will ultimately blend into the surrounding foliage when the canopies grow.

People feel comfortable walking their dogs down the lane, which was meant to be shared between pedestrians, bicyclists and cars.

It's exactly what Woods and other members of the Borderline Neighborhood Group have been seeking for almost a decade.

Woods is the chair of the group's Improvement Committee, composed of dedicated residents who live next to the border of Santa Monica and Venice.

He's also an urban planner by trade, and knew that the solution to the neighborhood's problem was simple, if not cheap.

If City Hall could transform the dumpy back alley into a living, breathing organism that was better lit and attractive, the problem site could become a community asset.

"I always knew what I wanted," Woods said. "I was driven, focused and I had the vision."

The "shared street" concept is not a common one in the United States. In fact, Longfellow Street is now the second in the entire country after one in Cambridge, Mass., said Jessica ter Schure, a principal planner with the transportation planning firm Nelson/Nygaard, who designed the project.

Like so many things these days, the shared street is a return to the past.

Things like curbs, sidewalks and laws governing where pedestrians could and could not be are new inventions as our modes of transportation sped up from walking to carriages to motor vehicles, ter Schure said.

By creating a thin space dotted with obstacles, cars can't speed through and pedestrians can feel safe.

"It's for all to use without hierarchy," she said.

The vision took eight years to fulfill.

Residents went in droves to the City Council, Planning Commission, Recreation and Parks Commission and any other group possible to drum up support.

In 2008, the City Council allocated the funds in the annual budget needed to make the project happen, and approximately eight months ago, construction began.

Patricia Godon-Tann, a leader in the neighborhood group, has lived in the area since 1975. It was, as she describes it, "the DMZ between Santa Monica and Venice."

With Longfellow Street repaired and other changes over a long 35 years, it's become a lovely, livable community, she said.

"This is the finest accomplishment done in this neighborhood," Godon-Tann said.



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

NEW LOOK: **Borderline Neighborhood residents celebrate the re-opening of a new and improved Longfellow Street on Friday.**

ashley@smdp.com





Tour De Feast

Michael Ryan
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Veggie Grill's new menu delights

HAVING AN OPPORTUNITY TO TRY THE Veggie Grill's new menu items was a real treat. Riding my bike up to their restaurant at The Grove on Fairfax Avenue and Third Street to do so was pretty exciting as well.

Thankfully there is a closer location on 20th and Wilshire Boulevard in Santa Monica to meet the needs of most Westsiders. And there certainly is a need. The place is absolutely bustling during the lunch and dinner rush. It's not as if vegans of the area are flocking to the place either. Eighty percent of The Veggie Grill's customers are meat eaters.

Their menu offers a variety of soups, salads, "chickin" sandwiches, veggie-steaks, and burgers. While everything is plant-based, some of the sauces and fries suggest it is not all sticks and twigs.

A meal will generally be not much more or less expensive than the neighboring Poquito Mas. The atmosphere is bright, the service is friendly and of course all of their "meat" is 100 percent vegan. I too was once skeptical having eaten supermarket veggie burgers, soy sausages, and other meat substitutes. But after biting into the Veggie Grill's burger, I too was a believer.

Aspects like mouth feel, look, and overall taste are key components that make the Veggie Grill's "steaks" and "chickin'" legitimately good cuisine rather than some kind of crazy gimmick. I've had pizza at a raw food restaurant, which was fine and good, but never had me really convinced that I was actually eating pizza. The "meat" at the Veggie Grill, on the other hand, is pretty convincing.

Having the texture not totally spot on may weird some people out. But then again why should it? The substitution is completely plant based. It is not as if they are replacing one meat with another, like ham with spam, or the infamous pink slime that has been making headlines.

Whether it is chicken or "chickin'", it still has to be marinated, cooked and served with the right sauces. The Buffalo Bomber, one of the new menu items, did stand out. The buffalo sauce was delicious, and the chicken, I mean "chickin'" maintained crispiness on the outside and tenderness within.

The tasting afforded me full homestyle dinner plates, a Buffalo Chickin' salad, even a chocolate pudding parfait, but the best item of the day was the crab cake sandwich. The biggest problem with crab cakes are there is usually never enough crab and too much filler. Ironically, Veggie Grill's version is completely filled with "crab" which is not actually crab. Perhaps a bit confusing, but very good nonetheless.

The new menu items should be a big hit with those who are fans of the Veggie Grill. The focus on the home-style dinner plates is a nice take on comfort food. And additions like the Buffalo Chickin' and the crab cake tasted like instant hits.

The bike ride home was a testament that Veggie Grill has some feel good food. If I ate the meaty equivalent of what I had at the tasting I would not make it past Beverly Hills without some serious heartburn. And a meatless world is a more sustainable world. Animals love not being eaten too. The Veggie Grill does not try to seal club you with a vegan agenda. They let the food speak for itself, and the customers keep coming back for more.



Michael Ryan *news@smdp.com*

WHERE'S THE BEEF? **The vegetarian crab cake sandwich at the Veggie Grill is just one of several new items available at the vegan mini-chain on Wilshire Boulevard.**

If you go

Veggie Grill
2025 Wilshire Blvd.
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www.veggiegrill.com/

MICHAEL can be seen riding around town on his bike burning calories so he can eat more food, or on CityTV hosting his own show, "Tour de Feast." To reach him visit his website at tourdefeast.net or follow him on Twitter @TourDeFeastSM.





The Re-View

Merv Hecht
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

MR. C doesn't know its ABCs

IT STARTED WITH THE WATER. WHEN THE waiter at the Mr. C restaurant in the new, fancy Mr. C hotel in Los Angeles asked me what I would like to drink, I replied "plain water, no ice." Before I knew what was happening the bus boy was pouring water from a bottle with a label I'd never seen before. "Is that bottled water?" I asked the waiter. "Yes" he cheerfully replied. "But I didn't ask for bottled water," I reminded him. "Well, in that case we won't charge you for it," he cheerfully replied. Something about it seemed scripted.

So we moved on to the wine list. "What red do you have by the glass?" I asked. It turned out that I had a choice of three: a pinot noir (not of interest to me since I came for pasta), a cabernet sauvignon produced by the Cipriani family itself in the northern part of Italy where cabernet does not grow well, or a 2008 Montepulciano, which sounded pretty good. But when the waiter brought a 2009 vintage for my inspection, I turned it down. Then he offered me a taste. The taste came in a glass that might hold three ounces. I remarked that the glass seems a little small for a red Italian wine. "That's one of the trademarks of the Cipriani family," the maitre d' told me. So I tasted the wine. It tasted a bit like perfume, instead of grapes, so I turned it down again.

I had been pretty excited about this restaurant ever since I read the review in the Huffington Post written by my friend Jay Weston. And I love authentic Italian restaurants. Furthermore, when my wife is not with me I can order pasta, one of my favorite things. So I did. In fact, I ordered one of my favorite dishes of all time, the pasta nero in black squid ink. When I'm in Venice, Italy I sometimes eat it once a day.

Now that I've re-read his review, I understand why Jay spent so much time writing about the hotel, and the history, rather than the food, although when he ate there he and my golfing partner Steve apparently did get a good veal dish and some pasta that they liked. But what I got was nothing like he described — and nothing like I've had in Italy, where I've been going with some regularity since 1953.

What arrived was a disgrace to the Italian restaurant community. The pasta was so overcooked that it was more like mush than pasta. There were a few pieces of squid, but the sauce was dull and tasteless. The maitre d' came over to ask me how I liked it. "Since you asked," I replied, "it seems quite overcooked to me."

"Well that's one of the trademarks of the Cipriani family" he replied.

My son Spencer had a piece of salmon ($38) that was satisfactory, and an ordinary glass of pinot grigio.

When the maitre d' was not around, I asked one of the Italian waiters (in Italian) if the chef was really Italian. He said that yes, the chef was Italian and was trained by the Cipriani family in one of their restaurants, but that he was told what to cook and how to cook it and not allowed to deviate, which means that he cannot draw on his own creativity. And, he said, the kitchen was pretty overpowered by the demands of the hotel, such as room service.

The whole ambiance was so negative I thought I better check it out on Yelp to see if my opinion coincides with that website's comments. The reviews, which looked independent, were really negative. I love the one that said "it looked like a Russian cafeteria," and that the food was appropriate for a Russian cafeteria!

But none of this is so surprising. The Cipriani family runs a number of hotels and restaurants out of a Luxembourg holding company. The patriarch, Giuseppe Cipriani (1900-1980) founded Harry's Bar in Venice, Italy in 1931. Since then the family successors have been in a series of conflicts with landlords and tax authorities, and in and out of court. One of the most recent court losses (after losing a big tax case) includes the loss of the right to use the name Cipriani, which is why their restaurants now just use the name "C." In my opinion, this is an international restaurant chain run like McDonald's, so one shouldn't expect it to be an authentic Italian restaurant. I don't know what Jay was thinking.

I usually go to a restaurant three or four times before I write a review. But I'm not going back to Mr. C until Jay Weston goes with me.



John Blanchette *news@smdp.com*

SIPPY SIPPY: **Cipriani's famous Bellini cocktail was first created at Harry's Bar, their establishment in Venice, Italy. Here waiter PJ shows off the iconic white peach and prosecco drink.**

If you go

Mr. C Beverly Hills
1224 Beverwil Dr.
Los Angeles, Calif.
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MERV HECHT, the food and wine critic for the Santa Monica Daily Press, is a wine buyer and consultant to a number of national and international food and wine companies. He can be reached at mervynhecht@yahoo.com.

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Old photos may be deceptive

BY MATT SEDENSKY
Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. When he was shot, Trayvon Martin was not the baby-faced boy in the photo that has been on front pages across the country. And George Zimmerman wasn't the beefy-looking figure in the widely published mugshot.

Both photos are a few years old and no longer entirely accurate. Yet they may have helped shape initial public perceptions of the deadly shooting.

"When you have such a lopsided visual comparison, it just stands to reason that people would rush to judgment," said Kenny Irby, who teaches visual journalism at the Poynter Institute, a journalism think tank in St. Petersburg, Fla.

The most widely seen picture of Martin, released by his family, was evidently taken a few years ago and shows a smiling, round-cheeked youngster in a red T-shirt. But at his death, Martin was 17 years old, around 6 feet tall and, according to his family's attorney, about 140 pounds.

Zimmerman, 28, is best known from a 7-year-old booking photo of an apparently heavyset figure with an imposing stare, pierced ear and facial hair, the orange collar of his jail uniform visible. The picture, released by police following the deadly shooting, was taken after Zimmerman's 2005 arrest on an assault-on-an-officer charge that was eventually dropped.

In a case that has caused a nationwide furor over race and the laws of self-defense, Martin was shot to death by Zimmerman in the city of Sanford on Feb. 26 as the unarmed black teenager was walking back from a convenience store.

Zimmerman, a neighborhood watch volunteer whose father is white and whose mother is Hispanic, has claimed self-defense, saying he opened fire after Martin punched him in the face, knocked him to the ground and began slamming his head on the sidewalk.

Black leaders and others are demanding Zimmerman's arrest on murder or manslaughter charges, but state and federal authorities are still investigating.

Betsi Grabe, a professor at Indiana University-Bloomington who has studied the effect of news images on public opinion, said photos that gain the most traction play into the desires of both journalists and the public for a story with a distinct victim and aggressor.

"At the center of most stories we tell in our society, cross-culturally and across the centuries, is the struggle between good and evil," she said. "If the ingredients are there, that is what journalists will grab onto and present."

Grabe said it is natural to present the most innocent-looking image of the person believed to be the victim, and the most menacing one of the suspect.

A more complex portrait of the two figures has emerged since then. A photo of a beaming Zimmerman looking sharp in a jacket and tie has come out, along with a more recent picture of Martin, with gold teeth and a white sleeveless undershirt. At the same time, it was learned that Martin had been suspended from school for marijuana residue in his backpack.

Gordon Coonfield, a communications professor at Villanova University in Pennsylvania, said the early perceptions of Zimmerman as a vigilante may ultimately have no bearing on the case.

He cited the case of Rodney King, the black motorist beaten two decades ago by white Los Angeles police officers in an episode captured on video. The officers were acquitted in state court, though two were later found guilty on federal charges.

"I think the nation felt quite certain it saw the truth of what happened to Rodney King, and the DA tried the case as if the images spoke for themselves," Coonfield said. "Yet the state criminal court decided the images were not self-evidently true. The defense won by offering a more convincing explanation of the images, focusing on what could not be seen — officers' motives, reasoning, and judgment."

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Obama could face election-year jam on gay marriage

BY JULIE PACE
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine President Barack Obama could be caught in an election-year bind on gay marriage, wedged between the pressure of supporters who want him to back same-sex marriage and the political perils of igniting an explosive social issue in the midst of the campaign.

Interviews with gay rights advocates and people close to Obama's campaign suggest it is no longer a matter of if, but when the president publicly voices his support. But Obama backers are split over whether that will happen before the November elections.

Gay marriage is already a big issue in a handful of states that have it on their ballots in November, including Maine, where Obama was headlining two fundraisers Friday. The president also headlined fundraisers Friday in Vermont, one of six states, plus the District of Columbia, where gay marriage is legal.

But neither in Vermont nor in Maine did Obama touch on the issue during his public remarks.

Once an opponent of gay marriage, Obama declared in 2010 that his personal views on the subject were "evolving." He has gone no further in public since then.

People familiar with the Obama campaign's deliberations have tamped down expectations that the president might declare his support for gay marriage before the election. They say the campaign's internal conversations on the issue focus instead on how to energize gay and lesbian voters in spite of Obama's lack of clarity on the issue.

Public support for gay marriage is increasing in the U.S., including among the independent voters who are a key to general election success.

But regardless of whether Obama has made up his mind on the subject, it's not the topic his campaign wants to be talking about heading into an election expected to be decided largely on economic issues. As White House and campaign officials learned all too well during the controversy over birth control access earlier this year, stepping into social issues — even those with Democratic support — can quickly throw the president's message off course.

While Obama aides saw the contraception issue as an important appeal to women voters, there may be little election-year payoff for the president taking a stand on gay marriage.

Obama's record on gay rights issues, including the repeal of the military's ban on openly gay service members and an order for the Justice Department not to enforce a provision that defines marriage as between one man and one woman, has already solidified the overwhelming backing of gay rights supporters. Obama often highlights the end of the Clinton-era "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gay military service, a surefire applause line with his supporters.

"Change is the fact that for the first time in history you don't have to hide who you love in order to serve the country that you love," he told a campaign crowd at Southern Maine Community College. "We ended 'don't ask, don't tell.'"

His Republican rivals, including GOP front-runner Mitt Romney, not only oppose gay marriage, but also some other legal protections for gays and lesbians.

As for Obama, "the gay rights community is now enthusiastically in his corner in terms of the re-election, so the pressure to deliver before the election is off," said Richard Socarides, a prominent gay rights advocate.

The risk in Obama publicly backing gay marriage before the election is that it could become a rallying cry for conservatives who have thus far been reluctant to get behind Romney.

Still, many Democrats and gay rights advocates believe Obama may end up being forced to take a position on the issue before November.

The most pressing effort comes from within Obama's own party. Several high-profile Democrats, including House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and more than 20 Senate Democrats, want support for gay marriage added to the party's election platform. The platform will be adopted at the Democratic National Convention in early September, where Obama will accept the presidential nomination.

So far, Obama advisers have sidestepped questions about whether he would support a gay marriage plank on the platform.

"We don't even have a platform committee yet, much less a platform," Obama senior adviser David Plouffe said in a television interview.

A person close to the Obama campaign said the president's re-election team is wary of the platform effort and prefers to let the president move on the issue at his own pace. People familiar with the campaign's thinking requested anonymity in order to discuss internal strategy.

Gay rights advocates hope state ballot initiatives on gay marriage, like the one in Maine, could force Obama to weigh in, as he has on other state issues.

"He's going to be in a lot of situations like this where the issue becomes unavoidable," said Socarides, a former Clinton White House official. "Even though he might want to avoid this, I think he's going to come up right against it in so many situations in the next couple of months."

Obama's reluctance to embrace gay marriage has increasingly put him at odds with a majority of Americans. A Washington Post/ABC News poll this month found that 52 percent felt it should be legal for gay and lesbian couples to get married, while 43 percent said it should be illegal.

Support for gay marriage is highest among Democrats, with 64 percent supportive of the issue. Just over half of independents — 54 percent — back legalized gay marriage, according to the Post/ABC poll. Support among Republicans is the lowest, at 39 percent.

Gay rights advocates say those numbers — particularly the growing support among independents — suggest there would be little political risk for Obama in backing gay marriage. And they say taking a stand in an election year could help boost enthusiasm among gay voters and young people, two core Obama constituencies.

Obama campaign spokesman Ben LaBolt said the president's evolution on gay marriage will be personal, not political.

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Eurozone boosts financial buffers to $1.1 trillion

BY GABRIELE STEINHAUSER & JAN M. OLSEN
Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark The 17 countries that use the euro have boosted their emergency funding for heavily indebted countries to 800 billion ($1.1 trillion) — an amount that falls short of what the currency union's international partners had said is needed to calm financial markets.

Of the 800 billion limit eurozone finance ministers agreed to Friday, only some 500 billion ($670 billion) is still available for new bailout loans. About 300 billion ($400 billion) in loans have already been used to bail out Greece, Ireland and Portugal.

The International Monetary Fund and others have been calling for a financial "firewall" of more than 1 trillion ($1.3 trillion) — just in case the much larger economies of Spain and Italy need assistance. On Friday, IMF managing director Christine Lagarde congratulated European leaders on their agreement, but didn't say whether it went far enough to guarantee additional help from the IMF.

"I welcome the decision of euro area ministers to strengthen the European firewall," Lagarde said in a statement. "The IMF has long emphasized that enhanced European and global firewalls, together with the implementation of strong policy frameworks, are critical for ending the crisis and securing international financial stability."

The U.S. Treasury Department also didn't say whether the firewall was as large as it had hoped.

Friday's announcement "reinforces a trajectory of positive efforts to strengthen confidence in the euro area," Treasury Department spokeswoman Natalie Wyeth said. "Over the last several months, European leaders have made significant progress in addressing the crisis, and we welcome their unequivocal commitment to reinforcing their currency union."

Stock markets recovered some ground Friday after sharp losses this week. European stocks will end the month higher and still above the levels of last summer, when Europe's debt crisis flared up.

Germany's DAX closed 1.0 percent higher at 6,946.83 while the CAC-40 in France rose 1.3 percent to 3,423.81 and Britain's FTSE 100 gained 0.5 percent to 5,768.45.

Many economists fear that further trouble in Europe could smother a burgeoning economic recovery in other parts of the world. Together, Italy and Spain hold more than 2.5 trillion in debt and a default — or even the serious threat of a default — could pummel banks across Europe and spread panic on global markets.

But putting up large amounts to save some of its members is not an easy task for the eurozone. Rich countries such as Germany and Finland face rising opposition against bailouts among their voters, while the finances of many other states are already overstretched.

Even reaching the overall 800 billion capacity required a complicated patchwork of several old and new funds and loan programs. Ministers struggled to add up old commitments to reach a large figure to impress markets, only to quickly explain its components to calm down voters worried about their tax money.

Of the new total, only 500 billion is fresh money and will have to be built up and cobbled together over time as the eurozone moves from its interim bailout fund, the European Financial Stability Facility, to its new rescue vehicle, the European Stability Mechanism.

The ESM, which will come into force in July, will initially only be able to give out some 200 billion of its future 500 billion loan capacity. By the middle of next year, that figure will rise to 400 billion.

Until then, some 240 billion remaining from the EFSF will act as a buffer, in case a large amount of financial aid is required.

Analysts said the agreement didn't come as much of a surprise, as it was closely modeled on a proposal made earlier this week by Europe's largest economy.

"Today's decision is a classical European compromise. It was as far as the German government was willing to go and it was the minimum most other eurozone countries were expecting," said Carsten Brzeski, senior economist at ING.

The big questions now are whether the new firewall will give investors the confidence to keep lending money to vulnerable euro countries and convince non-European economies to commit more resources to the IMF. The IMF says it needs an extra $500 billion to support governments around the world in case the crisis intensifies again.

The eurozone has already promised to provide 150 billion ($200 billion) of that amount and other IMF members are expected to make a decision at a meeting in Washington in April.

The head of the EU's economic affairs unit, Olli Rehn, and Joerg Asmussen, a member of the executive board of the European Central Bank, were confident that Friday's decision would be enough to get other countries to participate, even though both institutions had pushed for a much bigger boost.

"I trust that today's decision will pave the way for an increase of the lending resources by the IMF's spring meeting next month," Rehn told journalists.

Earlier, Rehn, together with French Finance Minister Francois Baroin, had mounted a last-minute initiative to go beyond the 800 billion, but that attempt was quickly smothered by Germany's finance chief Wolfgang Schaeuble.

After the meeting, Schaeuble couldn't resist a slight sting against those who had pushed for a bigger increase.

"My irritation over some stupid chitchat in recent days come from the pretense that the only thing that mattered was the firewall," he told reporters during a short break between talks.

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Gaza man killed as thousands protest Israel policy

BY DIAA HADID
Associated Press

JERUSALEM Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian protester in Gaza on Friday as thousands in the Palestinian territories, Israel and neighboring countries participated in an annual protest against the Jewish state's land policies.

Security forces in riot gear deployed in high numbers along the frontiers of Israel and the Palestinian territories in anticipation of a repeat of last year's violence, in which at least 38 people died near the borders with Lebanon and Syria.

But for the most part, protests were small and organizers kept demonstrators from actually marching on the borders.

The "Land Day" rallies are an annual event marked by Israeli Arabs and Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza who protest what they say are discriminatory Israeli land policies.

Gaza health official Adham Abu Salmia said Israeli forces shot and killed Mahmoud Zaqout, 21, and critically wounded another man as they were approaching the Israel-Gaza border during a demonstration of a few thousand people organized by the territory's Hamas rulers.

The Israeli military said troops fired warning shots before shooting directly at Zaqout, in accordance with the army's rules of engagement.

The military said it responded to protesters with tear gas in addition to gunfire. Abu Salmia said an additional 37 protesters throughout Gaza were lightly injured, while the Israeli military put the number at about 29.

By midday, skirmishes had broken out between protesters and security forces in the Jerusalem area. Palestinians threw rocks and Israeli troops responded with tear gas, stun grenades and rubber pellets.

Dozens of Palestinians were treated for light wounds in hospitals throughout the West Bank and Jerusalem, including four with serious head wounds from rubber pellets and one hit in the head by a tear gas canister, said Mohammed Ayyad, a spokesman for the Red Crescent medical service in Ramallah.

In southern Lebanon Friday, thousands of Lebanese and Palestinians gathered outside the Crusader-built Beaufort castle 15 kilometers (9 miles) from Israel. Lebanese security forces kept them from moving any closer to the border.

Last year, demonstrators from Lebanon and Syria tried twice to break across the borders into Israel, setting off clashes with Israeli troops in which at least 38 people were killed.

Sobhiyeh Mizari, 70, said she always taught her 12 children "never to forget Palestine."

"We will liberate our land against the will of Israel and its backers," said Mizari, who said her husband was killed in Israeli shelling of Lebanon in 1978.

Among the protesters in Lebanon were rabbis from the ultra-Orthodox Jewish sect Neturei Karta, a radical anti-Israel group that believes Jews must live without a country of their own until the coming of the Messiah.

In Jordan, thousands of demonstrators gathered a few kilometers (miles) east of Jordan's border with the West Bank, chanting, "Death to Israel." Israel controls the West Bank side of the border.

"Get out Jews, get out. Jerusalem and the West Bank are in the land of virtue, in Arab-Muslim land, and your dirt will stain it," Hammam Saeed, a hawkish Muslim Brotherhood leader in Jordan, told the cheering crowd. Jordanian media reported that representatives from Neturei Karta, which traditionally supports Israel's enemies, were present there as well.

About 2,000 Arab-Israelis demonstrated in northern Israel, where a large portion of Israel's Arab minority lives.

Several dozen Palestinians who live in east Jerusalem waved their national flag outside Jerusalem's walled Old City. "One, one homeland!" they chanted.

Palestinians were banned from entering from the West Bank except for medical emergencies, and police barred Palestinian men under 40 from praying at a volatile Jerusalem holy site, citing security concerns.

The demonstrators performed their communal Muslim Friday prayers where they stood, praying on their flags instead of traditional mats.

They were surrounded by what appeared to be an equal number of Israeli security forces.

"Israel has no trouble with peaceful protest and respects the rights of people to demonstrate peacefully," said government spokesman Mark Regev.

Many Palestinians, energized by Arab Spring uprisings that have overturned decades-old authoritarian regimes, see massive, coordinated marches as one of the most effective strategies to draw attention to their cause.

"After the Arab revolutions, there's awareness of the importance of popular participation," said Arab activist Jafar Farah. "This has rattled the Arab regimes, and now it's frightening the Israeli government."





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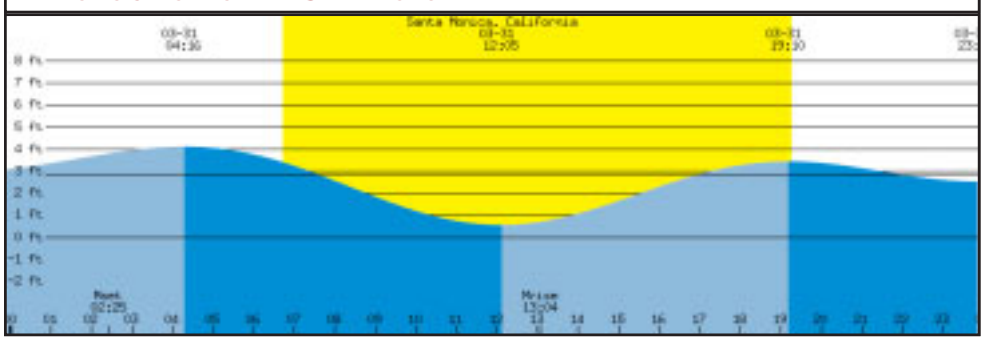
Swell Forecast

Looking at SW swell increasing to head high or slightly better at south facing breaks. West facing breaks are looking at chest high waves.

Long Range Synopsis

Looking at SW swell continuing at head high or better.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



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QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 26 / 16
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	A
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A	A
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisos creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	F
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	F	F
Solstice Canyon at Ben Blocker County Beach.	A+	F
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	F
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 21672 Malibu Rd..	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19648 PCH stairs.	A+	F
Pena Creek at Los Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	B	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A	F
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A
Will Rogers State Beach at 17208 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	F

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

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

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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.

Reggie gets replica ring back in Las Vegas lawsuit

BY KEN RITTER
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS A replica 1977 World Series championship ring and a watch commemorating Reggie Jackson's 400th home run have been returned to the baseball Hall of Famer at the direction of a federal judge in Nevada, the former slugger's lawyer said Friday.

Attorney Jeffrey Rugg said an ownership dispute with estranged family members that prompted U.S. District Judge Kent Dawson in Las Vegas to stop a planned auction last summer was near an end, following the judge's March 6 order returning the items to Jackson.

"Reggie got his stuff back a couple of weeks ago," Rugg said, adding that Jackson was relieved to have the items removed from a safe deposit box and returned. Court documents put their combined value at more than $75,000.

Jackson filed the civil lawsuit last year in federal court in Las Vegas to stop an auction house, his stepmother and his half-brother from selling the items Jackson had given to his father, Martinez Jackson.

Martinez Jackson, a tailor who once played for the Newark Eagles of the Negro Leagues, died in 1994 at age 89.

Jackson reached a confidential agreement earlier this month dropping the case against American Memorabilia Inc., business owner Victor Moreno and Jackson's stepmother, Resurrection Jackson, in return for getting the mementoes back, according to court documents.

Jackson's half-brother, Martinez Jackson Jr. remains a defendant in the case. But U.S. Magistrate Judge Carl W. Hoffman on Thursday set a May 2 deadline for him to respond to a request to dismiss the case outright, Rugg said.

Martinez Jackson and Resurrection Jackson had been represented by attorney Marc Risman of Henderson, who withdrew from the case Thursday. Risman previously filed documents saying he had been unable to reach Martinez Jackson. Resurrection Jackson died last week in Philadelphia.

Jackson, 65, who lives in Carmel, Calif., never had the ring and watch appraised. Rugg said the dollar figure in the lawsuit was a broad estimate.

"It's a hard thing to put a value on," Rugg told The Associated Press. "It wasn't Reggie's intent to sell either of them, so we never had an appraisal. How do you value something that is between a father and a son?"

The ring was custom-made with an extra diamond set amid the diamond-encrusted NY of the New York Yankees ring given to players in 1978 to mark the 1977 championship over the Los Angeles Dodgers. Jackson's three home runs in consecutive at-bats in the deciding sixth game represented a career-defining achievement. He was named Series most valuable player.

The Cartier watch was presented to Jackson after he clubbed his 400th home run while playing for the Yankees in August 1980.

Jackson was a 14-time all-star and earned the nickname "Mr. October" for his playoff performances with the Yankees and Oakland Athletics. He is currently 13th on the all-time Major League Baseball home run list, with 563. He started with the Kansas City Athletics in 1967 and also played for the Baltimore Orioles and California Angels before retiring in 1987.

Jackson was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1993 and currently serves as a special Yankees advisor.

City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit sealed bids for the:

Restroom Renovation at City Hall
SP2223

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 **April 16, 2012,** 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.

MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK:
April 4, 2012 at 9:00 AM

PROJECT ESTIMATE: $190,000.00
CONTRACT DAYS: 30
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $500.00 Per Day
COMPENSABLE DELAY: $500.00 Per Day

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's Finance website at: http://www01.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/. The Contractor is required to have a **Class B** license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.

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smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office **(310) 458-7737**

MOVIE TIMES

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

Saturday, March 31
Cinema Paradiso (PG) 2hr 3min
7:30pm

Sunday, April 1
Bugs Bunny Cartoon Classics (NR)
4:00pm

The Three Stooges Meet Hercules (NR) 1hr 29min
The Outlaws is Coming (NR) 1hr 28min
7:30pm

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

John Carter in Disney Digital 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 19min
3:40pm, 10:15pm

John Carter (PG-13) 2hrs 19min
12:15pm, 7:00pm

Hunger Games (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
11:15am, 2:45pm, 6:15pm, 9:45pm

Intruders (R) 1hr 40min
11:30am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:10pm

Dark Tide (PG-13)
11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 7:45pm, 10:20pm

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

21 Jump Street (R) 1hr 49min
10:45am, 11:45am, 1:45pm, 2:45pm, 4:40pm, 5:40pm, 7:30pm, 8:30pm, 10:30pm, 11:25pm

Wrath of the Titans 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
11:00am, 1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

Hunger Games (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
10:30am, 12:05pm, 2:00pm, 3:30pm, 5:30pm, 7:00pm, 8:45pm, 10:30pm, 11:30pm

Mirror Mirror (PG) 1hr 46min
11:50am, 2:40pm, 5:30pm, 8:15pm, 11:00pm

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
11:00am

Jiro Dreams of Sushi (PG) 1hr 21min
11:00am, 1:30pm, 3:40pm, 5:50pm, 8:00pm, 10:10pm

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

Manzanar Fishing Club (NR) 1hr 14min
1:00pm, 3:10pm, 5:20pm, 7:30pm, 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

Wrath of the Titans 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
11:45am, 2:25pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:45pm

Hunger Games (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
12:45pm, 4:15pm, 7:45pm, 11:00pm

Mirror Mirror (PG) 1hr 46min
11:00am, 1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

Wrath of the Titans (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
6:45pm, 9:30pm

Friends With Kids (R) 1hr 40min
11:05am, 4:00pm

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
1:50pm

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

Let your hair down, Pisces

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Make plans around friends and family. You want to stay close to home, yet visit with loved ones as well. Decide to throw a spring gathering or a dinner -- that way you can have it all. Tonight: A special person wants his or her time with you, too.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★Return calls and respond to a special invitation, whether it is for today or not. Don't let others' attitudes color your day. Choose your mood and your company. Break away from your normal weekend style. Try something new, be it food, people or location. Tonight: You do not have to go far.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Be aware of the expenses you might be adding to your budget. A discussion will help put someone at ease. Use sensitivity with a child or loved one. This person is not as upbeat as you are right now. Tonight: Time to treat someone.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Share some of your ideas with others; the feedback could be quite surprising. You will learn a lot about those you hang out with. Be spontaneous. A domestic matter plays into your plans. You can see people relax as their personalities bloom. Tonight: You call the shots.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Know when to pull back. You have a shining personality, but often your rays prevent other personalities from emerging. Let a loved one and/or neighbor create more of what he or she wants. Tonight: Donpush. In fact, vanish while you can.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ No hemming and hawing allowed. You might want to take a stronger role in handling a new purchase and your finances. You might be unusually hard on yourself. Accept an invitation out, and you will see many friends. Tonight: You are the party!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Curb negativity, and you'll be able to enjoy yourself. See where the negativity is coming from and whether you can correct those thoughts. Others are thrilled to see you while you visit with an older relative or friend who you have included in your plans. Tonight: To the wee hours.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Keep reaching out for others you do not often speak to. Make plans that allow for at least a mini-escape, be it a movie, drive or other activity. Give yourself a break from the daily grind. Tonight: Share this adventure.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ A special relationship creates a stronger bond between the two of you. The level of caring is so intense that someone around you could feel as if he or she is isolated. You might see this attitude develop today. Tonight: Add a touch of spice.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ You have little tolerance for anything but agreement. Someone also could make a request that you feel you have no choice but to respond to. Try to curb resentment, knowing that it is still your choice. Tonight: Among friends.

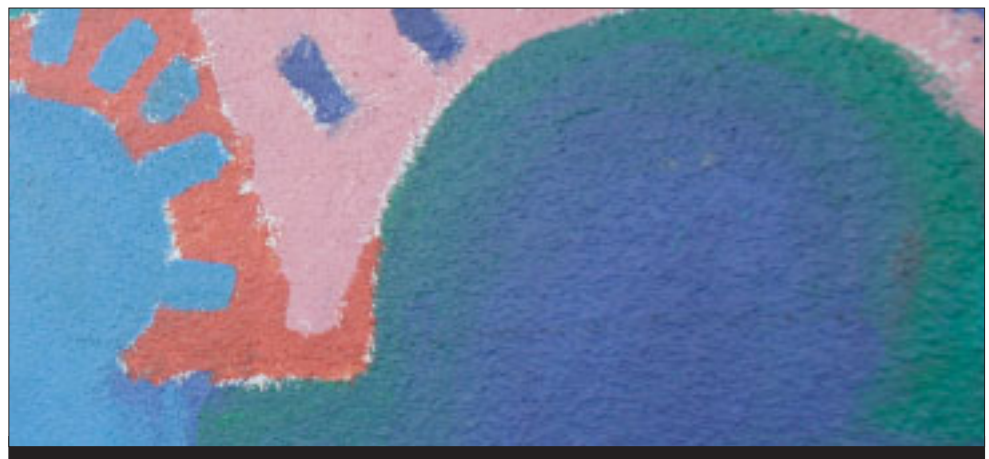
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Go off and do what you have wanted to do. Go to the gym, take a walk and/or finish up your taxes. Once you clear these tasks, you will be up for some socializing. For one day only, do what you want. Tonight: Be with a favorite person.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Think in terms of gains and greater happiness. You need to let go of stressful situations, and open up to a new sense of possibilities. A partner might not go along easily until he or she notices how very content you are. Tonight: Let your hair down.

Happy birthday

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

You have get-up-and-go. Remember, you come first, because if you do not take good care of yourself, you will have nothing to offer. Others often challenge you, as they might not like what you are doing. You have a strong sense of direction; try not to waver. If you are single, you could meet someone who is always unhappy. Recognize the implications of relating to this type of person. If you are attached, your partner might be withdrawn and somewhat aloof. Show your caring manner anyway. You sometimes can experience lows in a relationship. CANCER could cling to you.

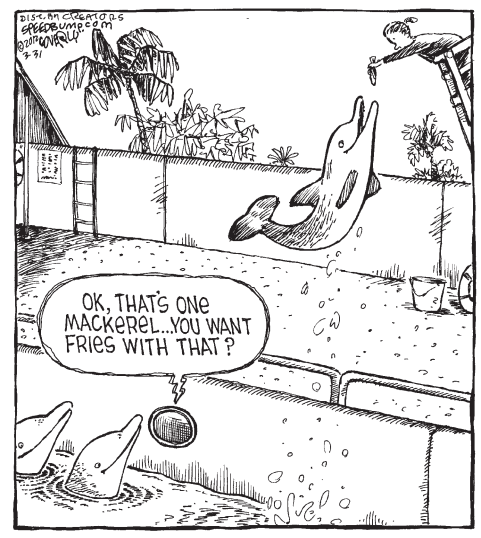


MYSTERY PHOTO

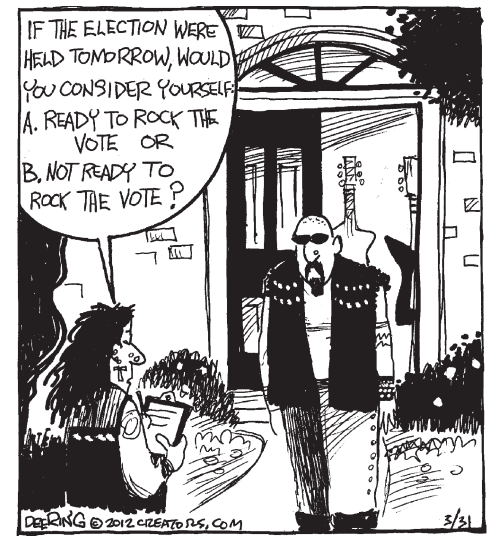
Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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.

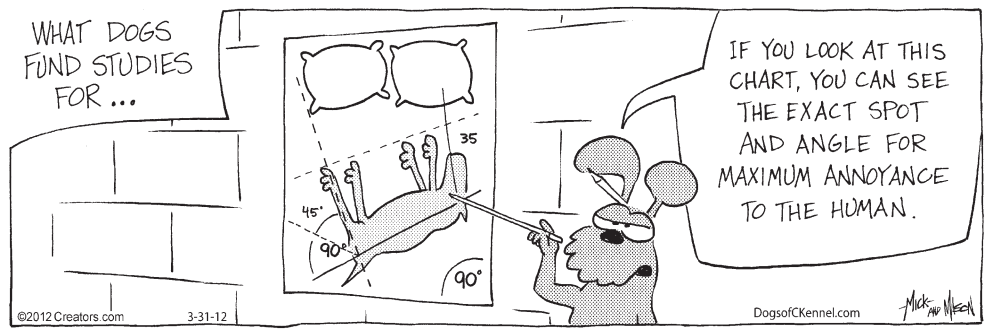
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



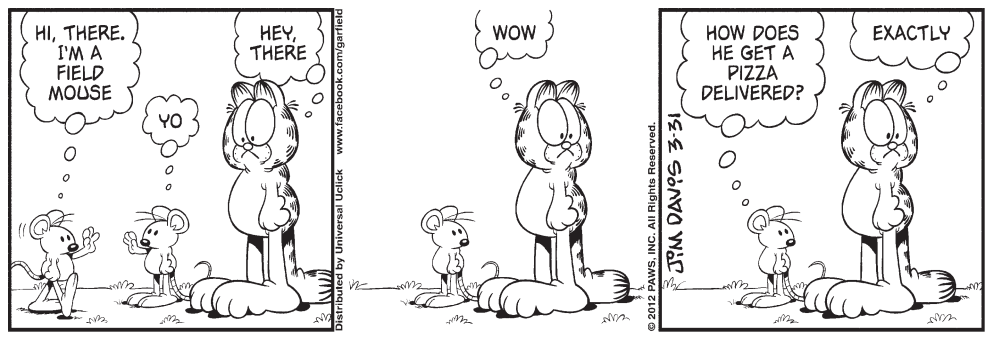
Strange Brew
By John Deering



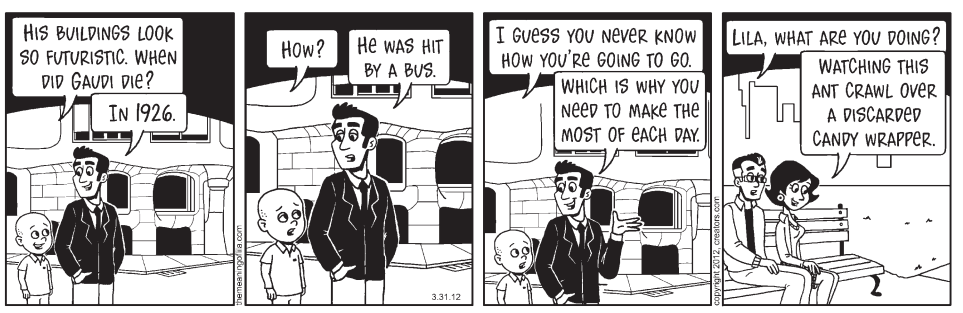
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



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

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



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Attire
5 Sow chow
9 Plague
10 Cheryl of "Suburgatory"
12 Maine college town
13 Exemplary
14 Swindles
16 Some crime evidence
17 Second person
18 Handy man?
20 Washington of Hollywood
22 "Why not!"
23 Invited
25 Sentence subject, usually
28 Help out
32 Seems
34 Book before Esth.
35 Wine choice
36 Outstanding
38 Beach creatures
40 Sleep inhibitor
41 Composer Erik
42 Camp craft
43 Dispatched
44 Serpent's spot

DOWN

1 Infer
2 Annual golf event
3 Lairs
4 Patsies
5 Computer key
6 Pot part
7 Anxious
8 Gorp bit
9 Yawning, perhaps
11 Does in
15 Hex signs, e.g.
19 Early carmaker
21 Writer Grey
24 Gist
25 Dealer busters
26 Verdi output
27 News recap
29 Skate type
30 Fall, for one
31 Afternoon hour
33 Useful skill
37 Washer unit
39 Storage spot

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

Yesterday's answer

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

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

3-31

ARITHMO™

CrossMath + × − ÷

– Arithmo Crossmath – Reclaim Your Brain

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

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

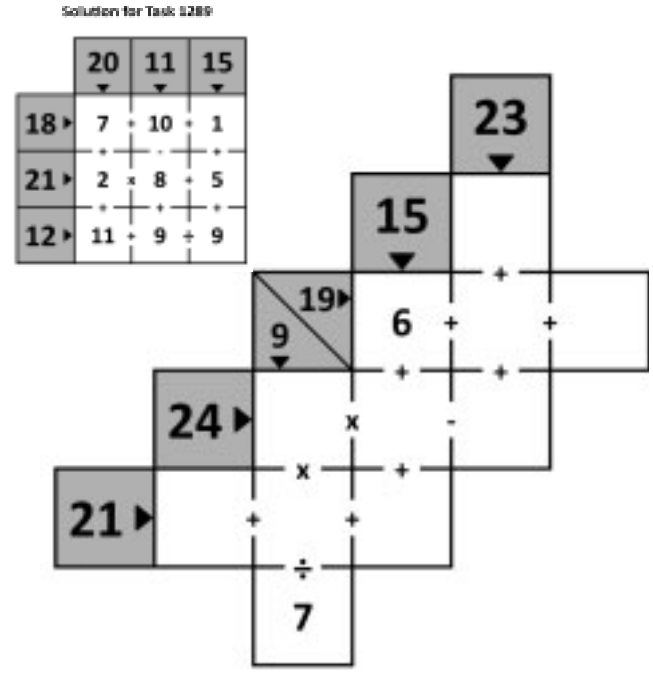
• Remember to multiply or divide before you add or subtract.

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

1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 11

Solution for Task 1289



DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date:
Meganumber:
Jackpot: $640M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 3/28
17 23 34 41 43
Meganumber: 11
Jackpot: $17M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 3/30
3 10 15 28 37

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 03/30
MIDDAY: 5 5 5
EVENING: 9 6 4

SANTA ANITA PARK
Draw Date: 3/30
1st: 06 Whirl Win
2nd: 10 Solid Gold
3rd: 03 Hot Shot
RACE TIME: 1:46.92

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

■ Oklahoma state Sen. Ralph Shortey, a staunch abortion opponent, introduced a bill in January to ban the use of human fetuses in processed food. Although the principal anti-abortion advocacy official in the state said he had never heard of such a practice, Sen. Shortey asserted that it was a problem and that he had been reading up on it on the Internet.

■ Kyle Bower, 19, was elected in November to a seat on the Alburtis (Pa.) Borough Council. Before being sworn in, however, he was sentenced to probation for stalking an ex-girlfriend and tossing a brick through her window. Now that he is seated, he still must answer to 2010 charges in Kutztown, Pa., of resisting arrest for public drunkenness. In both incidents, he also displayed an uncanny ability to slip out of handcuffs and wander away from arresting officers.

■ Madeleine Martin, the chief animal protection official for the state government of Hesse, Germany, told a newspaper in Frankfurt in February that among the reasons why the country needed an anti-bestiality law was that she knew of "animal brothels" in Germany (presumably, not animal-animal mating services but human-animal facilities). (Without an anti-bestiality law, authorities usually must prove that the animal has been physically harmed in order to obtain a conviction.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1990 - 200,000 protestors take to the streets of London to protest against the newly introduced Poll Tax.

1991 - The Islamic Constitutional Movement, or Hadas, is established in Kuwait.

1991 - Georgian independence referendum, 1991: nearly 99 percent of the voters support the country's independence from the Soviet Union.

WORD UP!

fugitive \ FYOO-ji-tiv \ , adjective; 1. Fleeting, transitory, elusive. 2. Having taken flight, or run away.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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H1-500, H2-750, S1-250, S2-350, S3-400 Suzuki GS400,

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800-772-1142, 1-310-721-0726 usa@classicrunners.com

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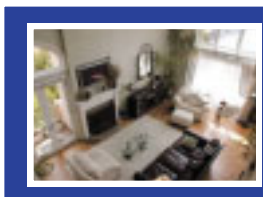
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- 2.5 Bath
- Almost 2000 sq ft
- Loft over Liv Rm & Mstr
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- Built in 2000
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Grand Home built in 1924

17,250 +/- square foot lot

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April 1st
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Brentwood Flats Traditional
Custom French Country Kitchen
4 Bed + 4 Bath
$2,099,000
Open Sunday
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619 Euclid Street

Great Square Footage

5 Bed + 4.5 Bath
$2,899,000
Open Sunday
April 1st
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm



Average Price of **ALL** Santa Monica
Single Family Homes
From **ALL** agents in **ALL** companies
Listed for Sale As of Late - March 2012 / Early April

Santa Monica Canyon	=	$ 1,254,000
North of Montana	=	$ 3,695,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$ 1,795,000
South of Wilshire	=	$ 899,000
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