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Santa Monica Daily Press
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 129

Santa Monica Daily Press

GAS PRICES TO RISE DURING SUMMER
SEE PAGE 3

We have you covered

THE A DEEPER LOOK ISSUE

SMC panel to look at police policies, not punishment

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMC The panel tapped to review Santa Monica College officials' response to student protests that left three students hospitalized is set to meet in coming weeks to begin assessing what officials could have done differently.

Roughly 30 students were pepper sprayed last Tuesday during protests at a Board of Trustees meeting about a proposal to change the way summer classes are funded at SMC.

Panelists include heavy hitters in the college community, including Campus Council Robert Myers, who sued the Los Angeles Police Department for improper use of chemical weapons, and Trustee Nancy Greenstein, a current board member for the ACLU of Southern California and director of police community services at the UCLA Police Department.

Nursing Professor Eve Adler; Dr. Patricia Ramos, who has been involved with the Latina/o Youth Conference in Santa Monica for the last 15 years; and Student Trustee

SEE SMC PAGE 12

Landmarks Commission puts off moving on sculpture

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Timing is everything, particularly when you're racing against the clock.

The Landmarks Commission chose to put off filing an application to landmark the damaged "Chain Reaction" statue on the Civic Center lawn for one month out of concern that doing so would actually hurt the chances of local activists fighting to save the artwork.

Taking the formal step to file an application gives City Hall the ability to request a full report analyzing the piece from its historic consultant, PRC Services Corp.

During that period, however, no substantial changes could be made to the statue, including important tests authorized and funded by the City Council meant to judge the amount of damage the statue has sustained over its years exposed to the elements and how much that would cost to fix.

That would put community activists fighting to raise money to pay for those repairs in a bind, said Jessica Cusick, cultural affairs manager for City Hall.

"They have until Nov. 15 to do the fundraising. We're encouraging them to do the fundraising now, but they're handicapped without knowing the amount to raise," she said.

Initiating a landmark process would only stall consultants' ability to move on the tests,

SEE SCULPTURE PAGE 10



YOUTH MOVEMENT

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

A young activist calls for social justice during a rally in front of City Hall on Tuesday. The rally was called to protest inequality in Santa Monica, from education to the workplace. Student groups from Santa Monica College and Santa Monica High School were joined by representatives from UNITE HERE, the Pico Youth & Family Center and the NAACP during the rally that coincided with a City Council meeting.

Sen. Feinstein calls treasurer's actions 'big betrayal'

JUDY LIN
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. Democratic U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein said Tuesday there was never any indication that her former campaign treasurer was mismanaging her reelection account before the treasurer's arrest last year in a widespread embezzlement case.

"It was a big betrayal," Feinstein told reporters after addressing Sacramento area government officials. "Oh yeah, you can imagine how you'd feel."

Feinstein made her first public remarks on the topic after her former campaign treasurer, Kinde Durkee, entered guilty pleas March 30 to five counts of mail fraud in a case that prosecutors said involved looting at least $7 million from about 50 clients.

SEE DURKEE PAGE 13


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, April 11, 2012

Opening of 'In Paris'
The Broad Stage
1310 11th St., call for times
This groundbreaking new play based on a Russian short story by Nobel Prize-winner Ivan Bunin and directed by Dmitry Krymov brings Mikhail Baryshnikov, Anna Sinyakina, and the ensemble of the Dmitry Krymov Laboratory to The Broad Stage. Cost: $50-$175. "In Paris" runs through April 21. For more information, call (310) 434-3200.

Economics of being a woman
YWCA Santa Monica/Westside
2019 14th St.,
6:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
This event is designed to help women during these tough economic times by learning strategies for financial well-being and wealth-building. For more information, call (310) 452-3881.

Market meet-up
Michael's
1147 Third St.,
8:30 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.
Michael McCarty and Executive Chef John-Carlos Kuramoto lead an exclusive tour of Santa Monica's Farmers' Market to introduce guests to his favorite farmers, pay homage to ingredients of the season, and show how he picks the best ingredients. Guests will then head back to the restaurant and enjoy dishes specially created by Kuramoto featuring the monthly ingredient, as well as wine pairings and recipes to take home. For more information, call (310) 451-0843.

Thursday, April 12, 2012

Get some business at breakfast
Pacific Dining Car
2700 Wilshire Blvd.,
7 a.m. — 8:30 a.m.
LeTip Networking Group is a professional organization of small business owners who utilize each others' services and send referrals to one another for possible business leads. The group meets weekly on Thursdays. Breakfast is $5, which the group covers for first-time guests. For more information, call (310) 450-4488 and ask for David Rosenfeld.

Tickling the ivories
Santa Monica Pier
12 p.m. — 1 p.m.
Help kick off the art installation "Play Me, I'm Yours" by heading down to the Santa Monica Pier or the Annenberg Community Beach House to play a piano. The installation, which has traveled the globe, transforms everyday spaces into pop-up performance venues. Thirty decorated pianos have been strategically placed throughout Los Angeles County. No reservations required. For more information. go to laco.org/pianos and streetpianos.com

Easter lingers
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
2 p.m. — 3 p.m.
Enjoy quality time with the little ones at this free screening of the animated hit "Hop." In the family-friendly film the Easter Bunny's son, E.B., heads to Hollywood, determined to become a drummer in a rock band. Rated PG.

Cultivating compassion
Fairview Branch Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
7 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Explore the roots of compassion inside ourselves and how we can cultivate it to impact others with Diana Winston of UCLA's Mindful Awareness Research Center. Open to everyone. For more information, call (310) 458-8681.

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



HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Samohi dispatches New Jersey's Eastern High

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI The game may have been delayed 90 minutes, but it didn't seem to matter to the boys from Santa Monica.

Samohi's baseball team shrugged off the delay to power past Eastern High School, 7-2, on Tuesday at home. Eastern made the trek west all the way from Voorhees, NJ, to play in the Babe Herman Tournament.

Once the crew of tardy umpires finally arrived, it was obvious Samohi came to play.

Samohi starting pitcher Jonathan Rakuljic, a sophomore, pitched a complete game against an Eastern team that struggled all afternoon to pick up his off-speed pitches.

"My fast ball felt good and my change-up was working," Rakuljic said. "But, Eastern is a good team, I was lucky to get outs."

The same couldn't be said for Samohi's lineup, which scored early and often on Eastern starter Steven Volpe.

Samohi struck first in the top of the second inning when senior Adam Padilla scored on a Volpe wild pitch. Padilla had led off the inning with a single and was the beneficiary of a sacrifice by Ryan Barbarin and a balk by Volpe to set up the game's first score.

"They are an excellent ball club," Eastern head coach Rob Christ said. "We knew that coming out here."

The Samohi Vikings rallied again in the fourth when senior Alonzo Hernandez hit a ground ball that took an unexpected hop over the heads of Eastern's middle infielders,

SEE **SAMOHI** PAGE 12





Photos by Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

HIGHLIGHT REEL: **(Top) Santa Monica High School's Jonathan Rakuljic pitched a complete game against Eastern on Tuesday at home during a 7-2 win as part of the Babe Herman Tournament. (Above) Samohi senior Adam Padilla successfully steals a base. He previously scored the first run of the game.**

SM police close Mid-City streets in search for suspect

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

MID-CITY Santa Monica police officers shut down several streets Tuesday afternoon as they hunted and eventually captured a man who allegedly struck his girlfriend during an argument near Wilshire Boulevard and 20th Street.

The victim, an employee at Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, suffered minor cuts to her hand, most likely the result of fighting with her boyfriend over her car keys, said SMPD Sgt. Richard Lewis.

The victim, 34, was uncooperative, however, officers were able to gather enough evidence to book the suspect for domestic violence. He was tentatively identified as Wesley Stokes, 27, of Long Beach, Lewis said.

Officers responded to Alley 19 between Wilshire Boulevard and Arizona Avenue at approximately 4 p.m. after receiving a call about a man chasing a woman. Officers said Stokes chased his girlfriend from her parked car to the corner of Wilshire and 20th and slapped her "a couple of times."

The victim ran back toward her car and the two began to fight over her car keys. When the suspect heard the sound of sirens, he allegedly took off running southbound down the alley.

Police set up a perimeter that stretched from 20th Street west to 18th Street and from Santa Monica Boulevard north to Arizona Avenue.

Roughly 30 minutes later they located Stokes hiding underneath a car that was parked in a carport in the 1300 block of 20th Street. Streets were reopened shortly thereafter.

kevinh@smdp.com

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

Drivers to pay 6 percent more for gas this summer

CHRIS KAHN
AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK U.S. drivers will pay an average of 24 cents more per gallon for gasoline during this summer's travel season, the government said Tuesday.

Gasoline will cost an average of $3.95 per gallon from April through September, an increase of 6.3 percent from the same period last year, the Energy Information Administration predicted. The peak should come in May, when gas averages $4.01 per gallon, the agency said.

Gasoline already has jumped by 20 percent this year to a national average of $3.922 per gallon, according to auto club AAA's Daily Fuel Gauge Report. Prices, which are posted on station signs on street corners across America, have both a financial and psychological effect on drivers, experts say. Already, high prices have led to strong sales of gas-sipping vehicles like the Toyota Prius, and they've become a major issue in the Presidential campaign.

Further price hikes will affect the kind of vacations Americans take, and will likely impact how they feel about the economy. They may even influence how Americans vote in November.

"People are going to notice" if the national average crosses $4, said Fred Rozell, retail pricing director at Oil Price

SEE **GAS** PAGE 13

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Puzzled

Editor:

I am puzzled about the appearance and disappearance of a handicap-specific sign at Kinko's, [located at] Wilshire Boulevard and [Ninth] Street. On March 14, when I visited the store, I intended to use the handicap parking space as I usually do. I have had a DMV-issued placard since 1992. As I departed the car's passenger side, the space had a new, prominent sign: "van use only." There was also blue painted crosshatch striping. Neither the very large sign nor hatch striping was present two to three weeks earlier.

A week later, on March 20, when I returned to the same store and location, the sign, "van use only," and crosshatch paint were gone.

Without a doubt, in parking-precious Santa Monica, every space counts. The unauthorized, even careless use of DMV disabled placards should concern everybody. Fines for penalties are increasing and are significant. My questions are: 1) Who asked for or what event prompted installation of this "temporary" signage and striping? 2) Why the restriction for "van use only" when the space already is sufficiently wide enough for both regular vehicles and vans? 3) What was the cost investment of city staff or vendor for labor/time as well as materials for a project lasting for such a brief duration?

Richard Hilton
Santa Monica
Former member of the Disabilities Commission 2002-11

Conspiracy theory

Editor:

Joyce Martino's letter ("A street by any other name," April 3) regarding renaming Lincoln Boulevard concludes: "The more I think of this, the more insane it is."

I'll bet there's nothing crazy about it. Instead, the proponents of this "enlightened, sustainable, progressive" change probably have a stranglehold on the local street sign market. Follow the money.

Mark Humphrey
Santa Monica

Before and after

Editor:

Reading about the healthcare hearings, I have learned about the law that says you must pay a tax before you can contest it. Maybe that's where Santa Monica got the idea that you have to pay a parking ticket before you can contest it. This seems very un-American to me.

Mike McWilliams
Santa Monica

Obey the law

Editor:

For a moment, I thought I was reading your always entertaining April Fool's edition, until I realized it was April 2 and that the only foolishness was bicycle scofflaw Grace Phillip's reckless comments ("Police, bicyclists balance road safety with education," April 2).

Ms. Phillips is among the now far too many foolish Santa Monicans who believe laws do not apply to them. Hopefully, Ms. Phillips will be true to her word and cease riding her bicycle while disobeying safety laws and endangering the rest of us by her thoughtless and unlawful conduct.

Now, if only we could get the hundreds of other bicycle scofflaws to join her and get off the streets, or in the alternative, start obeying the law, then we all would be much safer.

Helen R. McRoskey
Santa Monica

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That Rutherford Guy

John W. Whitehead — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Jailing Americans for profit is not right

IN AN AGE WHEN FREEDOM IS FAST becoming the exception rather than the rule, imprisoning Americans in private prisons run by mega-corporations has turned into a cash cow for big business. At one time, the American penal system operated under the idea that dangerous criminals needed to be put under lock and key in order to protect society. Today, as states attempt to save money by outsourcing prisons to private corporations, the flawed yet retributive American "system of justice" is being replaced by an even more flawed and insidious form of mass punishment based upon profit and expediency.

Consider this: despite the fact that violent crime in America has been on the decline, the nation's incarceration rate has tripled since 1980. Approximately 13 million people are jailed in any given year. Incredibly, more than 6 million people are under "correctional supervision" in America, meaning that one in 50 Americans are working their way through the prison system, either as inmates, or while on parole or probation. According to the Federal Bureau of Prisons, the majority of those being held in federal prisons are convicted of drug offenses — namely, marijuana. Presently, one out of every 100 Americans is serving time behind bars.

Little wonder, then, that public prisons are overcrowded. Yet while providing security, housing, food, medical care, etc., for 6 million Americans is a hardship for cash-strapped states, to profit-hungry corporations such as Corrections Corp of America (CCA) and GEO Group, the leaders in the partnership corrections industry, it's a $70 billion gold mine. Thus, with an eye toward increasing its bottom line, CCA has floated a proposal to prison officials in 48 states offering to buy and manage public prisons at a substantial cost savings to the states. In exchange, and here's the kicker, the prisons would have to contain at least 1,000 beds and states would have agree to maintain a 90 percent occupancy rate in the privately run prisons for at least 20 years.

The problem with this scenario, as Roger Werholtz, former Kansas secretary of corrections, recognizes is that while states may be tempted by the quick infusion of cash, they "would be obligated to maintain these (occupancy) rates and subtle pressure would be applied to make sentencing laws more severe with a clear intent to drive up the population." Unfortunately, that's exactly what has happened [with] three-strike laws (mandating sentences of 25 years to life for multiple felony convictions) and "truth-in-sentencing" legislation (mandating that those sentenced to prison serve most or all of their time).

Part of the investment pitch include the profits to be made in building "kindler, gentler" minimum-security facilities designed for detaining illegal immigrants, especially low-risk detainees like women and children. With immigration a persistent problem in the southwestern states, especially, and more than 250 such detention centers going up across the country, there is indeed money to be made. For example, GEO's new facility in Karnes County, Texas, boasts a "608-bed facility … stretch[ing] across a 29-acre swath of farmland in rural South Texas. Rather than prison cells, jumpsuits, and barbed wire fencing, detainees here will sleep in eight-bed dormitory-style quarters, wearing more cozy attire like jeans and T-shirts. The facility's high walls enclose lush green courtyards with volleyball courts, an AstroTurfed soccer field, and basketball hoops, where detainees are free to roam throughout the day." All of this, of course, comes at taxpayer expense.

"And this is where it gets creepy," observes reporter Joe Weisenthal for Business Insider, "because as an investor you're pulling for scenarios where more people are put in jail." In making its pitch to potential investors, CCA points out that private prisons comprise a unique, recession-resistant investment opportunity, with more than 90 percent of the market up for grabs, little competition, high recidivism among prisoners, and the potential for "accelerated growth in inmate populations following the recession." In other words, caging humans for profit is a sure bet, because the U.S. population is growing dramatically and the prison population will grow proportionally as well, and more prisoners equal more profits.

In this way, under the pretext of being tough on crime, state governments can fatten their coffers and fill the jail cells of their corporate benefactors. However, while a flourishing privatized prison system is a financial windfall for corporate investors, it bodes ill for any measures aimed at reforming prisoners and reducing crime. CCA understands this. As it has warned investors, efforts to decriminalize certain activities, such as drug use, could cut into their profits. So too would measures aimed at reducing the prison system's disproportionately racist impact on minorities, given that the incarceration rate for blacks is seven times that of whites. Immigrants are also heavily impacted, with roughly 2.5 million people having been through the immigration detention system since 2003. As private prisons begin to dominate, the many troubling characteristics of our so-called criminal justice system today — racism, economic inequality, inadequate access to legal representation, lack of due process, etc. — will only become more acute.

Doubtless, a system already riddled by corruption will inevitably become more corrupt, as well. For example, consider the "kids for cash" scandal. For 10 years, the Mid Atlantic Youth Service Corp., which specializes in private prisons for juvenile offenders, paid two judges to jail youths and send them to private prison facilities. The judges, who made over $2.6 million in the scam, had more than 5,000 kids come through their courtrooms and sent many of them to prison for petty crimes such as trespassing in vacant buildings. When the scheme finally came to light, one judge was sentenced to 17.5 years in prison and the other received 28 years.

In this way, minor criminals, from drug users to petty thieves, are being handed over to corporations for lengthy prison sentences which do nothing to protect society or prevent recidivism. This is the culmination of an inverted justice system which has come to characterize the U.S., a justice system based upon increasing the power and wealth of the corporate-state.

No matter what the politicians or corporate heads might say, prison privatization is neither fiscally responsible nor in keeping with principles of justice. It simply encourages incarceration for the sake of profits, while causing millions of Americans, most of them minor, nonviolent criminals, to be handed over to corporations for lengthy prison sentences which do nothing to protect society or prevent recidivism. This perverse notion of how prisons should be run, that they should be full at all times, and full of minor criminals, is evil.

Constitutional attorney and author **JOHN W. WHITEHEAD** is founder and president of The Rutherford Institute.

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Your column here

J. Matt Barber

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Justice served to Obama

ERIC HOLDER IS A BUSY MAN. WHEN President Obama's chief law enforcement officer isn't tied up selling guns to Mexican drug cartels, refusing to prosecute self-serving cases of voter intimidation or ignoring "wanted dead or alive" bounties placed by black militants on the heads of private citizens, he's busy conspiring with pro-abortion extremists to bring the full weight of the federal government down upon innocent pro-life advocates.

So much tyranny, so little time.

Eric Holder is much more than just incompetent. He's an extremist pro-abortion activist who shares his boss's goal of "fundamentally transforming America."

The most recent and obvious example of this administration's serial abuse of power in furtherance of a radical pro-abortion agenda came when the Department of Health and Human Services mandated, in contravention of the First Amendment, that all religious organizations provide contraception, sterilization and various forms of abortion to employees. This may be the single greatest violation of our constitutionally safeguarded religious liberties in our lifetimes.

But individual citizens haven't escaped a forced fiduciary tie to abortion homicide. A few weeks later HHS arbitrarily attached a "final rule" to Obamacare requiring that every American, pro-life or otherwise, pay $1 per month earmarked expressly for an abortion services pool. This validates pro-life forewarnings that the president was simply lying when he issued a toothless executive order supposedly banning federal dollars for abortion. (What do we call someone who chronically lies?)

Still, every once in a while the good guys win one.

For several months now the Obama administration has been abusing our judicial system through an intimidation campaign. Obama has instructed the Justice Department to sue a number of pro-life counselors and volunteers for allegedly violating the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrance (FACE) Act.

You won't hear it from the mainstream media, but the Justice Department has just faced an embarrassing smack down on the highest profile of these cases. It has dropped an appeal in Holder v. Pine against pro-life sidewalk counselor Mary "Susan" Pine, who is represented by the civil rights firm Liberty Counsel. The DOJ has agreed to pay $120,000 for this frivolous lawsuit which, as the evidence indicated, was intended to intimidate Ms. Pine and send a shot over the bow of pro-lifers around the country.

Mr. Holder unsuccessfully sought thousands of dollars in fines against Ms. Pine, as well as a permanent injunction banning her from counseling women on the public sidewalk outside the Presidential Women's Center (PWC) abortion mill (or any other "reproductive services" clinic).

After 18 months of litigation, the DOJ's case was thrown out of federal court, and the department was chastised in a scathing ruling by U.S. District Judge Kenneth Ryskamp.

Judge Ryskamp wrote that Holder's complete failure to present any evidence of wrongdoing, coupled with the DOJ's cozy relationship with PWC and their apparent joint decision to destroy video surveillance footage of the alleged "obstruction," caused the court to suspect a conspiracy at the highest levels of the Obama administration. "The Court is at a loss as to why the Government chose to prosecute this particular case in the first place," wrote Judge Ryskamp. "The Court can only wonder whether this action was the product of a concerted effort between the Government and PWC, which began well before the date of the incident at issue, to quell Ms. Pine's activities rather than to vindicate the rights of those allegedly aggrieved by Ms. Pine's conduct."

After the ruling the DOJ appealed on the last day possible and gave indication that President Obama had personally ordered the appeal. A little over a week later, the president apparently decided to cut his losses and reversed course.

Harry Mihet, senior counsel for Liberty Counsel, said of the judge's ruling: "It's not every day that a federal judge accuses the Justice Department of a full-blown conspiracy."

Ironically, this past December, in the midst of the case, Ms. Pine actually counseled a woman outside of PWC and convinced her not to have an abortion, thus saving the life of the child and possibly the mother as well. Her e-mail to Liberty Counsel read simply: "We saved a life today."

Mathew Staver, founder and chairman of Liberty Counsel, pulled no punches:

It is irresponsible for the U.S. Department of Justice to place politics above principle when deciding to prosecute, and thus attempt to silence, a pro-life sidewalk counselor without any evidence of wrongdoing.

When the nation's highest law enforcement officer files suit against any citizen, the suit must be based on the law. Anything less is an abuse of the high office.

Indeed, "politics above principle," intimidation of private citizens and jaw-dropping abuses of power are but a few hallmarks of this Obama administration.

History will be no more kind to this president than he has been to the citizens he was sworn, and failed, to honorably serve.

MATT BARBER (@jmattbarber on Twitter) is an attorney concentrating in constitutional law. He serves as vice president of Liberty Counsel Action (LCA on Facebook).

The Q Line

Was it the right call?

Santa Monica College officials voted last week to scrap a plan to create a two-tier class payment system. The vote came after a week that saw a student protest at a Board of Trustees meeting that ended with a pepper spraying incident. The chancellor of community colleges even got involved, saying he didn't agree with the plan.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think SMC made the right decision by ditching the plan, or do you think they caved to pressure?

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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Giant water agency approves rate hikes for Southern California

ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO California's giant water wholesaler approved a smaller rate increase Tuesday than its staff proposed, but it wasn't low enough to satisfy officials who claim a "shadow government" has seized control of the agency and is targeting consumers in San Diego.

The board of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California approved 5 percent annual rate increases for each of the next two years after a highly unusual attack by the San Diego County Water Authority, the largest of its 26 customers.

San Diego claims Metropolitan's rate structure is stacked against the nation's eighth-largest city and its suburbs. The allegation was the basis of a lawsuit it filed in 2010 in state court.

San Diego wanted to limit annual rate increases to 3 percent.

San Diego launched a website last month to lift what it describes as a veil of secrecy at Metropolitan, its largest supplier. The site offers a trove of internal documents obtained under California's public records law, including references to a "Secret Society" and an "anti-San Diego coalition."

Metropolitan has demanded San Diego remove Metropolitan's defaced seal from the new website, www.mwdfacts.com. The seal is altered to read, "The Truth About the Metropolitan Water District of So. Cal."

Some speakers at Tuesday's rate hearing criticized San Diego's tactics.

"The core of these allegations is that (Metropolitan) staff has met and somehow controlled the Met board," said Paul Jones, general manager of Eastern Municipal Water District, which serves the distant eastern suburbs of Los Angeles. "These allegations are not only baseless but an affront to the integrity of this board."

Thomas Wornham, the San Diego agency's vice chairman, gave faint praise to the more modest rate hike. It shaved the 2013 increase to 5 percent from the 7.5 percent that Metropolitan's staff proposed.

"It's just not good enough when it's so clear that this board can do better," Wornham said before the vote.

The rate increases were approved as part of Metropolitan's two-year budget — $1.78 billion for 2013 and $1.89 billion for 2014.

The bad blood dates back to a drought in the early 1990s, when San Diego began a drive to become less dependent on Metropolitan. Dennis Cushman, the San Diego agency's assistant general manager, said the region then got 95 percent of its water from Metropolitan and now gets less than half.

As with many water disputes in arid stretches of the West, this one is just as much about how to move water from one place to another as it is about the water itself. San Diego lacks its own water supply and — just as importantly — doesn't own pipes to get it from somewhere else.

In 2003, San Diego agreed to buy a big chunk of its water from California's Imperial Valley in the nation's largest farm-to-city water transfer. But it still needs Metropolitan's 242-mile aqueduct to carry the water from the Colorado River.

The same year, Metropolitan introduced a rate structure that levies one fee for transporting water and another for the water itself. The San Diego agency alleges the transportation fee includes lots of unrelated costs, amounting to San Diego subsidizing other agencies that buy water directly from Metropolitan.

Metropolitan, whose customers include cities and water agencies serving 19 million people in six counties, defends the new rate structure and accuses San Diego of trying to unload costs on others. It suggests San Diego overpaid for Imperial Valley's water and is trying to make up for a bad business decision.

The stakes are so high that many Metropolitan member agencies began meeting in 2009 to discuss San Diego's challenge to the rate structure and other issues. San Diego says it didn't learn the group existed until after a request for public records last October that has produced more than 60,000 pages of documents.

The San Diego County Water Authority says the documents show the group met up to 60 times and alleges that members coordinated votes with Metropolitan's board of directors, which would potentially violate the state's open-meetings law. The documents show the group paid for advice from a consulting firm that employs Ron Gastelum, a former Metropolitan general manager.

Two emails from one participant — Chris Theisen, assistant director of public works for Beverly Hills — refer to the group as the "Secret Society." Handwritten notes from one meeting mention the "anti-San Diego coalition."

San Diego packaged the documents in thick binders and sent them to reporters throughout California under the heading, "Who really runs the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California? A shadow government takes control."

Metropolitan says there is nothing unusual about staff from member agencies getting together to discuss issues. In addition, it adamantly denies the group is a forum to coordinate board votes.

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L.A. dog rescue rooted in efforts to reach homeless

SUE MANNING
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Fix the dogs and feed the men.

That's what Lori Weise decided to do 16 years ago when she started working at Modernica Inc., a furniture factory on the edge of L.A.'s Skid Row. She couldn't get to work without seeing the homeless being bullied and their dogs or countless other strays being abused.

She created Downtown Dog Rescue in the back of the factory and, with the help of co-workers, started trapping strays. She talked to the homeless, one man at a time, convincing them their dogs would be better off spayed or neutered.

Food was a powerful incentive. She posted fliers in alleys and doorways, promising free pizza for the men and free surgery for the dogs at a mobile clinic she arranged for. She worried no one would come, but when she arrived, the line was two blocks long.

The homeless also couldn't get a dog license without an address. So Modernica's address was used to license 300 dogs.

Since those early days, Downtown Dog Rescue has paid for thousands of surgeries, placed or fostered thousands of dogs, and provided meals galore for man and mutt. The shelter is still located in the back of Modernica, but there aren't many homeless left downtown, so Weise now brings shelter services to Compton, where the crime rate makes living hard for residents and the euthanasia rate makes living a challenge for dogs.

For the last two years, a monthly spay and neuter clinic has been held in a Compton park, run by the Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care & Control with $100,000 annual funding from DDR.

In 2011, the clinic sterilized close to 800 dogs, according to Weise, and the euthanasia rate for pit bulls at the county shelter dropped 30 percent.

Dog trainer Cornelius "Dog Man" Austin is also part of Weise's team. Growing up in South Los Angeles, Austin said, the streets were infested with pit bulls. "I was 10 or 11 and in my neighborhood, that's all they did was fight pit bulls," he recalled.

Today he holds weekly obedience classes for DDR at the Los Angeles Coliseum, teaching owners basic commands, agility, urban walking and what to do if your dog is attacked. The class draws between 30 and 50 dogs a week.

While Downtown Dog Rescue has grown since the late '90s from a couple of kennels to 22, Modernica, the furniture maker, has grown from six employees to 80. Owners and brothers Frank and Jay Novak are neither dog people nor homeless activists, but they believe in what Weise, their plant manager, stands for.

The shelter helps define the company and has become part of the company's culture, Frank Novak said. He marvels at the way Weise comes up with choice homes for unwanted dogs.

"She never talks down to people," Novak said. "She is so genuine. I think people are impressed by her sincerity and people know none of the money (close to $200,000 in donations a year) goes to administrative costs."

Eight months ago, Modernica started moving its production plant to a bigger building in Vernon. They have given Weise a half-acre where she can build a new shelter but she is still negotiating with the city for permits. The rescue is also working to raise $50,000 for the building, plumbing and electricity.

Meanwhile, the dogs are downtown, where the company's prop department (they do a lot of Hollywood work) will stay. Weise drives back and forth each morning and night to care for them.

"She is a one-woman army. What she means to Compton and homeless people with their pets is services they would never get otherwise," said Bob Goldman, a veterinarian at VCA Petville Animal Hospital in Los Angeles.

"She is fearless. She will go into neighborhoods nobody in their right mind would go into. She just goes with her conviction and knowledge she is going to help somebody," said Carole Pearson, founder and president of Los Angeles-based Dawg Squad. Pearson, who specializes in placing Rottweilers, helps Weise with any Rotts she finds.

Weise is often asked to speak at seminars and conferences across the country. That's where Stephanie Downs, co-founder of FiXiT Foundation in Virginia met her.

"I was inspired by her determination and willingness to do what it took to get to the root of the problem," Downs said. "She works in some of the roughest neighborhoods in the country and doesn't follow the standard model we are expected to in the spay/neuter industry."

Most of the men (it was rare to find women on the streets back then) Weise befriended 15 years ago are in prisons or hospitals or have died. But Weise took many of their dogs. "I promised a lot of the men as long as their dogs are alive, they will have a good place to live and I'll love them," she said.

She has about nine dogs in retirement at her home. That includes Clancy, a 15-year-old pit bull and the rescue's unofficial mascot, who accompanies Weise almost everywhere she goes.

Clancy was a professional fighting dog before Weise rescued him five years ago. "He is now the dog he was meant to be," she said.

Austin is always telling Weise she can't save every dog, but they both keep trying.

"Look at Clancy, the battle wounds on his face," Austin said. "This dog went through battle rounds. Somebody cut his ears off. He's got 50 scars on his face. He's one of the best. Just like Lori."

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State officials find toxins in 'nontoxic' nail polishes

JASON DEAREN
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO Some nail polishes commonly found in California salons and advertised as free of a so-called "toxic trio" of chemicals actually have high levels of agents linked to birth defects, state regulators said Tuesday.

A Department of Toxic Substances Control report determined that the mislabeled nail products have the potential to harm thousands of workers in more than 48,000 nail salons in California, and their customers.

The use of the three chemicals in nail products is legal if properly labeled. But agency officials said the false claims may violate a state law that requires disclosure of harmful chemicals in consumer products. The state attorney general could decide whether the companies will face legal action, which can include fines and an order to attach warning labels.

Investigators randomly chose 25 brands of polishes that are available only at nail salons, including a number of products claiming to be free of the chemicals toluene, dibutyl phthalate (DBP) and formaldehyde, which are known as the toxic trio. Regulators said exposure to large amounts of the chemicals has been linked to developmental problems, asthma and other illnesses.

Investigators found that 10 of 12 products that claimed to be free of toluene actually contained it, with four of the products having dangerously high levels.

The report also found that five of seven products that claimed to be "free of the toxic three" included one or more of the agents in significant levels.

The agency said it did not have enough data to accurately estimate how many people were being exposed to the chemicals through the products.

"We know there are exposures at salons, both to workers and customers, and we're concerned about potential harm," said Karl Palmer, the DTSC's pollution prevention performance manager who oversaw the report.

"Our strategy first and foremost is to shed light on the reality of what's in these products and put this information out to everyone."

Among the products tested that the state says were mislabeled were: Sation 99 basecoat, Sation 53 red-pink nail color, Dare to Wear nail lacquer, Chelsea 650 Baby's Breath Nail Lacquer, New York Summer Nail Color, Paris Spicy 298 nail lacquer, Sunshine nail lacquer, Cacie Light Free Gel Basecoat, Cacie Sun Protection Topcoat, Golden Girl Topcoat, Nail Art Top-N-Seal and High Gloss Topcoat. The polishes are not sold in retail stores.

At ZaZa, a nail salon near San Francisco's waterfront ballpark, customers said they were shocked by news of the misleading labels. The salon, which does not carry any of the mislabeled brands, said it uses products labeled free of the toxic trio and animal products.

"I'm shocked. I'm a mother now, so I try to stay away from different chemicals," said Juanita Navarrete, a 27-year-old from San Leandro who was getting a manicure and pedicure. Navarrete said she relies on labels to make choices in buying products and was happy that the state did random testing of nail polishes.

The DTSC said all three chemicals are linked to chronic health conditions when inhaled, and that the 121,000 licensed nail care technicians who work in the salons, many of them young Asian-American women, are most at risk. Two of the three chemicals tested on humans and animals have shown links to developmental problems, while DBP has only been tested on animals.

The agency said the salons are often poorly ventilated, leading to exposure to a number of harmful chemicals.

Loann Tran, co-owner of Happy Nails in Salinas, Calif., said she can only control certain elements of workplace safety for the handful of workers and customers in her salon: better ventilation and equipment sterilization. She cannot force manufacturers to accurately label products, she said, and hopes the report will help.

"They have to be responsible for what they are doing with their products, it's shocking," Tran said. "We work in this field, and we need this knowledge to help make our environment healthier."

Because of these workplace health issues, some cities around the nation have passed laws seeking to increase safety for workers and customers at nail salons.

San Francisco passed an ordinance in October 2010 that gives a "green seal" to salons that voluntarily choose to use nail polishes free of the three chemicals included in the DTSC's report. New York City had a similar ordinance to recognize salons that choose products devoid of the toxic trio.

"We are alarmed by the results of this report," Julia Liou, co-founder of the California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative and a public health administrator for Asian Health Services, said in a statement. "The misbranding of products is not only a major public health problem, but also interferes with a salon worker's right to a safe and healthy work environment."

DBP has been banned in nail products in the European Union, which has strict limits on the amount of formaldehyde and toluene that can be used.

Doug Schoon, a scientist who works with the Nail Manufacturers Council, agreed that mislabeling products should never be done, but said that proper ventilation and training of salon workers are much more important to preventing health problems. He said the levels of toluene and other chemicals found in the nail polishes did not pose a serious threat.

He said the "need for appropriate ventilation for the work you're doing, whether it be in printing shops or other workplaces, is a huge area of opportunity that the (DTSC) should be focusing on."

The California attorney general's office said it will have to review DTSC's findings before making a decision on any legal action.

"We will need to examine the data for compliance with Prop. 65 and other state laws," said Lynda Gledhill, a spokeswoman for the attorney general's office.

Proposition 65 is a state law that requires that all harmful chemicals in a product be revealed by the manufacturer. It requires warning signs be posted in areas where consumers could be exposed.

Mike Vo, vice president of Miss Professional Nail Products Inc., the maker of the Sation products and others on the list, said he disputed DTSC's findings.

"We will look at the report and challenge it," he said.

The DTSC found Dare to Wear polish contained small traces of toluene even though it was labeled as free of the chemical. Newton Luu, owner of LeChat Nail Care Products, which makes the polish, said he had no idea where the toluene could have come from.

STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

County property tax base estimate falls short

There's been a dramatic drop in the assessor's estimated Los Angeles County property tax base growth.

Assessor John Noguez estimated last year that the property tax base would grow more than $18 billion for the next fiscal year.

But that estimate was revised to $5 billion last week.

County supervisors are wondering why the county could receive almost $50 million less than expected in property taxes next year and want some answers from the assessor.

The Los Angeles Times says it could lead to cuts in law enforcement, education and other services.

Declining property values are being blamed.

Noguez estimated in December that the tax base would drop by about $2.6 billion because of falling home prices. His latest report on Monday changed that amount to $13.5 billion.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LA CRESCENTA

Large bear roams backyards

A large bear roaming around a suburb of Los Angeles has been subdued with a tranquilizer dart.

The bear was discovered early Tuesday in a backyard in the Verdugo Mountains area, about 10 miles north of downtown Los Angeles. Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies snuck a peek on a rooftop as they waited for state Fish and Game experts.

KTTV news helicopter cameras showed the bear lounging on a lawn in the La Crescenta area before roaming from backyard to backyard. KNX radio reported that the bear has wandered out of the wilderness area on recent mornings on Tuesdays — trash day.

La Crescenta sheriff's station volunteer Bill Latuf described the bear as "pretty mellow," saying the animal was just walking around. After daybreak, fish and game officers armed with a tranquilizer dart tagged the bear, which then rested under a tree.

Latuf said authorities will take the dazed bear back into the wilderness area.

AP

ESCONDIDO

Abandoned orchards must be monitored for pests

Growers in northern San Diego County are being told to monitor their citrus and avocado groves for pests, even if they've abandoned the trees because of soaring water costs.

The North County Times says the county's agriculture department is preparing a letter to the growers reminding them of their responsibility.

Officials say farmers have been abandoning orchards in the Valley Center area in recent years because soaring irrigation costs have made them unprofitable.

However, some trees have survived on rainfall. Authorities don't want them becoming home to pests that could threaten the county's $78 million citrus crop.

The discovery of a citrus-killing disease in Hacienda Heights last week prompted authorities to quarantine 93 square miles of Los Angeles and Orange counties.

AP

LOS ANGELES

County to probe possible elder abuse of heiress

Los Angeles County will investigate whether an heiress has been exploited after her money manager arranged a $600,000 donation to a charity run by his spiritual group.

Elder abuse investigators will look into whether John Larkin took advantage of 87-year-old Susan Davis, who has an $11 million trust fund. Relatives say she has dementia.

The Los Angeles Times says Larkin helped arrange for Davis to donate $600,000 to a charity connected to the Kabbalah Centre, of which he's a member.

He also reportedly made a $300,000 profit by selling Davis property for a new Beverly Hills home near the center.

The Times says Larkin didn't return a message seeking comment.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Congressional committee to review rail project

A congressional committee has begun a review of California's high-speed rail project, including possible conflicts of interest and whether a large government commitment would pull federal tax dollars away from other transportation projects.

The Los Angeles Times says the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform notified the California High-Speed Rail Authority about the review Monday and ordered the agency to preserve its documents and records of past communications.

Committee members say they want to ensure that tax dollars are being spent appropriately and check for possible conflicts of interest involving rail officials and contractors.

As much as $4 billion in federal funds have either been provided or set aside so far for the 500-mile project. The current estimated cost of the project is $68 billion.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Homeless parolees get priority in public housing

Some homeless parolees and probationers in Los Angeles County are getting the first chance at taxpayer-subsidized housing.

The Board of Supervisors last week approved a county housing authority plan giving some ex-convicts priority over law-abiding residents in obtaining federal Section 8 housing vouchers.

It eliminates a subsidized housing ban for homeless probationers and parolees. The plan also cuts the criminal history review period for such applicants from three years to two.

The Los Angeles Times says the change is aimed at getting chronically homeless people off the streets.

It's unclear how many parolees and probationers would be eligible. Officials say low-level offenders would be involved.

The housing authority is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to annually update its program goals.

AP





Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

PROTECTED: **Graciano Sanchez from the Santa Monica Fence Company works on setting up a chain-link fence around the 26-foot-tall mushroom cloud sculpture titled 'Chain Reaction.'**

SCULPTURE

FROM PAGE 1

which are expected to take a minimum of two or three weeks after their contracts are signed.

It will be tight to get those tests done in the month until the next Landmarks Commission meeting, and results may not be back, Cusick wrote in an e-mail.

In the meantime, activists know that they need to raise a substantial amount of money — anywhere between $227,372 and $423,172, according to City Hall estimates — but not how much.

If they can't come up with the full amount, city officials will remove "Chain Reaction" from the public art portfolio and either return it to the family of its owners or to another cultural institution.

Commissioners emphasized that they did not want any action on their part to interrupt the work to save the sculpture.

"I feel uncomfortable intervening in that process right now in any way that would negatively impact the ability of us as the community and the family as fundraisers to get the information they need to mount a successful fundraising campaign," said Commissioner Margaret Bach.

So far, only $450 has been contributed to the effort. Money can be sent to the Santa Monica Arts Foundation, which will manage, track and acknowledge the donations so that they can be tax deductible.

Commissioners also directed city officials to explore whether or not it was feasible to landmark a sculpture in the meantime. It's never been done before in Santa Monica.

This should be the exception, said Jerry Rubin, the Santa Monica resident heading up the push to save "Chain Reaction."

"I only wish I would have thought to come here a couple of years ago so that Paul Conrad would be alive to see this iconic sculpture become a landmark," Rubin said, referencing the statue's creator, the three-time Pulitzer Prize winning editorial cartoonist.

"Maybe his family will have that joy," Rubin said.

Though noted for his art on paper, Conrad dabbled in sculpture as well. The 26-foot-tall, mushroom cloud-shaped "Chain Reaction" was his largest piece, and meant as a protest against nuclear war.

The piece was gifted to City Hall in 1989 but only installed in 1991 after a contentious public process. The majority of Santa Monica residents disliked the piece, according to old records, but the City Council approved it in a slim 4-3 vote.

Since, it's stood in the Civic Center, across from what would later be the current RAND Corp. building.

Last year, Building and Safety Division engineer Ron Takiguchi saw children climbing on the piece. Further inspection revealed that there was damage to the statue, and it was cordoned off by a fence.

Tests conducted by conservationist Rosa Lowinger and the engineering team of Larry Bruegger revealed structural weaknesses and corrosion to the inner steel structure from exposure to wet conditions and salty air.

The fiberglass frame that supports the thousands of copper chain links also had damage, although its unclear how long it will be able to support the weight of the structure.

In March, the City Council voted to give $21,000 to test the sculpture. Council members also set the Nov. 15 deadline. If money isn't raised to save the sculpture by then, it will be removed.

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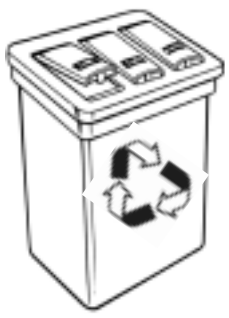
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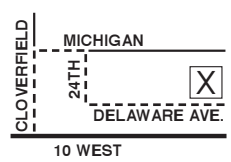


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SMC
FROM PAGE 1

Joshua Scuteri are also on the panel.

The group is charged not just with reviewing the pepper spraying incident, which grabbed national attention and headlines, but all aspects of college officials' response.

It will not result in one thing that some students present for the pepper spraying are asking for — the removal of campus police officers involved.

"The purpose of the review panel is not to take action against anyone," Myers said. "We will write a report to [SMC President] Dr. [Chui] Tsang to indicate what we think happened, what the college did right, what it did wrong and what it could do in the future to improve its response to situations like this."

Panelists will be reviewing video tape, reports other institutions have done as well as police guidelines and campus policies regarding crowd management to see where officials erred in dealing with the situation.

That includes "use of force" manuals written for the Santa Monica College Police Department, which Myers believes includes sections regarding pepper spray, and even specs on the particular kind of pepper spray used on protesters at the April 3 Board of Trustees meeting.

The team will meet in coming weeks to determine its next steps, and hopes to conclude its work by the end of the summer, Myers said.

A similar panel was convened in 2009 after violent protests erupted outside a Board of Regents meeting on the UCLA campus. The regents were considering a 32 percent across-the-board fee increase.

It took over a year for that group to come back with results, which largely pointed to a breakdown in communications and planning between administrators and police officers that could have prevented some of the conflicts that ended with the tazing of several students.

Tsang appointed the panel last Friday at the same meeting that the Board of Trustees voted to cancel 50 classes for the summer session that would have required students to pay the full cost of a class, or approximately four times the normal state-subsidized amount. The classes would have been offered in addition to some 700 others that students could take at the subsidized rate.

SMC officials came up with the plan as a way to offer more classes to students following cuts in funding from the state. Some students have been unable to get into the classes they need to graduate or transfer.

The proposal drew fire from students who called it a privatization of their public education, and Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott warned that it might not be legal.

Attorney General Kamala Harris' office is reviewing the matter.

Crowds of students and other protesters attended the Board of Trustees meeting to lodge their complaints not only against the self-funded classes, but also at the way in which officials pushed it forward, skipping over committees with student and faculty representation.

The board room was too small to accommodate all of the speakers, who were then directed to an overflow room.

Videos of the night show crowds of protesters yelling and then screaming and trying to flee as the pepper spray was unleashed in the tight confines of a hallway.

Santa Monica College officials have indicated that the college will pick up the tab for medical bills.

The SMC Police Department is also conducting an internal investigation regarding the pepper spraying.

ashley@smdp.com

SAMOHI
FROM PAGE 3

scoring Eric Gomez and Barbarin.

Eastern was able to scratch out a run in the fifth inning when Nick Tierno scored Dylan McCarty on a fielder's choice. But, it wasn't enough to stave off a surging Samohi team that has won five out of the last six games.

Adding a little more salt to the wound, Samohi finished the game with an exclamation mark in the form of a home run off the bat of shortstop Mason Landis.

The Vikings' recent winning ways is starting to make a believer out of Head Coach Sheldon Philip-Guide.

"We're getting hot, finding energy," Philip-Guide said. "I knew we could do this, we're streaking at the right time."

Samohi concludes the Babe Herman Tournament today against Torrance at Stengel Ballfield in Glendale. The game begins at 1 p.m.

The Vikings are 2-1 in the tourney thus far. Eastern fell to 1-2 during their trip to the Golden State.

THEY ARE AN EXCELLENT BALL CLUB. WE KNEW THAT COMING OUT HERE."

Rob Christ,
Eastern's head coach

The win improves Samohi to 8-10 on the season after a slow start.

Their current momentum will serve them well as they return to Ocean League play next week with a home-and-home two-game series against Inglewood.

"I like our chances," Philip-Guide said of his defending league champs. "We're starting to click real nice."

daniela@smdp.com





GAS
FROM PAGE 3

Information Service. "Anytime the price goes up, it's going to affect things."

The government said there's a small chance the price could climb as high as $4.50 a gallon in June.

Pump prices have risen with crude oil, which is refined into gasoline and other fuels. Brent crude, which is used to price most of the oil used by U.S. refineries, has jumped by 14 percent this year. Benchmark U.S. crude has increased by 4 percent. The increase is largely due to a dispute over Iran's nuclear program that has raised fears of a disruption in Middle East supplies.

Americans have responded to high prices by using less gasoline. That should continue over the summer, the government says. But energy forecasters still expect households to spend an average of $3,410 for gas this year, up $250 from last year.

The tourism industry pays close attention to gasoline prices during the summer since it has such a big impact on their bottom line.

Anne Banas, executive editor of the travel website SmarterTravel.com, said that higher gas prices might force travelers to stay at cheaper hotels this summer. They also may decide to cut their trips short. But most won't stay home.

"People will still travel for summer vacation and still perceive a driving vacation as cheaper than flying," Banas said.

The government made a number of other predictions in its report:

• Refineries will produce less gasoline and other fuels this summer. The decline of about 0.6 percent is due partly to closures of three refineries that feed East Coast markets. Another refinery in Philadelphia is expected to be closed by July 1 if the owner, Sunoco Inc., can't find a buyer.

• Diesel prices should be 27 cents per gallon higher during the summer driving season at an average of $4.21 per gallon. Prices could peak at a monthly average of $4.25 per gallon in the middle of the driving season.

The Energy Information Administration included its summer forecast as part of its monthly outlook.

DURKEE
FROM PAGE 1

It is believed to be the largest embezzlement case involving political campaign funds in the nation's history.

Feinstein lost an estimated $4.5 million from her re-election account, while other Democratic members of Congress, the state Legislature and political organizations lost millions more. Durkee could face as long as 14 years in prison when she is sentenced in June.

Some of Durkee's victim's included Santa Monica City Councilman Terry O'Day, among others.

Feinstein said it's been a difficult experience but she is not worried that the loss will hinder her re-election campaign. Feinstein replaced the campaign money with a $5 million loan from her personal fortune.

"This is a very hard thing because I had used Mrs. Durkee in two prior campaigns and there never was a problem," Feinstein said. "And we lost a lot of money that donors had given."

She described Durkee as the "go-to Democratic fiduciary" in California but said she did not have a personal relationship with Durkee.

Last week, a draft opinion from the Federal Election Commission indicated that it probably will reject Feinstein's request to allow her to replace the lost money with new contributions from the original donors. The senator had hoped that her largest supporters could contribute again without the original donation being counted against federal caps of $2,500 per election cycle from individuals and $5,000 per election from political action committees.

"It would have been easier if I could have gone back and re-solicited," Feinstein, 78, said Tuesday. "But even if I can't, it doesn't stop anything."

She said she is not worried about her ability to finance an effective re-election campaign, adding "I don't have a major opponent."

Republican newcomer Elizabeth Emken, a mother of three who has lobbied for an autism advocacy group, spoke to reporters ahead of Feinstein's address and said it's time to retire such career politicians who have contributed to the national debt.

"We have to start with retiring Washington insiders like Dianne Feinstein, who's simply out of touch with the reality of what we're facing in California," Emken said.

Emken, 49, lobbied Congress during the debate over the health care bill to require insurance companies to cover autism. She said the health care reform law has failed to improve the delivery of medical services and vowed to repeal the federal law.

During her address, Feinstein said the economy is on the mend but government can do more to help homeowners who are upside down on their mortgages and to encourage businesses to manufacture in the U.S.

She announced that she would sponsor a bill to lower corporate taxes, from 35 percent to 15 percent, for companies that make patented products in the U.S.

The senator also said she supports Gov. Jerry Brown's push for a bullet train in California despite the project's high cost.

The California High-Speed Rail Authority recently released an updated business plan that lowered the price from $98 billion to $68.4 billion, but the price tag remains far higher than the $43 billion promised in a ballot initiative voters approved four years ago.

"Do I think it's doable? Yes. Do I think it's doable with all the bells and whistles? No. And that's a decision that has to be made," Feinstein said.

Emken said she opposed the rail project because she didn't see it as a prudent investment.

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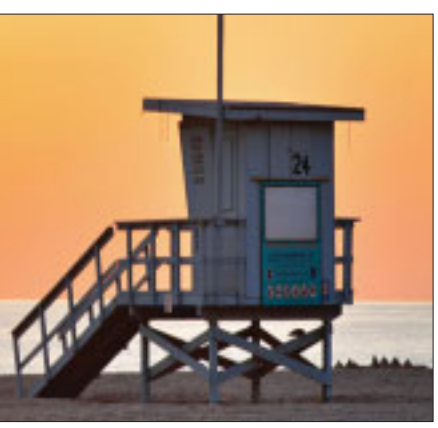
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President Obama, Romney duel over personal status

KEN THOMAS
Associated Press

BOCA RATON, Fla. One candidate is worth up to $250 million, ran a private equity firm and plans to build an elevator for the cars at his beach house. The other is the former head of the Harvard Law Review who became a best-selling author and millionaire and now lives in the world's most famous mansion — 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

Just don't expect Mitt Romney and President Barack Obama to embrace their elite status. In a campaign year when populism sells, they are trying to stick the rich guy label on each other, making clear that being wealthy and privileged is not necessarily a political asset when you're running for president in this uncertain economy.

Obama, making a middle-class pitch in wealthy Florida enclaves, opened a new push by Democrats on Tuesday to increase taxes on millionaires, emphasizing a fight with Republicans. The proposal stands little chance of passing in Congress but serves as a stark general election contrast with Romney.

"We've got to choose which direction we want this country to go," Obama told a boisterous audience of students at Florida Atlantic University. "Do we want to keep giving tax breaks to folks like me who don't need them? ... Or do we want to keep investing in those things that keep our economy growing and keep us secure?"

The former Massachusetts governor, who opposes the plan, has faced withering criticism from Democrats who try to paint him as a ruthless financier who has paid lower tax rates unavailable to typical middle class families.

On the other hand, Romney's team contends Obama's plan would raise taxes on small businesses, harming an engine of growth and job creation at a time when the economy needs it the most.

Romney campaign spokeswoman Gail Gitcho said Obama was the "first president in history to openly campaign for re-election on a platform of higher taxes," and the Republican National Committee called the idea of higher taxes on millionaires a "political distraction" that would do little to cure the nation's debt problem.

Obama is pitching the "Buffett rule," named after billionaire investor Warren Buffett, which argues that wealthy taxpayers should not pay taxes at a lower rate than middle-class wage-earners. Obama has proposed that people earning at least $1 million annually — whether in salary or investments — should pay at least 30 percent of their income in taxes. Many wealthy people earn most of their income through investments, which is taxed at 15 percent, allowing them to pay a lower overall rate.

Obama's team and Senate Democrats have teed up the issue ahead of the annual mid-April deadline when many Americans file their income tax returns with the federal government. In addition to Obama's speech, the president was expected to appear with millionaires and their secretaries who support the plan at the White House on Wednesday while Vice President Joe Biden was discussing the issue in a campaign speech in New Hampshire on Thursday. Yet beyond tax policy, the Buffett rule serves as a touchstone in the contenders' fight to portray each other as the candidate of the elite at a time of 8.2 percent unemployment.

While both Romney and Obama are millionaires, there is a huge difference in their wealth. Presidential candidates have to disclose broad outlines of their holdings, but it's possible to discern only a wide range. Romney is worth $190 million to $250 million, according to the filings. Obama is worth between $1.8 million and nearly $12 million.

Democrats contend Romney's past as head of the private equity firm Bain Capital is a major weakness because he was paid to reorganize companies, a process that sometimes led to the elimination of jobs. Obama's campaign has repeatedly pressed Romney to release several years of tax returns, pointing to personal tax records that have shown investments in the Cayman Islands and a Swiss bank account. There have been no indications, however, that the investments were used to avoid taxes.

And then there are some of the video clips circulating on YouTube: Romney's proposed $10,000 bet to Texas Gov. Rick Perry during a debate in December; his declaration in January, discussing health insurance providers, that he likes "being able to fire people who provide services to me," and more recently his comment in February that he's "not concerned about the very poor" because they have an "ample safety net."

Romney's wealth gained more attention last month when Politico reported that planned renovations to his San Diego-area oceanside home included a four-vehicle garage with an "elevator lift" to transport vehicles between floors.

Romney, focusing ever more attention on Obama, has made a concerted push to paint the president as a detached liberal who doesn't fully grasp the depths of the nation's economic woes. Obama, who has written two best-selling books and taught at the University of Chicago School of Law, is portrayed as an enthusiastic supporter of government instead of private enterprise.

In one dig, Romney calls Obama a "nice guy ... who spent too much time at Harvard" — though Romney himself earned a joint JD/MBA at Harvard, spending more time there than Obama. Romney also says the president suffers from "years of flying around on Air Force One, surrounded by an adoring staff of true believers telling you that you're great and doing a great job."

Both would be considered wealthy by any standard. Romney's campaign has estimated that he is paying more than $6.2 million in taxes on $45 million in income for the past two years. Obama and his wife, Michelle, reported income of $1.73 million last year, mostly from books he's written, and they paid more than $450,000 in federal taxes.

Both Romney and Obama have made appeals to Americans by highlighting more routine endeavors: Obama ventured into an Irish pub on St. Patrick's Day to down a pint of Guinness and frequently talks about his devotion to basketball and other sports. Romney, whom aides describe as a penny-pincher, has used Twitter to remind voters about flying Southwest Airlines and grabbing lunch at Subway. In January, one of Romney's sons circulated a photo of his dad doing his own laundry.



Rick Santorum suspends GOP presidential campaign

MARC LEVY
Associated Press

GETTYSBURG, Pa. Bowing to the inevitable after an improbably resilient run for the White House, Rick Santorum quit the presidential race on Tuesday, clearing the way for Mitt Romney to claim the Republican nomination.

"We made a decision over the weekend, that while this presidential race for us is over, for me, and we will suspend our campaign today, we are not done fighting," he said.

Santorum, appearing with his family, told supporters that the battle to defeat President Barack Obama would go on but pointedly made no mention or endorsement of Romney, whom he had derided as an unworthy standard-bearer for the GOP.

The former Pennsylvania senator stressed that he'd taken his presidential bid farther than anyone expected, calling his campaign "as improbable as any race that you will ever see for president."

"Against all odds," he said, "we won 11 states, millions of voters, millions of votes."

Santorum signaled his intent to maintain a voice in the campaign to come, saying: "This game is a long, long, long way from over. We will continue to go out and fight and defeat President Barack Obama."

Santorum spoke with Romney before the announcement, a Republican source close to the campaign said, and Romney asked to meet him sometime in the future

The delegate totals told the tale of Santorum's demise. Romney has more than twice as many delegates as Santorum and is on pace to reach the 1,144 delegates needed to clinch the nomination by early June. Still in the race, but not considered a factor: former House Speaker Newt Gingrich and Texas Rep. Ron Paul.

Santorum had hoped to keep his campaign going through the Pennsylvania primary on April 24, but decided to fold after his severely ill 3-year-old daughter, Bella, spent the weekend in the hospital.

Santorum, a feisty campaigner who took everyone by surprise with his win in Iowa's leadoff caucuses, ran on his conservative credentials and his experience in Congress — he was a House member for four years and senator for 12 — but was hobbled by a lack of money and organization.

He said that while Romney was accumulating more delegates, "we were winning in a very different way. We were touching hearts" with a conservative message.

In a statement, Romney called Santorum "an able and worthy competitor" and congratulated him on his campaign.

"He has proven himself to be an important voice in our party and in the nation," Romney said. "We both recognize that what is most important is putting the failures of the last three years behind us and setting America back on the path to prosperity."

With Romney on his way to the nomination and a contest against the president, Obama's campaign manager, Jim Messina, sharply criticized Romney for waging a negative ad campaign against his opponents.

"It's no surprise that Mitt Romney finally was able to grind down his opponents under an avalanche of negative ads. But neither he nor his special interest allies will be able to buy the presidency with their negative attacks," Messina said. "The more the American people see of Mitt Romney, the less they like him and the less they trust him."

Santorum said the campaign had been "a love affair for me, going from state to state. ... We were raising issues, frankly, that a lot of people did not want raised."

He spoke almost nostalgically of the race, and of his trademark sweater vest, a pointed visual contrast to his suited rivals.

"Over and over again we were told, 'Forget it. You can't win,'" he said.

Eventually, the improbable had to bow to reality: Santorum would have needed 80 percent of the remaining delegates to win the nomination before the party's national convention in Florida in August. And that couldn't happen as long as Romney was in the race because most upcoming primaries use some type of proportional system to award delegates, making it hard to win large numbers of delegates in individual states.

In most states, Santorum's delegates can now support any candidate they choose.

Gingrich, who has been splitting the votes of those who questioned Romney's conservative credentials with Santorum, made an immediate play for his supporters.

He said the former senator's campaign was "a testament to his tenacity and the power of conservative principles.

"I am committed to staying in this race all the way to Tampa so that the conservative movement has a real choice. I humbly ask Senator Santorum's supporters to visit Newt.org to review my conservative record and join us as we bring these values to Tampa."

Paul also congratulated Santorum for "running such a spirited campaign" and called himself "the last — and real — conservative alternative to Mitt Romney."

Suspending the campaign allows Santorum to keep paying off nearly $1 million in debt, according to recent Federal Election Commission filings. Those debts include about $500,000 for media consulting and tens of thousands more for telemarking and online advertising, records show.

Other presidential candidates have eventually extinguished their debt and terminated their campaigns. Former Minnesota Gov. Tom Pawlenty officially shuttered his campaign committee on Tuesday, owing as much as a half a million dollars last fall but slowly whittling that figure down.

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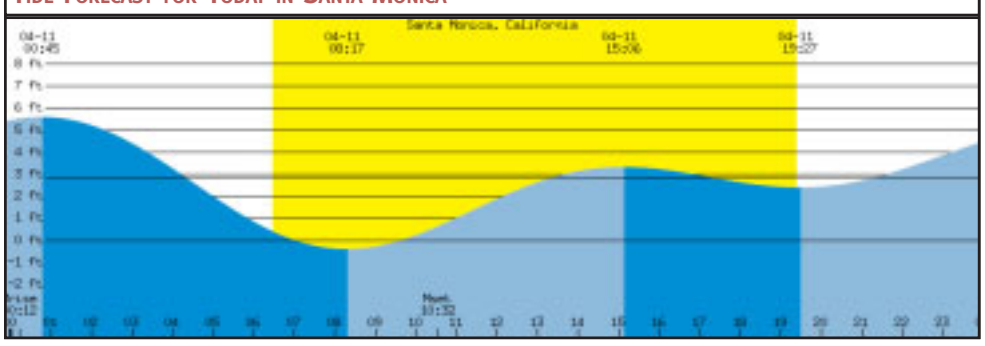
Swell Forecast

NW swell should back down to waist to chest. South facing breaks look similarly sized. Rain is likely.

Long Range Synopsis

Looking at knee to waist high waves at west facing breaks, waist high at west facing spots.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



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NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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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 -- 13
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 34 / 14
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

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

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 Los 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+	F
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	C
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	F
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	F	A
Solstice Canyon at Ben Blocker County Beach.	A+	D
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	C
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.	B	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A	B
Corbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	A
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	F
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	A
Pena Creek at Los Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	D	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	C	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A	B
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+	A

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+	A
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	A
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	B	A
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	A+
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	F	B
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	C
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+	A
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	F	A+
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	A
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	B
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach - lifeguard tower.	A	C
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	B	C
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+	A
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	A
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	A

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone

WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days

ns -- no sample taken

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

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

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

Heal the Bay

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MLB

Ethier powers Dodgers to victory on dual birthdays

BY GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES The fans in right field began serenading Andre Ethier midway through the home opener Tuesday, singing several choruses of "Happy Birthday" and raising drinks in honor of both the outfielder's 30th birthday and Dodger Stadium's 50th anniversary.

On such a celebratory day for this revitalized franchise, Ethier felt he couldn't send those fans home without a win.

Ethier hit a tiebreaking homer with two outs in the eighth inning Tuesday, sending the Los Angeles Dodgers to a 2-1 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

"I guess that's a good birthday present for this stadium, too," Ethier said.

Exactly 50 years after Dodger Stadium opened, Ethier hit a solo shot off Jason Grilli (0-1) before emerging from the dugout for a curtain call that didn't seem out of place, even in early April.

Ethier and Clayton Kershaw both noticed the sellout crowd buzzing throughout the afternoon, fairly pulsating with something more than the usual spring optimism of baseball fans. After two years of mediocrity on the field and increasingly bizarre developments in the front office of Southern California's much-loved team, the Dodgers are off to a 4-1 start to their first season since resolving Frank McCourt's messy ownership tenure.

"Everybody is excited about what's going on right now, and rightfully so," said Ethier, starting his seventh season with the Dodgers. "The vibe in this stadium today, that's an addicting feeling. We had that for several years here, and then it went away, and part of that was how we were playing on the field. It felt good to look up and see that support again."

Matt Kemp drove in a run in a club record-tying ninth straight game with a first-inning groundout for the Dodgers, but Matt Hague's RBI grounder in the seventh evened it. Los Angeles couldn't capitalize on seven strong innings from Kershaw, with Pittsburgh's Kevin Correia largely matching the NL Cy Young Award winner.

Kenley Jansen (1-0) pitched the eighth, and Javy Guerra pitched the ninth for his third save.

"Even in camp, these guys were fired up about what we thought we could do," Dodgers manager Don Mattingly said. "It seems like we're going to be in a lot of close games this season, no matter what. We're going to have to get big hits and big outs when we need them, and we did that today."

The Dodgers began the 50th-anniversary celebration of their ballpark with numerous tributes to their venerable stadium while welcoming back several members of their 1962 roster, including Maury Wills and Tommy Davis. Two notable figures didn't join the festivities, however: broadcaster Vin Scully stayed home to nurse a cold, and prospective new Dodgers co-owner Magic Johnson was away in New York.

Kershaw allowed four hits and struck out seven, bouncing back from his first start last week in San Diego, which ended after three innings because of an illness that lingered until recently. He failed to win at home for just the third time in 14 starts, but still hasn't lost at Dodger Stadium since early last season.

Pittsburgh opened a nine-game trip with just five hits against Kershaw and the Dodgers' bullpen. After Grilli yielded the decisive homer, Andrew McCutchen grounded into a game-ending double play.

"I love the adversity," Grilli said. "If I don't, then I shouldn't be doing this. But I relish it. I mean, I'm not happy about what happened today, but I can't wait to get the ball the next time, because I'm going to win that battle. I guess the good thing about being a reliever is that you can come back out tomorrow and redeem yourself and be a hero."

Correia yielded four hits and two walks over six innings in his season debut for Pittsburgh after missing the final six weeks of last season with a strained oblique.

"It's a small sample, but we've been pitching great," Pirates catcher Rod Barajas said. "But we've had some tough matchups: (Roy) Halladay, (Cliff) Lee, (Cole) Hamels, and then we get Kershaw, but we're competing day in and day out. So no matter who's on the mound, we're going to battle. Hopefully we come out on top more often than not."

NOTES: The Beach Boys, who are also celebrating their 50th anniversary this year, performed before the game and sang the national anthem. Brian Wilson and his fellow members wore Dodgers jerseys with No. 50 on the back. ... Dee Gordon led off the first with a single and scored on a groundout by Kemp, who tied the franchise record for consecutive games with an RBI shared by Roy Campanella and Augie Galan.... Chad Billingsley goes for his second win of the young season when he takes the mound for the Dodgers on Wednesday night against Pittsburgh's Erik Bedard.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

The Player (R) 2hr 4min
7:30pm

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

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

American Reunion (R) 1hr 53min
1:00pm, 4:05pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

Titanic 3D (PG-13) 3hrs 14min
1:15pm, 5:30pm, 9:30pm

We the Party (R) 1hr 44min
1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:15pm, 9:55pm

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

21 Jump Street (R) 1hr 49min
11:45am, 1:30pm, 2:30pm, 4:20pm, 5:20pm, 7:10pm, 8:10pm,10:00pm

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
12:05pm, 3:30pm, 7:00pm, 10:20pm

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

American Reunion (R) 1hr 53min
11:00am, 1:45pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:20pm

Titanic 3D (PG-13) 3hrs 14min
11:50am, 4:15pm, 8:30pm

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

Attenberg (NR) 1hr 35min
1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

Comic-Con: Episode IV - A Fan's Hope (PG-13) 1hr 28min
1:00pm, 3:15pm, 5:30pm, 7:45pm, 10:00pm

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

Delicacy (PG-13) 11min
1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:10pm, 9:45pm

AMC Criterion 6
1313 Third St.
(310) 395-1599

Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (PG) 1hr 35min
2:25pm, 7:40pm

Wrath of the Titans 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
11:45am, 2:25pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

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

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

Raid: Redemption (Serbuan maut) (R) 1hr 41min
11:25am, 2:05pm, 4:45pm, 7:20pm, 9:50pm

Salmon Fishing in the Yemen (PG-13) 1hr 52min
11:15am, 1:55pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:10pm

Dr. Seuss' The Lorax 3D (PG) 1 hr, 35min
11:55am, 5:00pm, 10:00pm

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

The world is your oyster, Cappy

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Your take-charge attitude saves the day. Your intuition plays a significant role in your decision-making process. The unexpected forces you to regroup more than once. By now, the unexpected is expected. Tonight: You could go to the wee hours.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Talk directly with a partner instead of leaving a message. Your high energy makes all the difference in how you interact with others. You could carry on until the wee hours. Tonight: Keep your insights and opinions to yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Defer to others, as ultimately you will have less on your plate. A brainstorming session later in the day brings you insight and direction. You know you can work with this person, so allow a natural bonding to occur. A friend acts in an unexpected manner. Tonight: Continue a talk.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ Others step forward and share a problem. Listen to news and know that more information of the same nature could be forthcoming. Do more listening than talking. A boss or someone you look up to acts in a most unpredictable manner. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Your creativity and energy, when funneled properly, could make a big difference. Use your abilities to the max, and consider an opportunity once more. You might see it a lot differently this time. Tonight: Put your feet up.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You might suffer from sleep deprivation this morning. This will pass, and quickly at that. Your imagination and creativity will soar by the afternoon. At this point, take on what you want. Trust your instincts. Tonight: Take a midweek break.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Your sense of direction could define the morning. Use that period to the max, when the Force is with you. By the afternoon, some quiet work or yoga will help you gain an even bigger perspective. Tonight: Make it early.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Understand what is happening behind the scenes. How you see a situation could change dramatically. Be sensitive to someone who frequently makes you nervous. Find out what is going on with this person. Tonight: Hang out.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Use the morning to the max. By the afternoon, your interest could change; you might become a little flighty. Let go and do what you want. Extremes are likely to play into what happens. Your energy will surge as a result of this change of pace. Tonight: Your treat.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You move slowly into a new venture, relationship and/or commitment. Wondering what lies ahead is normal. If you do not take a risk, you will end up with nothing. It's an excellent idea to debate the pros and cons, but know that eventually a decision will be necessary. Tonight: Act like the world is your oyster.

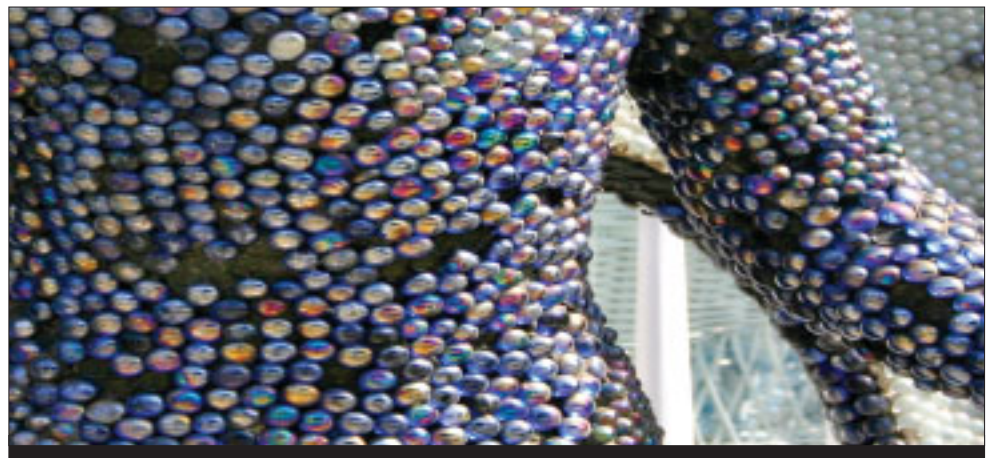
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Meetings in the morning seem to give you a sense of direction. Still, your follow-through could be flawed, which is unusual. The bottom line might be that you need some time off. Why not go with an offer rather than fight City Hall? Tonight: What would be best for you?

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Say what you want. Do what you want. Trust in your abilities to move a project forward. You have the ability to hit a home run if you so choose. Listen to associates, but follow through on what you think might be best. Tonight: Where the action is.

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

Happy birthday

You have changed in a profound way. This transformation will start to appear in different areas of your life, even as superficially as how you look or project yourself. Others will adjust, though you might lose a friend or two who cannot accept the new you. If you are single, you attract quite an assortment of characters. Whomever you choose to be with will make you quite happy, at least for now. If you are attached, the two of you act like new lovers. Optimism surrounds your relationship. CAPRICORN can be demanding.



MYSTERY PHOTO

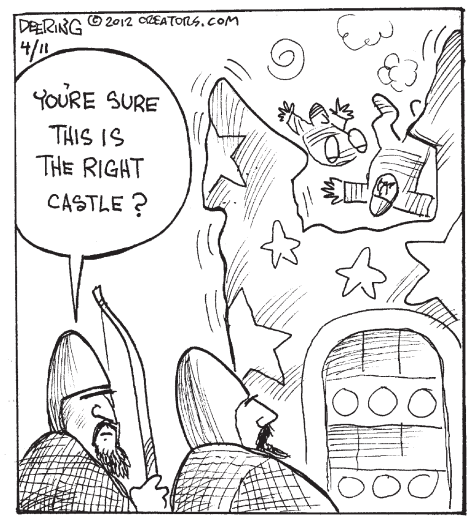
Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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



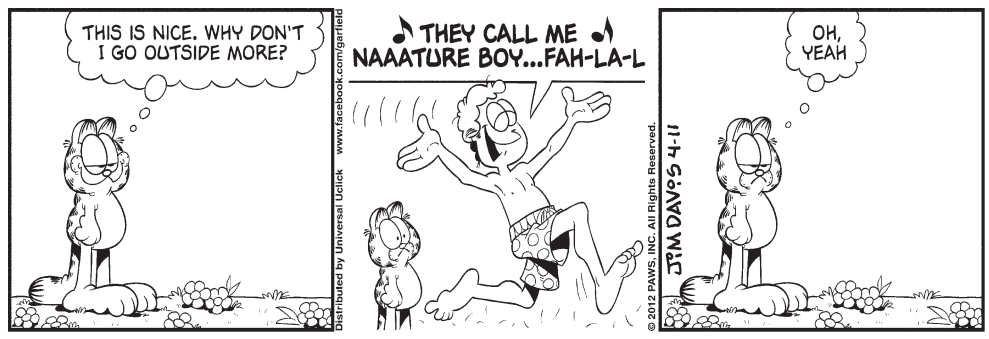
Strange Brew
By John Deering



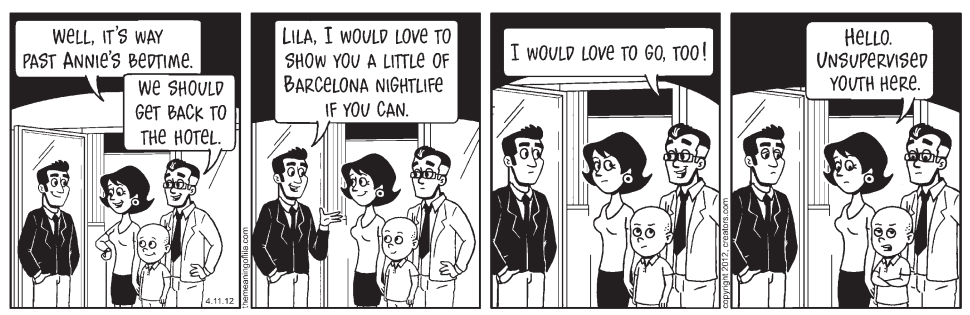
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



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 ★★★

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

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

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Map region
5 "Wild!"
11 "It's —!" (proud parents' phrase)
12 Scaly pet
13 Tiny opening
14 Singer Brook
15 Harden
16 English county
17 Core
19 Spotted
22 Like a bloodhound
24 Get a goal
26 Composer Charles
27 Luau dance
28 Monument Valley sights
30 Croc's cousin
31 Bank acct. addition
32 "— the Raven ..."
34 Roadster
35 Angled pipe
38 Sartre play
41 Harry Belafonte hit
42 Whole
43 Capital on a fjord
44 Movie ad
45 Flower part

DOWN

1 Hits with a ray gun
2 Clarinet cousin
3 Washington setting
4 Needle part
5 Bran offering
6 Reps
7 Little one
8 Bran bit
9 First número
10 Shoe shade
16 Singer Starr
18 "Born Free" lion
19 Florida setting
20 Singer Guthrie
21 Dress in
22 Rock's Hendrix
23 Kitchen sight
25 Talk
29 Knight's attendant
30 Sticky stuff
33 Complete
34 Line of symmetry
36 Singer Lovett
37 Weaving need
38 Court divider
39 Low digit
40 Seventh Greek letter
41 Twice 9-Down

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

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

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						■	45			

4-11

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

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

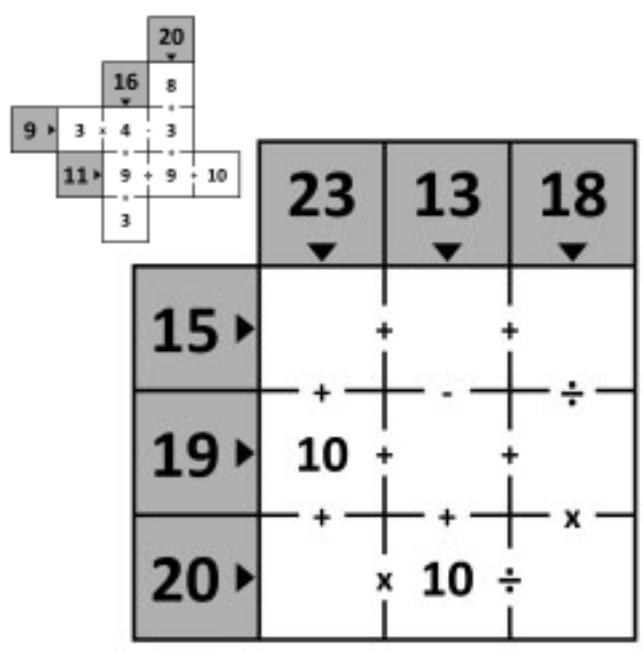
• Remember to multiply or divide before you add or subtract.

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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, 1, 3, 6, 8, 11, 12

Solution for Task 591



DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 4/10
2 6 12 31 48
Meganumber: 25
Jackpot: $31M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 4/7
9 16 25 45 47
Meganumber: 5
Jackpot: $7M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 4/10
7 11 27 30 34

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 4/10
MIDDAY: 7 7 2
EVENING: 8 3 8

SANTA ANITA PARK
Draw Date: 4/10
1st: 07 Eureka
2nd: 01 Gold Rush
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit
RACE TIME: 1:43.23

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ **Controlling the Waters:** (1) A February bill in the Wyoming legislature to prepare the state for possible secession authorized a task force to consider establishing a state army, navy, marine corps and air force, and one amendment added the consideration of purchasing an aircraft carrier. Wyoming is, of course, landlocked, but it does have the 136-square-mile Yellowstone Lake, though that body of water is high up in the Teton mountains. (The aircraft- carrier amendment was defeated even though 27 representatives voted for it.) (2) Texas announced in February that it would deploy six gunboats to patrol the Mexican border's Rio Grande river. Said a state Department of Safety official, "It sends a message: Don't mess with Texas."

■ With a National Institute of Justice grant, the Houston Police Department was able to learn precisely how embarrassingly bad it had been in investigating rape cases. In February it conceded that, as of December, it had on hand 6,663 untested rape kits (some from the 1980s) taken from rape victims at the time of the crime but then apparently ignored. (Not all are significant: In some rapes, a perpetrator has already confessed or been convicted, and still other victims recanted, and in still others, the statute of limitations has run out.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1981 - A massive riot in Brixton, South London, results in almost 300 police injuries and 65 serious civilian injuries.

1993 - 450 prisoners rioted at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility in Lucasville, Ohio, and continued to do so for ten days, citing grievances related to prison conditions, as well as the forced vaccination of Nation of Islam prisoners (for tuberculosis) against their religious beliefs.

WORD UP!

caparison
\ kuh-PAR-uh-suhn \ , verb;
1. To dress richly; deck.
2. To cover with a caparison.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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SATURDAY, APRIL 21ST, 2012 / EVENT BEGINS AT 9AM

SANTA MONICA BEACH / Just North of the Santa Monica Pier / Pre-Registration: $35/ Onsite $40

Come out and support Santa Monica Baykeeper by participating in the inaugural Earth Day Festival Stand-Up Paddle Competitive & Fun Race. Activities include: Yoga on a board, Kid's Education & Fun Zone, Water Sampling Demo Station, Clean Water Act Speakers, Stand Up Paddle Lessons, Interactive Booths, Raffle Prizes, Solar Powered DJs: SYCONS. Event proceeds go directly to SM Baykeeper's mission to protect and preserve the Santa Monica Bay.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT SUP4CLEANWATER.ORG / 310-305-9645 EXT. 114

NATIONAL PRESENTING SPONSOR: TOYOTA
NATIONAL FOUNDING SPONSOR: KEEN
CITY OF LOS ANGELES SANITATION DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
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CITY OF SANTA MONICA A Sustainable Community sustainablesm.org
Annenberg Community Beach House AT SANTA MONICA STATE BEACH
Friends of the Los Angeles River
H2O Trash PATROL
WASHED UP
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CALL TODAY FOR SPECIAL MONTHLY RATES!

There is no more convincing medium than a DAILY local newspaper.

Prepay your ad today!

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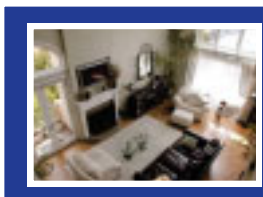
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING CONDITIONS: REGULAR RATE: $7.50 a day. Ads over 15 words add 30¢ per word per day. Ad must run a minimum of twelve consecutive days. PREMIUMS: First two words caps no charge. Bold words, italics, centered lines, etc. cost extra. Please call for rates. TYPOS: Check your ad the first day of publication. Sorry, we do not issue credit after an ad has run more than once. DEADLINES: 3:00 p.m. prior the day of publication except for Monday's paper when the deadline is Friday at 2:30 p.m. PAYMENT: All private party ads must be pre-paid. We accept checks, credit cards, and of course cash. CORRESPONDENCE: To place your ad call our offices 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, (310) 458-7737; send a check or money order with ad copy to The Santa Monica Daily Press, P.O. Box 1380, Santa Monica, CA 90406. OTHER RATES: For information about the professional services directory or classified display ads, please call our office at (310) 458-7737.



Kate Bransfield

Estates Director
Society of Excellence
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COLDWELL BANKER PREVIEWS INTERNATIONAL







Penthouse
1018 4th Street #304

$5,900 per month



- 2 Bedroom
- 2.5 Bath
- Almost 2000 sq ft
- Loft over Liv Rm & Mstr
- Fireplace
- Roof-top Deck
- Built in 2000
- Remodeled 2005

Fabulous Location
South-West Exposure

2202 Georgina Avenue

Just Sold

(I represented the Buyer)

List Price

$9,100,000



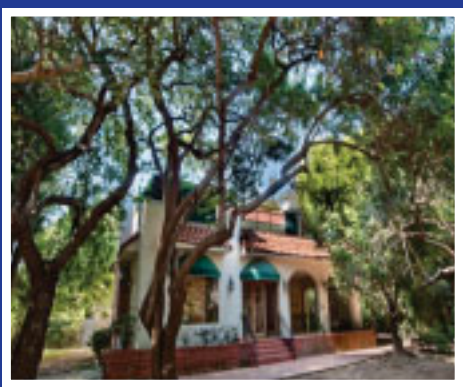
526 Palisades Avenue

In Escrow

17,250 +/- Square Foot Lot

$4,200,000

Open Sunday
April 15th
2:00 pm — 5:00 pm



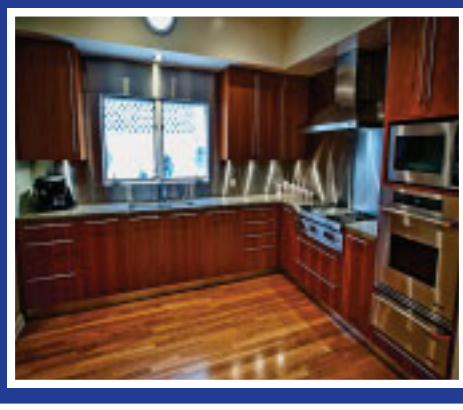
619 Euclid Street

In Escrow

Great Square Footage

$2,899,000

Open Sunday
April 15th
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 Mid - April 2012

Santa Monica Canyon	=	$1,619,500
North of Montana	=	$3,499,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$1,895,000
South of Wilshire	=	$850,000
Sunset Park	=	$979,000
Ocean Park	=	$1,649,000

Statistics updated every Monday

1424 Marguerita Avenue

Just Sold

$2,999,000

North of Montana
Wonderful, Corner Lot



Kate Bransfield
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FRANKLIN Elementary School

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LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL SANTA MONICA, CA

Santa Monica LITTLE LEAGUE

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