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Santa Monica Daily Press
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2013
Volume 12 Issue 123

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

FLIGHT BY THE POUND
SEE PAGE 3

THE BACK AT FULL STRENGTH ISSUE

Officials say Saint John's needs more secure parking

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Planning Director David Martin told a local hospital to find some way to improve lease conditions on hundreds of parking spaces or risk violating its contract with City Hall.

In a letter released last week, Martin told officials at the Saint John's Medical Center that its proposed plan to manage parking at the 266-bed facility was not up to par in the wake of the potential loss of 450 leased parking spots at the Colorado Center, an office complex near the site.

If it can't, it may be on the hook for a $25 million parking structure, something nearby residents are demanding it build because they say hospital employees and patients crowd their streets and take up scarce parking spots.

Saint John's may not be in the position to build the structure as it struggles to increase revenues following two years of operating in the red.

Although the letter identifies a deficit of 210 spaces, that doesn't mean that the hospital will have to replace those spaces one for one, Martin said Tuesday.

Instead, Saint John's could either find new off-site spaces, renegotiate existing leases so that they satisfy conditions in the development agreement between Saint John's and City Hall or some combination of the two.

The hospital has until April 29 to respond to the letter, and would not for this article.

"What they come back with in response at the end of April may include new spaces they hadn't previously had access to, or an improvement of existing terms," said Roxanne Tanemori, a planner assigned to work on Saint John's development agreement.

City Hall will then have 60 days to file a new response to that plan.

The back and forth between City Hall and the hospital is part of a process to determine whether or not Saint John's parking proposal is "functionally equivalent" to the 438-space subterranean parking structure that the hospital avoided building by renegotiating its deal with City Hall.

The structure was part of a development agreement signed in 1998 as part of a massive overhaul of the hospital campus after it sustained damage in the 1994 Northridge earthquake.

The City Council agreed to waive the requirement for the structure in 2011 as long as the hospital could ensure that it would provide "functionally equivalent" parking in off-site lots.

It also permitted the leases at the

SEE PARKING PAGE 8



BIG RED

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

A little girl runs under a giant red ball at Edgemar Center for the Arts on Tuesday. The ball is part of artist Kurt Perschke's RedBall Project, which was serving double duty as a promotion for the new California Lottery Powerball. The colorful ball will be making appearances up and down the state in the run up to the first Powerball drawing.



PALIHOUSE SANTA MONICA

Residents oppose hotel's request to sell alcohol

Palihouse too close to homes, neighbors say

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

THIRD STREET Residents near a hotel at Washington Avenue and Third Street are beginning to rally in opposition to the new owners' application to serve alcohol at the establishment, which they say is inappropriate in a residential neighborhood.

The business, 1001 3rd Street, LLC., filed an application with City Hall to allow guests of the Palihouse Santa Monica — formerly the Embassy Hotel and Apartments — to purchase alcohol on premises and from mini-bars located in their hotel rooms.

The hotel also wishes to include a bar in the lobby that could sell alcohol between 6 a.m. and 2 a.m. for guests to enjoy in the lobby or patios.

The bar would be solely for the use of hotel guests and their visitors, not for passersby, said Matt Fisher, executive vice president of Paligroup, the company that owns the Palihouse brand.

"We want to enhance our guests' experience. That's what this is all about," Fisher said.

The 38-room Palihouse Santa Monica, which has rooms starting at $299 per night, is located in the middle of a residential neighborhood, with multifamily apartment buildings in front and immediately adjacent to it, and a nursing facility located across

SEE HOTEL PAGE 8

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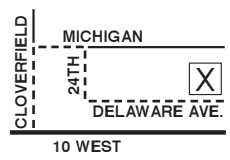
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, April 3, 2013

Green company
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Vincent Stanley will be telling the story of Patagonia, an outdoor clothes and gear company, and how it became a leader in green business. The event is free, but space is limited and on a first come, first serve basis. For more information, visit smpl.org.

You can prevent it
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
1 p.m. — 2 p.m.
Researchers will discuss the current understanding of risk factors for dementia and the steps that can be taken to lower seniors' risk. For more information and to register, visit the library branch.

Thursday, April 4, 2013

Bring the popcorn
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
6:30 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Watch the Oscar-winning film "Argo," directed by Ben Affleck. Admission is free. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Look, it's a bird
The Broad Stage
1310 11th St., 7:30 p.m.
Learn about 39 different species of birds in "Birds of Paradise: Extreme, Bizarre, Extraordinary" as a part of National Geographic Live. For more information, visit thebroadstage.com.

Friday, April 5, 2013

Gem of a show
Santa Monica Civic Auditorium
1855 Main St.,
12 p.m. — 6 p.m.
For more than 44 years, the International Gem and Jewelry Show has been bringing the largest selection of jewelry at the lowest prices to locations across the country — and now the show is back in Santa Monica. You can expect to find colored gemstones, fine jewelry, gold and silver earrings, necklaces and bracelets, beads and crystals, ethnic jewelry, classic pearls, vintage estate jewelry, engagement rings and wedding bands, designer watches and one-of-a-kind seasonal pieces. For more information, visit www.intergem.net.

Tame that shrew
Miles Memorial Playhouse
1130 Lincoln Blvd., 8 p.m.
The "Taming of the Shrew" is one of Shakespeare's funniest plays — a farce in the truest sense. The Colonials theater company presents the story of a drunk tinker, Christopher Sly, who, having been cast out into the cold by a barmaid, is found lying in his drunken sleep by a wealthy lord who decides to see if such a "monstrous beast" will behave better if he is treated well. For more information, call (310) 458-8634.

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

NOMA

Police arrest suspect in car burglaries


WHITTINGTON

Santa Monica police officers arrested a man found hiding in a garage in the North of Montana neighborhood Tuesday morning after he allegedly broke into cars, officials said.

Officers received an emergency call at 4:54 a.m. from a resident on the 600 block of 19th Street who reported that an African-American male wearing a hoodie was inside a car that did not belong to him.

The caller added that the suspect had left the vehicle, crossed the street and was trying to open another parked car.

The SMPD established a perimeter in the area and a police dog was brought in to assist with the search, as was a Los Angeles Police Department helicopter.

At 7:22 a.m., the police dog signaled that the suspect was in a detached garage on the 600 block of 19th Street.

When officers searched the premises, they found and arrested Keith Aaron Whittington, 22, a transient.

Aaron was booked on suspicion of burglary, resisting officers, tampering with vehicles and violating his probation. His bail was set at $20,000.

Detectives who responded to the area reported that a total of eight vehicles had been burglarized.

– ASHLEY ARCHIBALD

DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES

Santa Monica resident files suit against insurer

A Santa Monica resident and cancer patient is going after an Conseco Life Insurance Company for refusing to pay tens of thousands in medical costs she believes were covered under her plan.

Pamela Gross, 63, purchased a cancer insurance policy from Transport Life Insurance Company, which later merged with Conseco, in 1994, a policy she tried to cash in on in 2012 when she was diagnosed with melanoma in her upper left tricep.

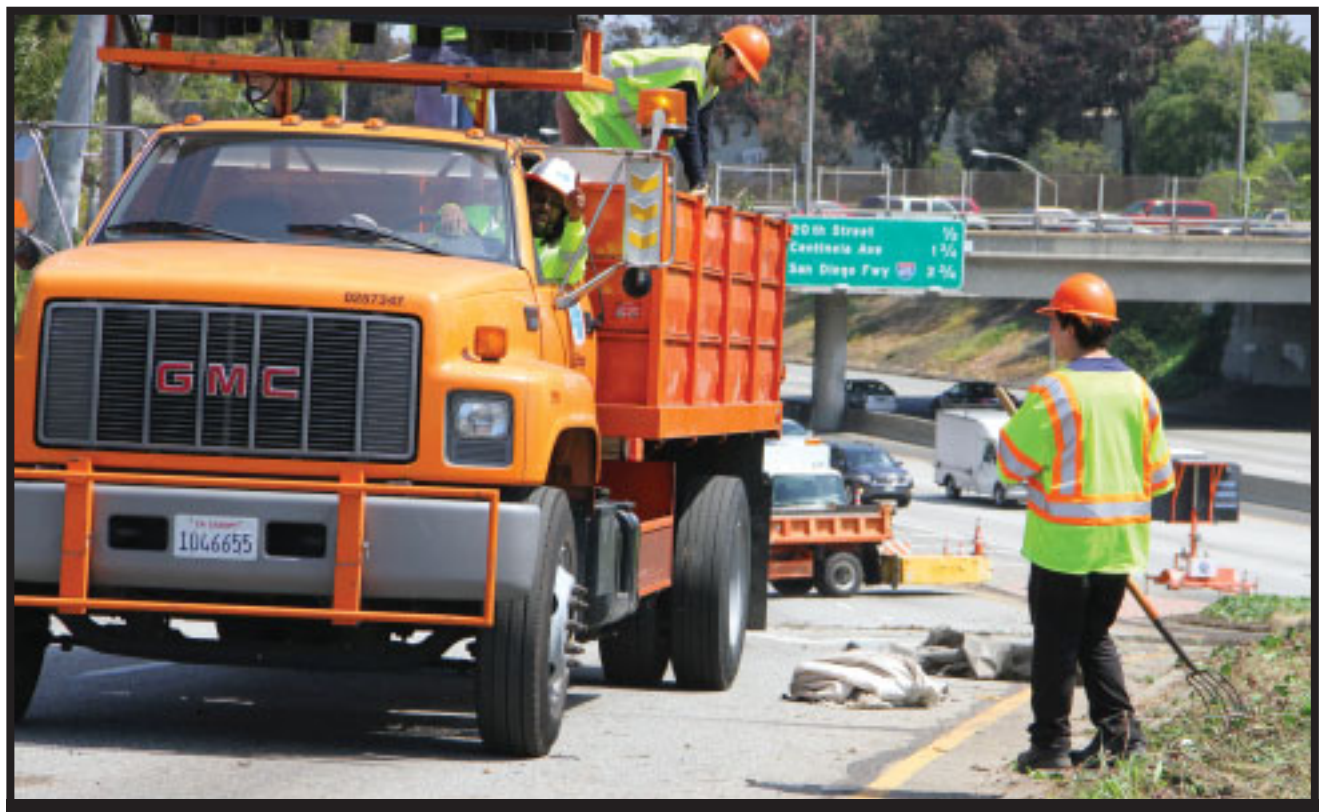
She underwent consultation, treatment and two surgical procedures, which resulted in the successful removal of the cancer, and submitted a claim for benefits under the Conseco policy, according to court documents.

The insurer delayed and then underpaid the claim on the grounds that the doctor who treated Gross did not state that the cancer was malignant, according to the suit.

Gross accuses Conseco of failing to act in good faith and breach of contract.

– AA

✉WHAT DO YOU THINK?
■ Send letters to **editor@smdp.com**



ACCESS DENIED

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

The Lincoln Boulevard exit off of the westbound I-10 Freeway was closed for a time on Tuesday to allow a Caltrans work crew to perform landscape cleanup. Traffic was backed up to the Bundy Drive exit as a result of the closure.

Airline introduces pay-by-weight pricing

FILI SAGAPOLUTELE
Associated Press

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa A tiny Samoa airline is offering a new reason to drop extra weight before your next trip: Tickets sold not by the seat, but by kilogram.

Samoa Air planned on Wednesday to start pricing its first international flights based on the weight of its passengers and their bags. Depending on the flight, each kilogram (2.2 pounds) costs 93 cents to $1.06.

That means the average American man weighing 195 pounds with a 35 pound bag would pay $97 to go one-way between Apia, Samoa, and Pago Pago, American Samoa. Competitors typically charge $130 to $140 roundtrip for similar routes.

The weight-based pricing is not new to the airline, which launched in June. It has been using the pricing model since November, but in January the U.S. Department of Transportation approved its international route between American Samoa and Samoa.

The airline's chief executive, Chris Langton, said Tuesday that "planes are run by weight and not by seat, and travelers should be educated on this important issue. The plane can only carry a certain amount of weight and that weight needs to be paid. There is no other way."

Travelers in the region already are weighed before they fly because the planes used between the islands are small, said David Vaeafe, executive director of the American Samoa Visitors Bureau. Samoa Air's fleet includes two nine-seat planes for commercial routes and a three-seater for an air taxi service.

Langton said passengers who need more room will be given one row on the plane to ensure comfort.

The new pricing system would make Samoa Air the first to charge strictly by weight, a change that Vaeafe said is, "in many ways... a fair concept for passengers."

"For example, a 12- or 13-year-old passenger, who is small in size and weight, won't have to pay an adult fare, based on airline fares that anyone 12 years and older does pay the adult fare," he said.

Vaeafe said the pricing system has worked in Samoa but it's not clear whether it will be embraced by travelers in the U.S. territory.

Langton said the airline has received mixed responses from overseas travelers since it began promoting the pricing on its website and Facebook page.

Ana Faapouli, an American Samoa resident who frequently travels to Samoa, said the pricing scheme will likely be profitable for Samoa Air.

"Samoa Air is smart enough to find ways to benefit from this service as they will be competing against two other airlines," Faapouli said.

Pago Pago-based Inter Island Airways and Polynesian Airlines, which is owned by the Samoa government, also run flights between the country and American Samoa.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

In agreement

Editor:

Like Robert Redford, I am dismayed by the transformation which has taken place in Santa Monica, notably since my arrival in early 1971 ("Redford not a fan of Santa Monica," Community Briefs, March 29)!

That which has me most upset of late is the Expo line, which has resulted in the building of elevated bridges, which, to me, look like dragons traversing areas in a threatening manner, most notably, at Cloverfield and Olympic boulevards, among others! This is not the same Santa Monica that I entered back then, and I support Robert Redford's views concerning its transformation, which I personally do not view in a positive light.

Julia Reeves
Santa Monica

Someone liked it

Editor:

I should have known immediately that [Monday]'s edition would be fun filled and April foolish when Frank Gehry's name was misspelled, but I didn't, and had to go as far as the toll gate on the Fourth Street stairway to the beach before I caught on (I'm slow).

The astrology chart is particularly hilarious, as are the letters to editor, but then every page is zany. Thank you for all the laughs!

Lee Ray
Santa Monica

Fooled you

Editor:

You guys are really good! Or I am really gullible. I am embarrassed to admit how much I read before it dawned on me that it was April 1 (and this is not the first year that you have fooled me). Thanks for the laugh.

Nancy Himmelfarb
Santa Monica



Your column here

Linda Russell — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Financial resources for women in business

THERE'S ONE TOPIC WE HEAR ABOUT most often when we talk to women who are building their own businesses: Obtaining financing can feel like a daunting task. We also talk with too many business owners who are unaware of the many resources available to help them access capital.

We want to change that and make more women aware of their options. Today there's a growing list of government, nonprofit and private organizations that provide resources for women in business. Here are a few to consider:

• Financial service providers that have a special focus on women-owned businesses: More financial institutions are recognizing the importance and growth of the segment. Nearly 30 percent of businesses are owned by women today. As a result, more financial institutions are adding services and programs specially geared toward helping women learn about financing options and how to obtain a small business loan. At Wells Fargo, for example, we recently committed to lend a cumulative total of $55 billion to women-owned businesses by 2020, in addition to offering numerous resources for small businesses.

• U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA): The SBA operates Women's Business Centers across the country — a network of educational centers designed to assist women in starting and growing small businesses. When a business owner is ready for a loan, she may want to consider an SBA loan, which is offered through banks and other lending institutions. SBA loan products, such as SBA 7(a) and 504 loans, can be good options for some creditworthy small business owners who may not able to obtain conventional loans or loan terms that meet their business needs.

• National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO): With more than 5,000 members and 60 chapters, NAWBO is a valuable resource helping to propel women business owners into greater economic, social and political spheres of power worldwide.

Once you're ready to apply for a loan, there are a few questions any lender will ask: How much do you need? What will you do with the financing? How will you pay it back? Your success in securing a loan will depend on your answers. To help maximize your chances, before you approach a lender, make sure to do your homework in each of these key areas.

• How much do you need?

This is the most fundamental question. Having a precise answer is the first step in proving that you're prepared. If you aren't sure how much to ask for, revisit your business plan and business financials first. Look at what you have available, and what you project you will need to reach your goals, then do the math.

• Why do you need it?

This is really a two-part question. Lenders are interested in knowing whether you're seeking financing to solve a problem, or to seize an opportunity.

You should maintain an up-to-date business plan that you revise regularly as your business grows. If you're just getting started, you can find plenty of guidance online, such as this step-by-step guide available at Wells Fargo's Business Insight Resource Center: https://wellsfargobusinessinsights.com/business-stages/startup/writing-business-plan

• How will you repay your loan?

The last question requires the most detailed documentation. Start with your current financials to show how much cash your business generates now. Then prepare cash flow projections: your best estimates of how much you anticipate generating after you receive the loan. Include principal and interest payments in the forecasts, and keep the loan terms within bank policy guidelines.

If the loan is secured by collateral, be prepared to explain exactly what tangible assets you can offer as a guarantee. Examples are equipment, a house or a car. In addition to collateral, how much cash will you personally put into the business? When outlining your debts and assets, consider including your personal financial information as well. This will help the lender get a sense of your personal financial stability.

Once you've prepared your proposal and collected the necessary information and documents to back it up, you're ready to talk to potential lenders. Be sure that you can explain clearly what you intend to do with the loan and why you expect the venture to succeed.

Finally, be prepared to discuss your own business qualifications. Because the success of a small business largely depends on leadership, your skills and knowledge are an important part of your company's profile.

When you've done your research, have all your documents in order, and can credibly answer your lender's questions, you've greatly improved your chances of securing capital and launching your business. Make sure to take advantage of the resources available to women business owners. The more you know about your options, the better chance of success.

LINDA RUSSELL is the South Coast Community Bank president, Wells Fargo

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



The Taxman

Jon Coupal
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

More devilish legislation coming out of Sacramento

THE SACRAMENTO POLITICIANS ARE planning a costly attack on drivers' wallets by changing the way some traffic violations are defined.

Generally, the public accepts the need for parking enforcement. The threat of a fine for those who overstay their allotted time helps to make sure that limited parking spaces are available to all who want to shop or do business in a commercial district. However, in many cities, like Los Angeles where parking fines have been raised five times in recent years and even those who park at broken meters are ticketed, the goal is revenue.

The public also tends to support fines for those whose driving puts others in danger as well as themselves. An expensive ticket for those who run a red light is intended to serve as a deterrent to those who might otherwise ignore traffic regulations. However, this system, too, can be manipulated so that driver safety takes a backseat to the primary goal, which is squeezing more money from the public.

Most motorists are familiar with red light cameras. A number of city councils, attracted by the potential of additional revenue, have approved these cameras using the argument that they improve traffic safety. The courts have called the legitimacy of this enforcement technique into question and, in some cases, the companies providing the service – they receive a portion of the revenue raised -- have sought to withdraw the cameras, saying there is just not enough income for them to be profitable.

AB 666, which has been nicknamed the "Devil's Bill" seeks to solve problems for both the revenue seeking cities and the companies that provide the cameras — the latter should not come as a great surprise since the legislation is said to be written with the assistance of two of the primary providers. Authored by Fremont Democrat Bob Wieckowski, AB 666 would change the law so that an accused violator would no longer have the right to request a trial. As things are now, a motorist, who lent their car to a friend, could show in court that the photo taken by the camera was not of them, and be found not guilty.

AB 666 would also allow the use of photo enforcement for other vehicle violations.

The Devil's Bill would streamline the process by making a camera observed violation akin to a parking ticket; if the car did it, the owner is guilty, no matter who was driving. The owner could request an administrative hearing, but only after paying a fee, and the standard of guilt would be "preponderance of the evidence" rather than "beyond a reasonable doubt," as required by current law. The administrator conducting the hearing would be someone selected by the city who has received 20 hours of training. A motorist could go to court after losing at a hearing, but the judge would be limited to deciding if the city was "fair" in making its determination of guilt

At the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, we are not sympathetic to scofflaws. However, when a ticketing system is being mechanized so as to catch both the guilty and innocent for the purpose of raising revenue, we draw the line. When fines that were intended as an enforcement mechanism are loosely applied as under AB 666, then there can be no question that these charges against possible innocent drivers are, in fact, a tax.

THE DEVIL'S BILL WOULD STREAMLINE THE PROCESS BY MAKING A CAMERA OBSERVED VIOLATION AKIN TO A PARKING TICKET; IF THE CAR DID IT, THE OWNER IS GUILTY, NO MATTER WHO WAS DRIVING.

And what if the Devil's Bill is approved and the revenues fail to meet expectations? Is it far-fetched to suggest that officials in some communities might shorten the length of amber lights to create more red light violators? And with shorter amber lights, will we see a spate of rear-end collisions as motorists slam on their brakes in fear of being caught by a red light camera?

In many situations, technology can be a boon to modern life. However, when it is used, as under AB 666, the Devil's Bill, just to wring more money from motorists by denying their right to a defense, it makes the traditional motorcycle cop hiding behind a billboard at an intersection look like a more attractive option.

JON COUPAL is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association -- California's largest grass-roots taxpayer organization dedicated to the protection of Proposition 13 and the advancement of taxpayers' rights.

The Q Line

Breaking the ice

Heaven must be missing an angel. Are your legs tired, because you've been running around my mind all day? What's your sign? Do you have a mirror in your pants, because I can see myself in them?
If you've spent time in a bar, most likely you've heard a version of these horrible pick-up lines.

So, in honor of April Fools', this week's Q-Line question asks:
What's the worst pick-up line you've ever used or had used on you?

Contact **qline@smdp.com** before **Friday at 5 p.m.** and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. You can also call **310-573-8354**.


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Ant farms nurture curiosity and interest in children

SUE MANNING
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES What does it take to elevate the common ant from picnic pest to household pet?

To thousands of children and many adults, the answer is a bit of soil and a see-through enclosure that, in these modern times, can be made from an extra CD case or bought tricked out with special projection lights.

Ant farms, the narrow glass or plastic containers filled with soil that mimic ant colonies, have been popular among generations of children, and marketers say they remain in-demand even in the age of computers and video games.

Uncle Milton Industries, a Los Angeles-based company that has been in business for six decades, has sold more than 20 million ant farms. Company founder Milton Levine and his brother-in-law invented the ant farm nearly 60 years ago, and the company continues to update its main product, such as with a version that includes a light that projects the ants' shadows on the ceiling.

"As the world gets more complex, some of these classic toys become more popular," said Ken Malouf, vice president of marketing and product management.

Thousands of people, not just children, enjoy insects as pets and are willing to spend the time and money on them, said Lila Higgins, manager of the Citizen Science and Live Animals exhibit at the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum.

"We have 16,000 people come to our bug fair every year and a lot of them buy or collect insects as pets. As long as we're buying from responsible traders and collecting responsibly, I think the benefit (of taking queen ants) can far outweigh the cost to our environment," Higgins said.

Ant farms can be an easy way to help nurture a child's interest in insects, since they can be homemade or purchased. Uncle Milton Industries' ant farms come with 12 to 20 harvester worker ants, which are chosen because "they are diggers, strong and robust," Malouf said.

Queen ants are not included, so the colony will last about three months, he said. A colony reproduces because of the queen, its sole fertile member. Her eggs keep the colony going for years, Higgins said.

Noah Shryack of Stanton, Texas, "has loved ants since he was 1 or 2 and he put them in his bucket and tried to bring them in the house," said his mom, Lana. She promised he could get an ant farm "when he was old enough," which was last Christmas, when he was 5.

"He loves it. He checks every morning to see what the ants have done overnight," said Shryack, who likes taking a look too. "I was almost as excited as him," she said.

Rachael Estanislao, an Atlanta blogger and mother of a 6-year-old boy, treats her son's ant farm as an educational toy rather than a pet, though she has used the ants to teach him about caring for another living creature.

"It's definitely like learning to have a pet. It's about learning to respect their environment and helping them live healthy," she said.

As an educational toy, she said it was one of the few that has kept her son Anakin's interest.

The idea is to help kids discover nature and its critters in the hope it will make them curious about the world around them, Malouf said. Estanislao agreed, saying the farm taught Anakin about ant hills and the mounds he sees outside. Shryack said her son is amazed most by the large pieces of food the ants can carry and their teamwork to dig tunnels.

She said when some died, she also used it as a teaching moment: "I just told him it is a normal process and some live and some die."

Those who want to build their ant farms can do so with a handful of CD cases and instructions that are readily available online. The trickiest part is filling the colony with harvester ants — the best type for keeping as pets — and catching a queen, since she has a lot of worker ants protecting her, Higgins said.

The best time to catch a queen, which is bigger than the worker ants, is after the mating flight, Higgins said. Once a colony is settled, it will become "quite a yearslong investment," Higgins said.

Her colleague, Brian Brown, curator and chief of the NHM's entomology department, didn't have an ant farm as a child but his research on ant-decapitating flies forces him to work with the insects. Scientists are working to see if the flies from Argentina and Brazil can control fire ants in the United States, Brown said.

To him, ants have limited appeal as pets because they're not interactive: "Dogs are our perfect pets because we've evolved with them over thousands of years. They react to us, a lot of their behavior is directed toward humans. ... An ant colony is basically indifferent to our presence except when they're disturbed — when you bang on the glass or give them food or you mess around with their nest," Brown said.

Malouf doesn't recommend toying too much with the ant farm, or leaving it in places where it can be knocked over by a pet or a human. He added that escapes, though feared by most parents, are unlikely since the seals around the farm are very tight.

Brown figures an equally entertaining alternative to an ant farm could be a computerized projection of a live colony.

"I think ants are really interesting, but mostly they are maggot fodder for my flies," he said.



Disturbance at Los Angeles County jail hurts four inmates

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES A brief disturbance Tuesday involving up to 62 inmates that was sparked by racial tensions at the Twin Towers jail left four people injured before being brought under control, authorities said.

The fight broke out around noon in a recreation area in Tower One of the Los Angeles County lockup and involved Hispanic and black inmates, said Steve Whitmore, a Sheriff's Department spokesman.

The skirmish lasted about a minute before deputies broke it up, he said. The four injured inmates suffered cuts and bruises and were transported to a hospital for treatment.

Further details were unavailable because the investigation was ongoing.

Los Angeles County runs the nation's largest jail system, with facilities housing about 19,000 inmates.

Sheriff Lee Baca has faced criticism for persistent violence in the jails, between inmates and also violence perpetrated by deputies. He has asked the county Board of Supervisors to replace Men's Central Jail with a new facility that could cost more than $900 million.

Deputies have been accused of repeatedly using excessive force in the facilities, and Baca has vowed reform. A county commission issued recommendations last year, including hiring an outside custody expert to run the jails.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last April that Baca could be named in lawsuits by former, injured inmates on grounds that he knew about violence and didn't try to stop it.

Water managers: One in five residents live in flood zone

TRACIE CONE
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. As California endures one of its driest winters, on record, some state water managers are focused on the opposite end of the precipitation spectrum — the one in five residents who live in regions susceptible to catastrophic flooding.

More than $575 billion in development and $7 billion in farm output rests on or around floodplains, according to a joint state-federal report released Tuesday to sound a warning.

The price tag for capital improvements that would be needed to protect the state's infrastructure from potential devastation could top $100 billion, the report warns, which is 10 times more than exists in funding from bond measures and other sources to shore up aging levies and dams.

Already 800 flood projects have been identified.

"We realized that even those projects will not even provide the basic level of flood protection from 100-year and 500-year floods statewide," said Terri Wegener, manager of the Department of Water Resources statewide flood management program.

The report released on the department website attempts to identify areas at risk so water managers can prioritize projects.

The report by the department and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the first comprehensive look at flood dangers and impact across a state exposed to tsunamis on the coast to rapid snowmelt in Sierra watersheds.

Authorities hope that it's used to guide future land-use and development decisions, as well as by policymakers charged with protecting state assets.

"The point is to raise awareness statewide," said Wegener. "The risk is complex in California and it's important for people to understand."

The report also considers the impacts that100-year and 500-year floods could have on the more than 300 endangered and threatened plants and animals that live in some of the most at-risk regions and on flood plains altered by development. It recommends restoring natural ecosystems in some places to improve water movement.

The department will hold a series of meetings across the state through April to talk about findings.

"We made recommendations for managing flood risk so we can inform decisions about policies and financial investments in the coming years and decades," Wegener said.





PARKING
FROM PAGE 1

Colorado Center, then the Yahoo! Center, which had been going on for years without the permission of the City Council.

Saint John's officials received word in December that the Colorado Center planned to end its lease of 450 spaces by March 31. Hospital officials began looking for replacement parking, while still holding that the eviction was improper.

It filed a report with City Hall on Feb. 18 complete with a commissioned parking analysis conducted by Walker Parking Consultants, which concluded that even with the loss of the 450 spaces Saint John's had plenty of parking to meet its needs.

The Walker report shows a peak parking demand of 1,160 spaces on its busiest day of operation, which is under the 1,208 spaces that the proposed arrangement — sans Colorado Center parking but including 125 extra spaces at a different off-site lot — would guarantee.

The Planning Department has requested more information about the study, but signed off on the preliminary methodology behind it.

It also promises to follow up with a second study looking at on-street parking within 120 days of the opening of the new Entry Plaza, which will provide valet parking for visitors and patients.

The on-street parking study will examine whether or not hospital employees are avoiding the $10-per-pay-period parking fee assessed by the hospital by finding places to stash their cars at meters or in nearby neighborhoods.

That has caused much distress amongst neighbors, who accuse employees and hospital visitors of gobbling up street parking and forcing them to find spaces far from their homes, despite the residential parking placards that they purchase from City Hall.

Steven Sharrer, acting vice president of human resources at the hospital, said last week that City Hall is considering other changes to parking around the hospital, including extending active hours of meters past 6 p.m. or raising prices to prevent long-term parking.

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HOTEL
FROM PAGE 1

Washington Avenue.

Neighbors like Laura Wilson believe that the hotel's commitment to the "guests' experience" will trump the needs of residents, who are used to the quiet neighborhood in which they live.

"I don't want to see any alcohol served in a residential neighborhood," Wilson said. "It's not an appropriate place for large parties, weddings or big birthday parties."

Wilson points to Palihouse Santa Monica's sister property in West Hollywood, which she says is used for loud parties despite its proximity to a residential neighborhood.

The Palihouse Santa Monica aims to serve longer-term clients, often businesspeople looking to spend more than just a few days in a given location. To do so, it provides full kitchens and a large refrigerator in its rooms.

Fisher believes these kinds of guests will have the same concerns about noise and disruption as residents.

"Any concern that they would have is one that we would have," Fisher said.

Gale Feldman has lived in an apartment complex separated from the Palihouse Santa Monica by a thin alleyway for the last 20 years. She now has a 2-year-old daughter, whose nap times are a source of either blessed rest or a brief moment for chores.

She's worried that alcohol service at the hotel would lead to problems reminiscent of The Parlor, a sports bar opposed by many members of the Wilshire Montana Neighborhood Coalition, or Wilmont, which complained that the business, formerly on Wilshire Boulevard, had brought noisy, drunken crowds into quiet neighborhoods.

The Parlor eventually closed, reportedly because City Hall cut hours in which it could sell alcohol, which hurt the business' bottom line, and Wilson is seeking Wilmont's help for the Palihouse situation.

Such an atmosphere would certainly make life difficult for her and her young daughter, not to mention the elderly people who live across the street, Feldman said.

"My bathroom windows opens up to (the Palihouse Santa Monica)," Feldman said. "If they start having parties, serving alcohol, it will affect the peace and quiet for me and my daughter."

She's also worried about a proposed valet service, which would allow guests to drop their cars off in front of the hotel to be spirited away to an off-site parking lot.

The only way that the hotel could mollify her is if the owners promise that they will not make significant changes to hotel operations, and that they give up the idea of alcohol service, Feldman said.

The new owners bought the hotel in December 2012 for $18 million, according to the Los Angeles County Assessor's Office.

Prior to 2011, half of the property's units had been rent-controlled apartments. That ended in the summer of 2011 when the City Attorney's Office, Rent Control Board and owners of the Embassy reached a settlement agreement which gave residents' four years to leave the apartments and collect relocation benefits.

They also had the opportunity to negotiate buyouts with the ownership to leave early.

A hearing on the alcohol request has not yet been set.

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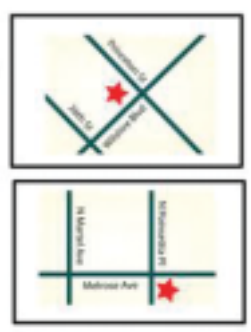
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As Facebook matures, is it losing its edge?

BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK To see what Facebook has become, look no further than the Hutzler 571 Banana Slicer.

Sometime last year, people began sharing tongue-in-cheek online reviews of the banana-shaped piece of yellow plastic with their Facebook friends. Then those friends shared with their friends. Soon, after Amazon paid to promote it, posts featuring the $3.49 utensil were appearing in even more Facebook feeds.

At some point, though, the joke got old. But there it was, again and again — the banana slicer had become a Facebook version of that old knock-knock joke your weird uncle has been telling for years.

The Hutzler 571 phenomenon is a regular occurrence on the world's biggest online social network, which begs the question: Has Facebook become less fun?

That's something many users — especially those in their teens and early 20s — are asking themselves as they wade through endless posts, photos "liked" by people they barely know and spur-of-the moment friend requests. Has it all become too much of a chore? Are the important life events of your closest loved ones drowning in a sea of banana slicer jokes?

"When I first got Facebook I literally thought it was the coolest thing to have. If you had a Facebook you kind of fit in better, because other people had one," says Rachel Fernandez, 18, who first signed on to the site four or five years ago.

And now? "Facebook got kind of boring," she says.

Chatter about Facebook's demise never seems to die down, whether it's talk of "Facebook fatigue," or grousing about how the social network lost its cool once grandma joined. The Pew Research Center's Internet and American Life Project recently found that some 61 percent of Facebook users had taken a hiatus from the site for reasons that range from "too much gossip and drama" to "boredom." Some respondents said there simply isn't enough time in their day for Facebook.

If Facebook Inc.'s users leave, or even check in less frequently, its revenue growth would suffer. The company, which depends on targeted advertising for most of the money it makes, booked revenue of $5.1 billion in 2012, up from $3.7 billion a year earlier.

But so far, for every person who has left permanently, several new people have joined up. Facebook has more than 1 billion users around the world. Of these, 618 million sign in every day.

Indeed, Fernandez hasn't abandoned Facebook. Though the Traverse City, Mich., high school senior doesn't look at her News Feed, the constant cascade of posts, photos and viral videos from her nearly 1,800 friends, she still uses Facebook's messaging feature to reach out to people she knows, such as a German foreign exchange student she met two years ago.

Fernandez uses Facebook in the same way that people use email or the telephone. But she prefers using Facebook to communicate because everyone she knows is there. That's a sign that Facebook's biggest asset may also be its biggest challenge.

"We have never seen a social space that actually works for everybody," says danah boyd, who studies youth culture, the Internet and social media as a senior researcher at Microsoft Research. "People don't want to hang out with everybody they have ever met."

Might Facebook go the way of email? Those who came of age in the "You've got mail" era can reminisce fondly about arriving home from school and checking their AOL accounts to see if anyone sent them an electronic message. Boyd, who is 35 (and legally spells her name with no capitalization), recalls being a teenager and "thinking email is the best thing ever."

Few people share that sentiment these days. Ian Bogost, professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology, recently listed email alongside "Blood, frogs, lice, flies, pestilence, boils, hail, locusts, darkness, death of the firstborn" in a Facebook post.

"I was just going through my daily email routine, reflecting on the fact that it feels like batting down a wall of locusts," Bogost says.

Although email has gone from after-school treat to a dull routine in the space of 20 years, no one is ready to ring its death knell just yet. And similarly, Facebook's lost luster doesn't necessarily foreshadow its obsolescence.

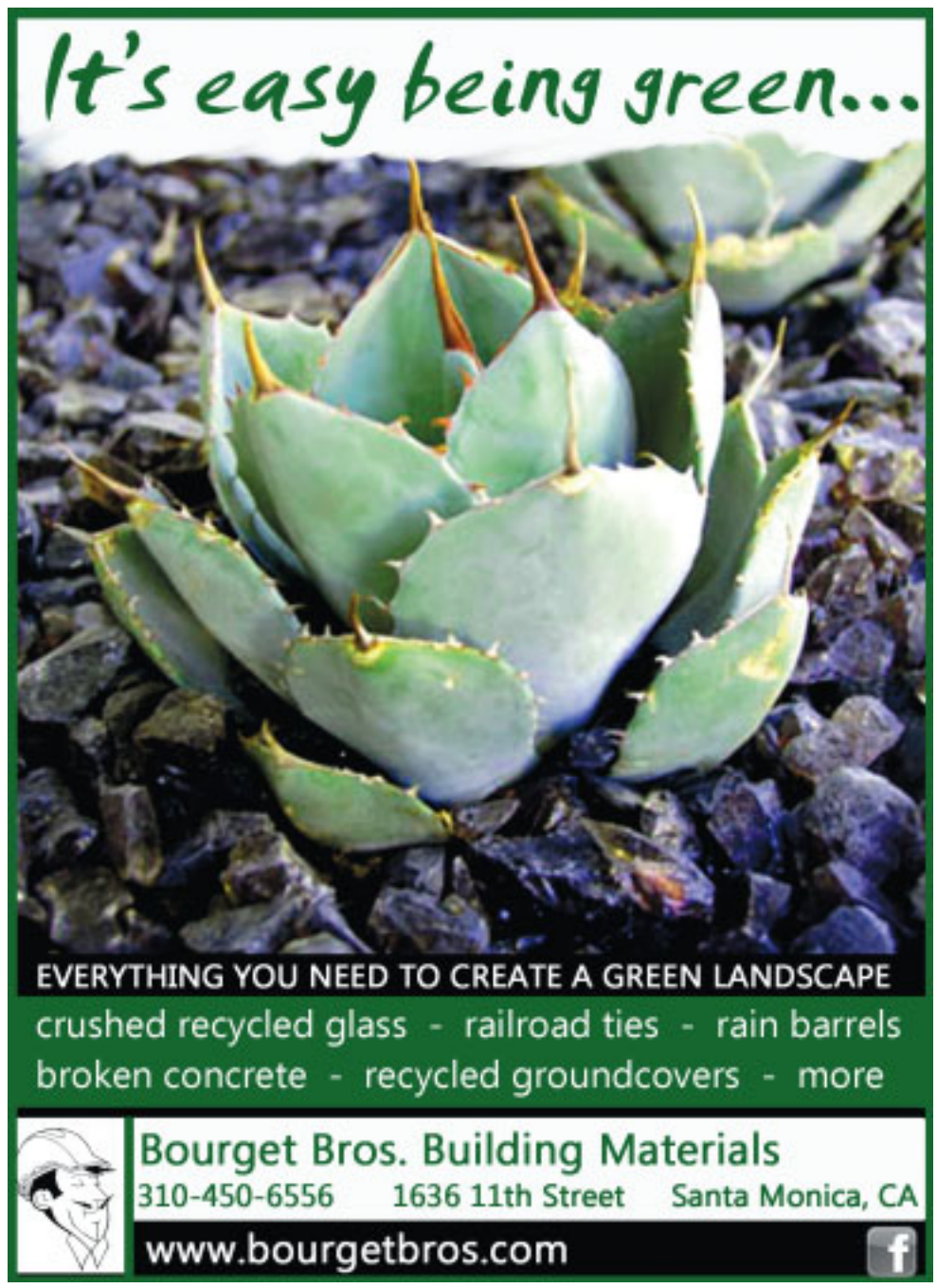
"I don't see teenagers leaving in droves," boyd says. "I just don't see it being their site of passion."

In early March, Facebook unveiled a big redesign to address some of its users' most pressing gripes. The retooling, which is already available to some people, is intended to get rid of the clutter that's been a complaint among Facebook users for some time.

Facebook surveys its users regularly about their thoughts on the site. Jane Leibrock, whose title at Facebook is user experience researcher, says it was about a year ago that she noticed people were complaining about "clutter" in their feeds. Leibrock asked them what they meant. It turns out that the different types of content flowing through people's News Feeds — links, ads, photos, status updates, things people "liked" or commented on — were "making it difficult to focus on any one thing," she says. "It might have even been discouraging them from finding new content."









Health insurers lead stocks higher on Wall Street

DANIEL WAGNER
AP Business Writer

The Dow Jones industrial average closed at a record high Tuesday after reports on auto sales and factory orders provided the latest evidence that the U.S. economy is strengthening. Traders plowed money back into European stocks as the financial situation in Cyprus appeared to stabilize.

Health insurers powered the gains a day after the government released revised reimbursement rates for Medicare Advantage plans. The new numbers suggest that funding cuts will be less severe than analysts and companies had feared.

The Dow closed up 89.16 points, or 0.6 percent, at 14,662.01. It had risen as high as 14,684 in the late morning.

The Dow broke through an all-time record on March 5. It has risen steadily since then, routinely setting new trading highs.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 8.08 points, or 0.5 percent, to 1,570.25. It rose to within two points of its trading high of 1,576 reached on Oct. 11, 2007.

European markets closed sharply higher on the first trading day after a tense, four-day holiday weekend. Paris' CAC-40 rose 2 percent, London's FTSE 100 1.2 percent and Frankfurt's DAX 1.9 percent.

The gains in Europe markets boosted confidence among U.S. investors. While European markets were closed for four days for the Easter holiday, many traders feared that Cyprus' precarious financial situation would worsen. That concern also weighed on U.S. markets Monday, said Peter Tchir, who runs the hedge fund TF Market Advisors.

But no bad news materialized. Instead, Cyprus' international lenders agreed to extend until 2018 its deadline for meeting key budget targets. European markets opened higher and rose strongly after U.S. trading began Tuesday. The gains fed a virtuous cycle that sent stocks higher on both sides of the Atlantic, Tchir said.

"Everyone was waiting to see if Europe had problems from Cyprus," he said. "Instead, we got the all-clear signal."

The trading day began with solid March sales reports from U.S. automakers. Chrysler said it sold more cars and trucks than in any month since the Great Recession began, an increase of 5 percent. Sales for General Motors and Ford rose 6 percent.

Orders to U.S. factories rose 3 percent in February, the best gain in five months, the government said after trading began. The increase was driven by a surge in demand for commercial aircraft, an especially volatile category.

Health care stocks rose the most of the 10 sectors in the S&P 500 index, adding 1.4 percent. The sector is up 17.1 percent this year.

Traders were relieved about the insurers' prospects after Monday's news about Medicare Advantage rates. Preliminary data released in February had raised fears that companies offering the plans would be forced to cut benefits, increase customers' premiums or abandon some markets. This week's data suggest that may not be necessary.

UnitedHealth was the biggest gainer in the Dow. DaVita HealthCare Partners Inc. led the S&P 500 higher. Also among the S&P 500's top 15 gainers were Humana Inc., Aetna Inc. and Cigna Corp.

UnitedHealth rose $2.77, or 4.7 percent, to $61.74. DaVita rose $7.29, or 6.1 percent, to $127.20. Humana gained $4.09, or 5.5 percent, to $79.11. Aetna rose $1.92, or 3.7 percent, to $54.30. Cigna added $1.84, or 2.9 percent, to $64.75.

Airline stocks fell sharply after Delta Air Lines Inc. said a key measure of revenue was hurt last month by government spending cuts, a technical glitch and attempts to get passengers to pay more.

Delta fell $1.31, or 8.1 percent, to $14.94. United Continental Holdings Inc. lost $1.59, or 5.1 percent, to $29.38. US Airways Group Inc. fell 93 cents, or 5.6 percent, to $15.74. JetBlue Airways Corp. dropped 40 cents, or 5.9 percent, to $6.34.

The industry dragged the Dow Jones transportation average down 1.2 percent. The index fell even more on Monday, 1.5 percent, after U.S. manufacturing slowed more than economists forecast in March. The index, which includes airlines like Delta, United and freight companies FedEx and UPS, has gained 14.7 percent this year.

The manufacturing report was "much weaker than expected," according to Jim Russell, an investment director at US Bank. He said companies that are closely tied to the economic cycle "have really taken on some water because of what that implies."

For the second day in a row, small stocks underperformed the market. The Russell 2000 index of small-company stocks fell 4.49 points, or 0.5 percent, to 934.20. The Russell had risen more than large-company indexes in the first quarter, gaining 12 percent versus 11.3 percent for the Dow and 10 percent for the S&P.

The Nasdaq composite rose 15.69, or 0.5 percent, to 3,254.86.

Some other companies making big moves:

• Hewlett-Packard plunged after a Goldman Sachs analyst downgraded the stock, predicting the company's earnings will be weak. Shares fell $1.21, or 5.2 percent, to $22.10.

• Urban Outfitters climbed a day after the clothing and accessories company said sales at stores open at least a year have grown in the high single digits in the first two months of the fiscal quarter started Feb. 1. Sales at stores open at least a year is a key gauge of a retailer's health because it excludes results from stores recently opened or closed. The stock rose $1.46, or 3.8 percent, to $39.87.

• Actavis Inc. rose after a U.S. court declared a rival's patent invalid, clearing the way for Actavis to sell a generic asthma inhaler. The stock added $4.22 or 4.6 percent, to $96.68.



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Euro area unemployment at a record 12 percent

PAN PYLAS
Associated Press

LONDON The eurozone economy has passed another bleak milestone.

Official figures Tuesday showed that unemployment across the 17 European Union countries that use the euro has struck 12 percent for the first time since the currency was launched in 1999.

Eurostat, the EU's statistics office, said the rate in February was unchanged at the record high after January's figure was revised up to 12 percent from 11.9 percent.

Spain and Greece have mass unemployment and many other countries are seeing their numbers swell to uncomfortably high levels as governments across the region enact tough austerity measures to get a handle on their debts.

The eurozone, which is made up of a little more than 330 million people, is one of the world's major economic pillars and the turmoil surrounding it has been one of the main reasons why the global recovery has been muted.

A total of 19.07 million people were officially out of work in the eurozone in February, nearly two million more than the same month the year before. For the 27-country European Union, of which the eurozone is a large part, the unemployment rate was 10.9 percent.

"Such unacceptably high levels of unemployment are a tragedy for Europe and a signal of how serious a crisis some eurozone countries are now in," said EU Employment Commissioner Laszlo Andor.

Even though the eurozone has achieved another disappointing record, for the positively-inclined there was some comfort to be found.

The 33,000 increase in the number of unemployed in February was the smallest monthly rise since April 2011 and way down on the 222,000 recorded in January. And Germany, Europe's biggest economy, has an unemployment rate of only 5.4 percent. That's even better than the U.S. rate of 7.7 percent.

However, the February figures came before the recent Cyprus crisis.

The worry in the markets is that the chaos surrounding the country's bailout has reignited concerns over the euro and may have further dented confidence across the eurozone — a backdrop that's hardly conducive to job creation, economic recovery and stability across the eurozone.

"The economic and social consequences of high unemployment continue to represent one of the most significant threats to the future of the eurozone," said Marie Diron, senior economic adviser at Ernst & Young.

It's certainly a real threat to the immediate future of Cyprus.

Unemployment on the east Mediterranean island nation of barely a million people is expected to ratchet higher over the months ahead as the economy contracts sharply.

Many economists are forecasting that the Cypriot economy will shrink 10 percent this year alone and see unemployment rise up to Greek and Spanish levels. In February, Cyprus' unemployment stood at 14 percent, compared to Spain's 26.3 percent.

Greece, which is in its sixth year of a savage recession, had an unemployment rate of 26.4 percent in December. Its figures are compiled on a different timeframe and the actual rate in February will probably be even higher.

Prior to the Cypriot crisis, there were signs that Europe's debt crisis had calmed. Stock and bond markets had risen for nearly six months, boosting confidence in countries' ability to finance themselves.

But while markets have improved, the eurozone economy has sunk back into recession as many governments in the region enacted big spending cuts and tax increases. Some countries, such as Greece and Portugal, are doing so as part of their international bailouts after they lost the confidence of bond investors, while others such as Spain and Italy, are pursuing tough budget policies to avoid suffering the same fate.

The eurozone's economy is forecast to contract by 0.3 percent in 2013, according to the European Commission, the executive arm of the EU. Official first-quarter gross domestic product figures for the eurozone and EU are due to be released next month.

A closely watched survey released Tuesday indicated that the recession is likely to have continued in the first quarter. The monthly purchasing managers' index for the manufacturing sector — a gauge of business activity published by financial information company Markit — fell to a 3-month low.

Though the PMI was not as bad as first estimated a couple of weeks back, it fell to 46.8 points in March from 47.9 in February. Anything below 50 indicates an economic contraction.

The worry in the PMI survey was that manufacturing activity weakened across the eurozone, including Germany, Europe's export powerhouse.

"While in some respects it is reassuring to see that the events in Cyprus did not cause an immediate impact on business activity, with the final survey results even coming in slightly higher than the flash estimate, the concern is that the latest chapter in the region's crisis will have hit demand further in April," said Chris Williamson, chief economist at Markit.

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quantity limited per resident
City Yards
2500 Michigan Ave.
residents may fill (5) large burlap sacks with compost
bags donated by groundwork coffee the community
For more information:
(310) 458.2223
www.smgov.net/r3
www.groundworkcoffee.com

SURF REPORT



Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **59.0°**

WEDNESDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high
Minor SSW swell; minor NW swell; clean in the AM but no real size

THURSDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** ankle to knee high occ. 3ft
Minor SSW swell; minor NW swell; potential new W swell moves in late

BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **March 27, 2013**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 4
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 35 / 20
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

The Beach Report Card is made possible by:
simplehuman LAcurGUY SIMA
and Sinsabeck Family Foundation

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alloe creeks.		
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	B
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A	A+
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach.	A+	ns
Pearce State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pearce Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	D
Surfrider Beach (beach location) - daily.	A	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	A+
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19648 PCH stairs.	A+	A+
Penn Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	B	A+
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at 17308 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	ns

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

LEGEND

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

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NBA

Maloof brothers no longer the kings of Sacramento

ANTONIO GONZALEZ
AP Sports Writer

SACRAMENTO, Calif. The moment will be seared into the minds of long-suffering Sacramento Kings fans forever.

Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson and Kings owners Joe and Gavin Maloof standing together at center court, holding hands and raising their arms in triumph after both sides agreed to an arena financing plan to keep the NBA team in town for at least another 30 years.

"There's going to be a beacon of light shining bright in 2015 — a brand new arena," a teary eyed Gavin Maloof told a raucous crowd during a timeout in a win over the Utah Jazz on Feb. 28, 2012. "We still love you. We always loved you, and we always will love you."

Hugs and handshakes followed, and the relocation chatter that had surrounded the Kings for years finally seemed to be silenced. Instead, barely a month passed before the Maloof brothers backed out of the handshake deal — which NBA Commissioner David Stern had negotiated, and the Sacramento City Council approved — and both sides declared the franchise's future uncertain again.

"It was shocking. But this story every step of the way has been shocking, and I think that's something that can't be lost," said James Ham, who covers the team for the website Cowbell Kingdom and was a producer of the documentary "Small Market, Big Heart," which chronicled Sacramento's fight to keep the Kings from moving to Anaheim.

"This story never goes the way you think it's going to go," Ham said. "It may start one way, but then it switches so quickly and you have no idea that the next move was coming. And then it zigzags. It's something that has made this story so laughable and so dramatic. It's unpredictable. And here we are again, in possibly the most unpredictable setting of all-time."

Leave it to the bright lights of Broadway to stage such a show.

For the second time in three years, Johnson will make a presentation to NBA owners in New York on Wednesday to keep the Kings from leaving California's capital city, complete with an ownership group ready to buy the team and a newly approved arena financing plan. The goal is to block a bid by investor Chris Hansen and Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer, who have a pending deal with the Maloofs to buy the Kings, move the team to Seattle and restore the SuperSonics name.

A joint committee of league owners, assembled from the sale and relocation committees, will made a recommendation for the full NBA Board of Governors to consider when it votes at its annual meeting April 18-19 in New York. If the league blocks the Seattle bid, the Maloofs would still have to agree to sell the team to the Sacramento group.

And that's where things get tricky.

Once the toast of the town, the Maloofs have become perhaps Sacramento's most-reviled villains. They have been absent from their courtside seats for months and their luxury suite is often empty or occupied by others.

Whether the family would sell to the Sacramento group, or how the NBA could force their hand without triggering lawsuits, is unclear. The Maloofs have been asked by the NBA not to comment publicly on the pending purchase agreement.

In the meantime, fans in Sacramento are upset the Maloofs never gave the city a chance to find a group to buy the team.

"The Maloofs are a four-letter word in Sacramento," said Carmichael Dave, a sports radio commentator who is driving an RV to NBA cities across the country to campaign for his city's cause. "Maloofed is now a synonym for mistreated or mishandled. It's a descriptive that's not in any way complimentary."

There was a time not so long ago that the Maloofs made Sacramento the NBA's model of success.

A smaller-market franchise that thrived on being the town's only team, fans turned out in mass even when the Kings were terrible. The team had 19 seasons of complete sellouts.

Chris Webber, Jason Williams, Peja Stojakovic, Vlade Divac and Doug Christie even graced the cover of Sports Illustrated in 2001 with the headline, "The Greatest Show on Court. Sacramento Kings: Basketball the way it oughta be."

Joe and Gavin Maloof still remained the faces of the franchise — signing autographs, making appearances, spending money on the team, pouring millions into charitable causes and even crying foul with fans following that heartbreaking loss to the rival Los Angeles Lakers in Game 6 of the 2002 Western Conference finals.

"The Maloofs could've run for mayor of Sacramento in 2002 and they would have won with 95 percent of the vote," Dave said.

That window is closing fast.

Sacramento's decline has been tied almost directly to the recession. The Maloofs have since sold their Coors beer distributorship, and the crushing debt on the Palms forced the family to turn over controlling interests of the Las Vegas casino to creditors.

Some also have criticized the Maloofs for public relations blunders.

In 2006, voters crushed a measure that would have raised sales taxes by a quarter cent to help finance a new arena with a resounding 80 percent in opposition. Many in Sacramento still believe the deal would've passed had it not been for a commercial that aired just before that showed the Maloofs eating a $6,000 meal at the Palms from Carl's Jr. The ad also touted the family's net worth as a billion dollars.

After another arena deal collapsed last year, Johnson's advisers let it be known how the Maloofs had treated the city. Chris Lehane, a political strategist and then-chair of Johnson's arena task force, said "dealing with the Maloofs is like dealing with the North Koreans — except they are less competent."

As strained as the relationship between Sacramento and the Maloofs appears, the past is actually what gives the city hope: that maybe the Maloofs could change course again.

Johnson has been on a public relations offensive, extending olive branches to the Maloofs in the past week. The mayor has assembled a potential ownership group that includes Silicon Valley software tycoon Vivek Ranadive, 24 Hour Fitness founder Mark Mastrov, billionaire investor Ron Burkle and Qualcomm CEO Paul Jacobs.

Johnson believes the Sacramento group is good enough to compete with the Hansen-Ballmer bid, which has a signed deal to buy 65 percent of the team for $341 million — a figure reached from a total franchise valuation of $525 million, an NBA record.

MOVIE TIMES

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

Call theater for information

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

Croods (PG) 1hr 38min
11:55am, 2:40pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

Tyler Perry's Temptation (PG-13) 1hr 51min
11:00am, 1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

Admission (PG-13) 1hr 57min
11:30am, 2:05pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

Call (R) 1hr 35min
12:15pm, 3:00pm, 5:40pm, 8:15pm, 10:35pm

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

Oz The Great and Powerful (PG) 2hrs 07min
11:55am, 1:20pm, 8:00pm

Host (PG-13) 2hrs 05min
11:40am, 1:05pm, 4:05pm, 7:05pm, 10:15pm

G.I. Joe: Retaliation (PG-13) 1hr 39min
2:45pm, 8:15pm

G.I. Joe: Retaliation (PG-13) 1hr 39min
11:05am, 4:40pm, 10:30pm

Spring Breakers (R) 1hr 34min
11:00am, 3:00pm, 5:45pm, 8:30pm, 10:50pm

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

Oz The Great and Powerful in 3D (PG) 2hrs 07min
4:50pm, 10:50pm

Croods 3D (PG) 1hr 38min
11:10am, 1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

Metropolitan Opera: Francesca da Rimini Encore () 4hrs 00min
6:30pm

Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG-13) 1hr 40min
5:30pm, 10:45pm

Olympus Has Fallen () 1hr 40min
11:40am, 2:45pm

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

Mental (NR) 1hr 56min
1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:20pm, 10:10pm

Happy Poet (NR) 1hr 25min
7:00pm

On the Road (R) 2hrs 20min
1:10pm, 9:15pm

No (R) 1hr 55min
1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:10pm, 9:50pm

Gatekeepers (Shomerei Ha'saf) (PG-13) 1hr 35min
4:30pm

Ginger & Rosa (PG-13) 1hr 29min
1:00pm, 3:20pm, 5:40pm, 8:00pm, 10:15pm

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

OFF TO THE GYM, LEO

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Whether you're dreaming or at an event, you are on the move. You feel passionately about the direction in which you are heading. If you listen to the voices on the sidelines, you might meet resistance. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You see life from a different perspective than many other people. As much as you might try to detach, your inner voice will scream passionately about the matter at hand. Tonight: Pursue a favorite pastime.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ A meeting or get-together could give you quite a start-up kick, which will charge the remainder of the day. Talk to a dear friend in order to gain a different perspective. Understand what is happening on a deeper level, and eliminate judgments if possible. Tonight: Share news.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Keep reaching out to someone you care about. You might be surprised by what happens when you hear this person's news and rationale for his or her reactions. A boss or an authority figure could be -- at best -- in a sour mood. Tonight: Return calls and emails.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ A call or a message triggers a lot of action. Someone might be more irritated than you'd originally thought. Stay on top of problems, but try to be flexible. That attitude will get the situation calmed down as much as possible. Tonight: Off to the gym.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Your creativity emerges when faced with a problem. Stay centered, and understand that you will need to resolve this issue. A brainstorming session produces insightful thoughts. Tonight: Ever playful.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Take a step back and observe. See how others handle a domestic issue. The solution that emerges might not be exactly to your liking, but you will get a better idea as to where they are coming from. Tonight: At home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Say what you want, but do consider the reactions you might get as a result. Look beyond the obvious and past your objectives. Evaluate your words if you want to maintain peace and accomplish a long-term goal at the same time. Tonight: Let a discussion continue.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Be sure of your financial decisions. Do some fact-checking if needed. You also might want to check out an investment, as it could involve more risks than you are aware of. A loved one pushes you to spend more time with him or her. Tonight: Run an errand or two.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You'll see a situation in a new light, and you will be ready to make a move. If you do, others might feel left out, and you could have a lot of apologies to make. Tonight: Take a midweek break from your day-to-day routine.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ You might want to try a different approach. It will work, and you will stay ahead of the game. Realize that you don't have the audience or the support you desire. Timing is not working with you. Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You could overspend or overcommit if you are not careful. Be aware of your limitations before you take action or say "yes" to an offer. Remember, you are human and can do only so much. Discussions need to focus on friends. Tonight: Have a spontaneous get-together.

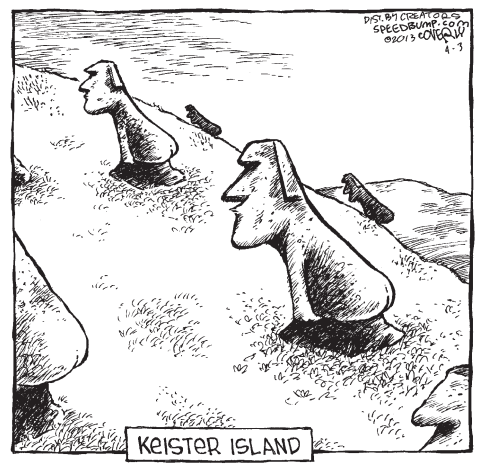
Wednesday, April 3, 2013

This year you meet heavy demands, but the responsibilities cause you to be curt or touchy. Others can't always identify with your ideas and actions. Find an effective outlet for your anger and frustration. If you are single, you might want to find someone who is just as busy as you are. Hopefully your schedules will fit together. If you are attached, make sure that you include your significant other in your plans as much as you can. CAPRICORN demands a lot from you.

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

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

Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



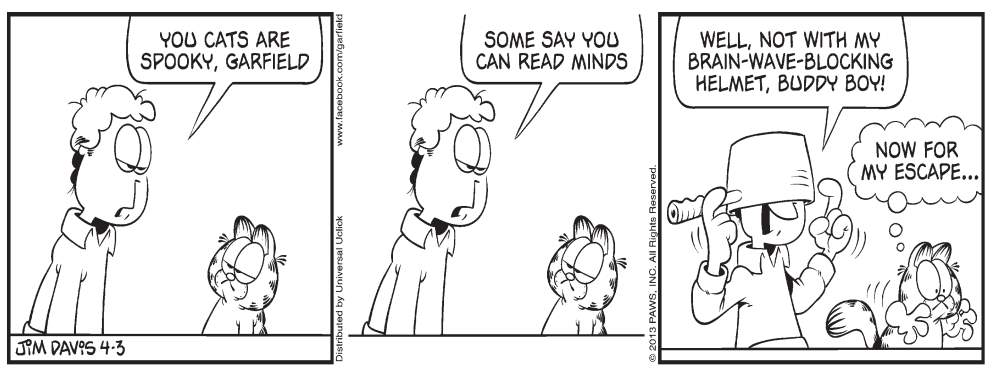
Strange Brew
By John Deering



Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

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

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

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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.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Entity
6 Weary word
10 Follow as a result
11 Less than tactful
12 Wear away
13 Kitchen fixture
14 Noggin
15 Mess up
16 Sense of self
17 Snapshot
18 Sushi choice
19 Said again
22 Start a hand
23 Sandy soil
26 Struck down
29 Summit
32 Suit accessory
33 Substantially
34 Recently
36 Writer Grey
37 Intent look
38 Israel's Meir
39 Dollar divisions
40 Surmise
41 Small workers
42 Visibly sad

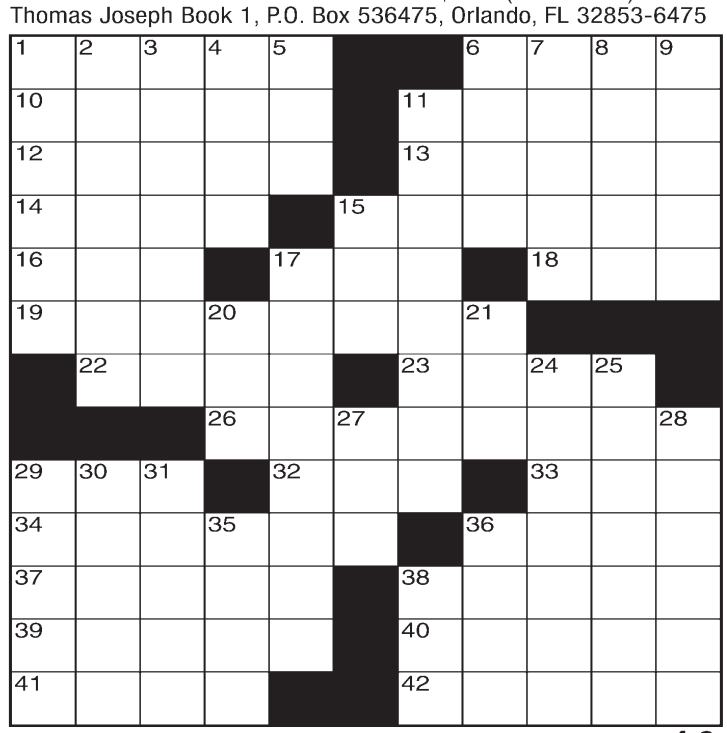
DOWN

1 Paging device
2 Furious
3 U-235, e.g.
4 In the buff
5 "Aw, shucks!"
6 Arkin of "Argo"
7 Fencing move
8 Polygon corner
9 Girder material
11 "Enter the Dragon" star
15 Drill part
17 Ranges of colors
20 Lobed organ
21 1949 film noir classic
24 Farm crop
25 Zig and zag
27 Slapstick weapon
28 Gloomy
29 Puccini opera
30 Time and again
31 Garden item
35 Liberal study
36 District
38 "Va-moose!"

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



4-3

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 4/2
7 10 14 40 47
Meganumber: 34
Jackpot: $8M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 3/30
5 22 28 37 43
Meganumber: 19
Jackpot: $42M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 4/2
6 16 25 30 32

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 4/2
MIDDAY: 4 3 2
EVENING: 6 7 4

SANTA ANITA PARK
Draw Date: 4/2
1st: 01 Gold Rush
2nd: 03 Hot Shot
3rd: 07 Eureka
RACE TIME: 1:45.85

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

■ The Fabulous British Government "Safety Net": Heather Frost, 36, and mother of 11, is getting a brand-new, specially designed house through the Tewkesbury (England) Borough Council, which deemed inadequate the duplex that the family had been using at taxpayer expense for five years. Frost had complained that she needed larger quarters because one daughter now owns a horse and needs to stable it (and, said a stable worker, had almost acquired two more horses, but that deal fell through).

■ Fathers caught up unfairly in state laws on child support have appeared in News of the Weird, but Lional Campbell's story seems unusually harsh. Authorities in Detroit continue to bill Campbell for past-due support (which Campbell admits he owes even if unsure how much), but only recently did he discover that they were counting $43,000 past-due to support "Michael," who had died 25 years ago at age 3. Campbell said he had thought the support was for another child, born seven years after Michael, but it turns out neither the authorities nor Campbell knows precisely which fatherhood Campbell is paying for. The latest audit reduced Michael's $43,000 balance to about $6,500.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1997 - The Thalit massacre begins in Algeria; all but 1 of the 53 inhabitants of Thalit are killed by guerrillas.

2000 - United States v. Microsoft: Microsoft is ruled to have violated United States antitrust laws by keeping "an oppressive thumb" on its competitors.

2004 - Islamic terrorists involved in the 11 March 2004 Madrid attacks are trapped by the police in their apartment and kill themselves.

WORD UP!

splenetic \ spli-NET-ik \ , adjective; 1. irritable; peevish; spiteful. 2. of the spleen; splenic. 3. Obsolete. affected with, characterized by, or tending to produce melancholy.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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- Houses for Rent
- Roomates
- Commerical Lease
- Real Estate
- Real Estate Loans
- Storage Space
- Vehicles for Sale
- Massage
- Services
- Computer Services
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- Wealth and Success
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Beauty

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drive-by comedian

Employment

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Retirement community is looking for PT cook to help out dining operation. Must have good attitude and love for seniors. Previous experience preferred. Schedule will include weekends. Pre-employment drug screen and background check required. If interested, please come to 2107 Ocean Ave. SM, 90405 and fill out and application. EOE.

Taxi drivers needed. Age 23 or older, H-6 DMV report required. Independent Contractor Call 310-566-3300

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Single Family Homes
From **ALL** agents in **ALL** companies
Listed for Sale as of Early April 2013

Santa Monica Canyon	=	$ 7,746,667
North of Montana	=	$ 4,503,429
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$ 2,299,750
South of Wilshire	=	$ 660,000
Sunset Park	=	$ 1,481,500
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