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Santa Monica Daily Press
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 135

Santa Monica Daily Press

SAMOHI HOLDS OFF INGLEWOOD
SEE PAGE 3

We have you covered

THE LEGAL BATTLE ISSUE

SoCal home prices hit six-month high

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN DIEGO Sales of high-end homes lifted prices to a six-month high in Southern California in March, as the region's housing market remained in a gradual recovery, a research firm said Tuesday.

There were 19,953 new and existing homes and condos sold in a six-county region, up 2.8 percent from a year earlier, DataQuick said, marking the third-straight annual increase and the seventh in eight months.

The median price was $280,000, down 0.2 percent from the same time last year and matching the highest level since September.

Sales rose sharply from February, reflecting a usual seasonal increase as spring begins.

"The year is young and lots could still change, but the results from the first big sales month of 2012 suggest the market is stuck in low gear. This remains a very gradual, not to mention fragile, recovery," said John Walsh, president of the San Diego-based research firm.

Sales of homes for at least $500,000 jumped 36 percent in March from February, outpacing the total sales increase of 28.1 percent for those months, DataQuick said.

DataQuick said about half of the purchases of existing homes were distressed sales. Homes that were foreclosed upon in the previous year made up 31.1 percent of existing home sales. Short sales — where the seller owes more than the purchase price — accounted for 18.9 percent.

Absentee buyers — largely investors and second-home purchasers — continued to drive the recovery, buying 28 percent of all homes. That's down from 29.9 percent in February but up from 26.2 percent in the year-ago period.

Results varied between coastal and less expensive inland areas. In Orange County, sales jumped 9.2 percent while prices dropped 7 percent. In Riverside County, sales slipped 2.3 percent while prices rose 1 percent.

Homes are selling more quickly near the coast than they did last year, while it's taking more time in some inland areas, according to the California Association of Realtors. In Orange County, it has taken a median of 70.2 days to sell a home, down from 79 days last year. In Riverside County, it's taking 58.5 days, up from 52.5 days last year.

Agree to disagree?

State Attorney General sides against SMC's two-tier courses

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMC Protesters against the concept of self-funded classes at Santa Monica College have something to celebrate — the law seems to be on their side.

That's the word coming from officials with the Community College Chancellor's Office, who say that conversations with the Attorney General's Office reassured them that the classes, which require a student to shoulder the full cost of instruction, are not allowed under the state's education code.

SMC officials had proposed to create the additional course offerings under the con-

SEE SMC PAGE 11



TAX 'EM

Ray Solano *news@smdp.com*

About a dozen protesters with MoveOn.org march in front of the Yahoo! Center on Tuesday as part of a tax filing day protest calling on major corporations to pay their fair share of taxes to Uncle Sam. The protesters want to close corporate tax loopholes that could raise nearly $1.5 trillion over 10 years, according to the Center for Tax Justice.

Metro Cab proposes sale to outside organization

All Yellow Taxi would use name and cars

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE A member of Santa Monica's taxi franchise system with numerous violations of its agreement with City Hall is looking to sell its business to an outside firm, preferably before it loses the most valuable part of its portfolio — the franchise itself.

Metro Cab, a local firm that operates only within Santa Monica, has approached City Hall with the desire to sell its business to All Yellow Taxi after both the company and city officials expressed concerns about Metro's financial viability and violations of the franchise rules.

All Yellow Taxi would continue to operate under Metro's name and use its distinctive green-and-white Priuses.

Discussions between the two companies began approximately eight or nine months ago, said David Gershwin, an attorney for All Yellow Taxi.

It's unclear whether or not the business decided to sell because of the problems it was experiencing or if the decision was made prior.

SEE TAXI PAGE 9


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

'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.

Picking and grinning
Santa Monica Family YMCA
1332 Sixth St., 1 p.m. — 2 p.m.
Learn to play the ukulele during this free workshop. The class is led by Lori Apthorp. For more information, call (310) 393-2721 ext. 129.

For your health
Emperor's College Acupuncture Clinic
1807 Wilshire Blvd.,
8 a.m. — 9:30 a.m.
Spring into health with free acupuncture this April. Jump start the season with renewed energy, better sleep, reduced allergies, fewer headaches and a fresh start. For information, call (310) 453-8383, option 1.

Thursday, April 19, 2012

Eating right
Santa Monica Family YMCA
1332 Sixth St., 4 p.m. — 5 p.m.
Learn the difference between healthy and emotional eating during this free workshop. Emotional eating can be caused by a variety of things, but is not the best health choice. Psychotherapist Rachel Fintzy will teach you some strategies to avoid eating at the wrong times and for the wrong reasons. For more information, call (310) 393-2721 ext. 129.

Reaching out to City Hall
Santa Monica College, Bundy Campus
3171 S. Bundy Dr.,
6:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
City officials are presenting this free workshop to explain the permit and approval process for new and prospective businesses that are looking to renovate. For more information, visit smcsbdc.org.

Friday, April 20, 2012

Tour the facility
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
12:30 p.m. — 1:30 p.m.
Docents will lead visitors through the city's primary library, showing off what the facility has to offer. The tour will showcase the interior and exterior of the Leader in Energy & Environmental Design building. For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

'Proof' on stage
The Church in Ocean Park
235 Hill St., 8 p.m.
Upstart theater company Santa Monica Rep presents the 2001 winner of the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award, "Proof." With Santa Monica locals Ella Martin, Gugun Deep Singh, and Andrea Schell, as well as L.A. stage veteran John Ross Clark among the cast. The production runs through May 12. For more information, call (213) 268-1454.

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



UC officials report jump in out-of-state student admissions

LISA LEFF
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO The percentage of non-Californians admitted to University of California campuses next fall has spiked dramatically, officials reported Tuesday, meaning more tuition for the financially troubled system but anxiety for residents who worry they are being squeezed out of the prestigious schools.

A record 80,289 students, nearly two-thirds of the 126,455 students who applied as freshmen to a UC school, were accepted at one of the public system's nine undergraduate campuses, officials said.

Of that number, 18,846 students, or more than 23 percent of the freshmen, are from out-of-state or abroad and will have to pay nearly three times more than California residents if they decide to enroll.

The figures reflect a marked increase from last year, when 18 percent of freshmen admitted were not from California. And it's almost double the percentage of foreign and out-of-state students who gained admission for fall 2009.

Every campus except Berkeley, where the number of nonresidents admitted declined from a year ago, accepted significantly more international and out-of-state students for the fall 2012 term, preliminary data show. At the same time, four campuses — Los Angeles, Irvine, Merced and Santa Barbara — admitted fewer Californians.

Gov. Jerry Brown said he was disturbed by the trend, and used it as an opportunity to promote a November ballot proposition asking voters to approve a higher sales tax and higher income taxes on those making $250,000 a year or more.

"I don't like it at all," Brown told reporters Tuesday in Sacramento after addressing a meeting of the California Medical Association. "This is ugly, and we'd better do everything we can to slow it down and even reverse it."

Even though the system has stepped up recruitment of students from outside the state, 61,443 Californians — 3.6 percent more than last year — still gained admission to a UC school, though not necessarily to one of the campuses they hoped to attend.

That increase is due to the system accepting 7,900 more freshmen than it did last year.

But because the system received so many more applications across the board, the

SEE **UC SYSTEM** PAGE 10



Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

BRINGING IT: **Samohi starting pitcher Matthew Franco delivers a pitch against Inglewood on Tuesday at home. Samohi won, 9-5.**



Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

OUT! **Samohi shortstop Mason Landis makes a successful throw to first base for an out against Inglewood on Tuesday.**

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Santa Monica stays unbeaten in league

Vikings stem Inglewood rally to improve to 3-0

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI Through four innings, the Santa Monica Vikings were cruising. Then came the top of the fifth.

Inglewood entered the frame down 8-1 and a Samohi Ocean League victory seemed imminent on Tuesday at home. That's when Inglewood awoke to rally for four runs that made it a ball game again. Inglewood had the opportunity for more, but Jaelin James grounded out against relief pitcher Tyler Mulvaney with the bases loaded that gave Samohi a still comfortable 8-5 lead.

"[Mulvaney] kind of struggled a little bit at first," Samohi catcher Lino Lares said. "But, I told him that we have the lead, just settle down a bit."

Samohi would tack on an insurance run in the bottom of the sixth that secured the team's 3-0 start in league play.

Despite allowing the Inglewood short-lived rally, it was the Vikings' offense that won the day.

The Vikings came out swinging in the first inning. Lares began the rally by reaching on an error, putting Japanese transfer Nobu Suzuki in the perfect opportunity to contin-

SEE **SAMOHI** PAGE 9

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Passing the buck

Editor:

The city manager maintains that the bed tax payments generated by new hotel developments are essential to fund present pension agreements, and as Councilmember Bobby Shriver has demonstrated, the developers stand to make millions of dollars on their investments in Santa Monica. Why then does the city staff expect the people who work at the hotels to turn to the taxpayers in order to pay for their healthcare costs?

When asked by Shriver at the City Council's April 9 meeting what the city would consider to be an adequate healthcare plan for individuals employed at the new hotel proposed for 710 Wilshire Blvd., City Planner Jing Yeo said, "If they are low-income or disabled, they can qualify for Medi-Cal or Medicaid." Shriver was asking whether the development agreement required the plan to cover routine doctor visits and prescriptions. The city staff member's position, echoed by the developer's attorney, was that state and federal government programs are available for poor people, and therefore the employer need not be obligated to provide health insurance for his employees.

It is the height of arrogance for an affluent community like Santa Monica, and a developer that will make millions, to ask the taxpayers to pay for doctors and prescriptions for the children of the hotel's cooks, clerks, and cleaners. As Congress and President Obama have wisely legislated, businesses should provide an adequate health plan to all their employers. As Councilmember Shriver noted, both City Hall and the developer's legal team provide good health benefits to their employees.

Whether or not the Affordable Care Act is upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, Santa Monica can and should require this socially responsible obligation in exchange for over 100 extra hotel rooms in excess of entitled standards.

Abby Arnold
Santa Monica

In greater numbers

Editor:

In response to April 11's letter "Obey the Law" from Ms. McRoskey, as I read it I thought I was reading a comment referencing some alternate universe where bicyclists run amok and create havoc on our streets that result in immense congestion and collisions that are the leading cause of death for teens in the U.S. and lead to upwards of 30,000 collisions every year.

Ms. McRoskey was, instead, alluding to "hundreds of other bicycle scofflaws" who need to obey the rules for general safety or stay off the roads. While no one can disagree that bicyclists and motorists alike should follow the rules, I wonder if Ms. McRoskey realizes the disproportionate number of motorist scofflaws relative to bicyclist scofflaws, and the difference in potential harm that results from these two modes. Motorist scofflaws include folks who use their cell phone when driving; don't come to complete stops at stop signs; partially drive in bicycle lanes when not turning at the upcoming intersection; failing to yield to pedestrians or bicyclists who share the right-of-way on public streets; not coming to complete stops at red lights before right-turns; and the list goes on.

If Ms. McRoskey looks out her window or stands on just about any street corner in Southern California, I think she'll quickly realize that there are far more motorist scofflaws who, if for no other reason than the laws of physics, pose a much greater threat to the general safety of the public (as evidenced by the statistics above). I can only hope she is also true to her word and is as adamant that motorists change their behavior or refrain from using our public road system.

Miguel Núñez
Santa Monica

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Meredith Pro Tem

Meredith C. Carroll — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

No cease-fire in mommy wars just yet

IT'S A CRYING SHAME THAT DEMOCRATIC strategist Hilary Rosen had to go and make those inane remarks last week about how stay-at-home mom Ann Romney has never worked a day in her life. Not because what she said wasn't true. (Although, of course, it wasn't, but who really cares what the spouse of a presidential candidate does or doesn't do for a living?) No, it's too bad because now there's a renewed call for an end to the mommy wars at around the same moment that I was finally inspired to pick a side and head off into battle.

I've given birth to two babies in the past four years and only just started to regret that I don't have more of a solid parenting philosophy (other than, you know, ensuring my children breathe, eat and get bathed regularly, although on second thought, that seems less philosophical and more of a strategy to stay off the radar of Child Protective Services).

I'm not looking to get into it with the folks who: buy into attachment parenting (although I would gently point out that the line between nurturing and suffocating can be very tenuous, or tedious); the ones who argue in support of free-range kids (even if I'm not sure why you want kids in the first place if you treat them like tiny adults before they're old enough to form a proper sentence); or even those who are considered helicopter parents. (I just hope those folks realize their blades are sharp and can cause serious injury.)

I'm also not about to take jabs at the tiger moms (you win!) or any of the newly chic French parents (ennuyeux!). And I'm definitely not getting into the working mom vs. stay-at-home mom, who-is-better-or-more-right mud-wrestling match. I mean, even I'm not dumb enough to step in the middle of that mess.

Nah, the mommy war in which I'm most interested in enlisting in is the one against those parents who are much bigger bullies and far less thoughtful than any of the aforementioned subjects. The troops in the thick of it are nonetheless filled with such vitriol that they have cartoon steam shooting out from their ears. You'll know who they are because they almost always start sentences with phrases like, "We all want what's best for our kids, but ... ," and then end by saying something way too aggressive to ever be considered passive.

Kind of like the parents who are cloth-diaper advocates. Not the ones who use them and quietly go on with their lives. I'm talking about the ones who use them and breathe fire of judgment and condescension at anyone who maddeningly uses disposable diapers (or "sposies," as some cloth advocates have inanely branded them) on the butts of their babies instead.

Never mind that disposable diapers are just one of those things that make day-to-day living that much better than it was 50 years ago (kind of like chai lattes and the "Real Housewives" franchise) and that some parents have neither the time nor inclination to regularly wash pee- and poop-soaked undergarments. The cloth-diaper crazies can't see the forest for the trees that people who use disposable diapers are accused of destroying by cruelly and insensitively buying Pampers.

Whether it's the money-saving argument or the save-the-Earth argument or the chemicals-in-the-sposies-are-some-kind-of-conspiracy argument, some of the hard-core cloth diaperers would literally like the disposable-diaper parents to be wiped out of the gene pool. And I wouldn't mind wiping the floor with the cloth-diaper people (or, really, just the cloth diapers themselves) so I can continue using my disposable ones in peace (and without the stubborn odor of old pee).

Another group I wouldn't mind engaging in a little figurative hand-to-hand combat are the so called lactivists — the people who so firmly believe the breast-is-best-for-everyone argument that there is no arguing with them (unless talking to a wall while simultaneously beating a dead horse is your thing). It doesn't matter if a woman couldn't breast feed or simply didn't want to — the breast-feeding police are out to get you if you don't use what God (or pregnancy, whatever) put in your milk ducts. And if you don't support breast feeding in public or think it's OK only if there is no indecent exposure, and if heaven forbid you are a hospital that gives out free formula samples or a bottle company that promotes how well some babies take to your product, then a pox on your family (which you'll probably have anyway if you're one of those who use the sposies).

I'M DEFINITELY NOT GETTING INTO THE WORKING MOM VS. STAY-AT-HOME MOM, WHO-IS-BETTER-OR-MORE-RIGHT MUD-WRESTLING MATCH. I MEAN, EVEN I'M NOT DUMB ENOUGH TO STEP IN THE MIDDLE OF THAT MESS.

But the most inane mommy war of all belongs to those doing battle in the name of elimination communication (EC), which is a method by which a months-old infant is potty-trained. Instead of diapering the babies they signed on to parent, the EC-followers believe timing, signals, cues and intuition will have their tiny babies crapping on the loo before they reach their first birthday, ideally in the first several weeks of life. And if you think EC is a little CZ (cray-zee), beware the claws that will come your way.

Of course none of that which I believe to be so infuriating that I'm willing to fight against is still a parenting philosophy per se, but at least by engaging in battle I can help weed out the gadflies and try to figure out what really matters to me most when it comes to parenting. You know, besides the breathing, eating and bathing (which, for the record, is still very important). OK, Child Protective Services?

More at www.meredithcarroll.com.

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The Taxman

Jon Coupal
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Can I have your autograph?

AMONG THE MOST VALUABLE AUTOGRAPHS from living persons are those from the reclusive "moonwalker" Neil Armstrong, Tiger Woods — who signs very few — and Sir Paul McCartney. But you may be surprised to learn that yours, too, is likely worth money. If you are a California voter, your autograph is worth $3, $4 or even more to those folks standing outside of supermarkets asking for signatures to put initiatives on the ballot.

At the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, we are strong supporters of direct democracy — the powers of initiative, referendum and recall. These powers were given to us by the founders of the original progressive movement — not to be confused with the far left "progressives" of today. The true progressives, including Hiram Johnson who served as California's governor from 1911 to 1917, knew that these powers would serve as a strong check against special interest influence in politics.

Nonetheless, like any political process, the power of initiative can be abused. As we know, the initiative process allows citizens to put measures before voters for their final say. We also understand that because it takes nearly a million signatures for a measure to qualify, it is sometimes necessary to augment volunteer efforts by providing incentive compensation to professional gatherers. However, it is important to note most of those soliciting your signature for tax increases are paid professionals. These independent contractors work with little or no direct supervision, and as a result, they are free to promote measures in any way they see fit.

Right now, throughout California, voters are being asked to sign petitions to guarantee adequate funding for education and public safety. Since, for most people, this description is about as controversial as being asked to sign a petition that supports everyone having a "nice day," the professionals are doing a brisk business and assuring themselves of a lucrative payday.

What is not being told to many who are volunteering their autographs is that if the measure qualifies for the ballot and passes, their taxes will go up. And if Jerry Brown and the megabuck public employee unions behind this measure promote it with the same misleading language as is being used by signature gatherers, there is a good chance it will be approved.

No matter what they call it, the Brown tax is not about education or public safety. The revenue raised from the initiative would go into California's General Fund, where decisions on how to spend it would be made by the usual suspects in Sacramento. Indeed, given that the retirement funds for state workers are so far underwater they are being viewed by James Cameron in his deep sea submarine, odds are high that new tax revenue will go directly to generous pension benefits.

NO MATTER WHAT THEY CALL IT, THE BROWN TAX IS NOT ABOUT EDUCATION OR PUBLIC SAFETY. THE REVENUE RAISED FROM THE INITIATIVE WOULD GO INTO CALIFORNIA'S GENERAL FUND, WHERE DECISIONS ON HOW TO SPEND IT WOULD BE MADE BY THE USUAL SUSPECTS IN SACRAMENTO.

This is why it is so important for voters to be fully informed now and avoid being fooled into supporting a tax increase that is not about California students and public safety, but is actually a bait and switch scheme to fund the enormous commitments Sacramento politicians have made to the public employee unions that represent the highest paid government workers in all 50 states.

Californians don't have to fall victim to this misleading campaign. Voters have a right to ask the signature gatherers, "Does this measure increase taxes? And by how much?" To help combat the misinformation on the streets, the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association's No New Taxes Committee has posted a list of questions to ask the professional gatherers when you are solicited. (Go to www.HJTA.org and click on the red banner on the home page that says "Don't Sign the Petition!") After voters have more information, we are confident that most will want to "just say no" to signature gatherers working to increase taxes.

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

The Q Line

Not in public

City officials are considering banning professional trainers and their bulky equipment from city parks and beaches.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think trainers should be allowed to use these public places or do you believe the city is on to something with a ban?

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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Quake test could prompt ways to shore up hospitals

JULIE WATSON
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO What happens when a series of massive earthquakes hits a five-story medical facility with an intensive care unit, operating room and elevator?

Structural engineers at the University of California, San Diego, began tests Tuesday to find out. They will repeatedly shake a building over the next two weeks as part of the $5 million experiment funded by government agencies, foundations and others.

The project stands out because it will test what happens to items inside a building — such as elevators, stairs and medical equipment — rather than the building itself.

A group of hard-hatted scientists, engineers, earthquake experts and news media waited in front of the experimental structure for one of the first tests.

"In five minutes, 1994's Northridge earthquake recorded at Los Angeles," a loudspeaker announced.

The building then moved on rollers simulating the motion created by the magnitude-6.7 quake that heavily damaged the Los Angeles region.

The project reflects a new way of thinking among earthquake safety experts who have been focusing on shoring up hospitals, large apartment buildings and schools so communities can rebound quickly after a disaster.

"What we are doing is the equivalent of giving a building an EKG to see how it performs after an earthquake and a post-earthquake fire," said Tara Hutchinson of the Jacobs School of Engineering at UC San Diego, the project's lead principal investigator.

Since the Northridge temblor and the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake in the San Francisco Bay area, billions of dollars have been spent on retrofitting thousands of unreinforced brick buildings, roads, bridges and university buildings.

Meanwhile, thousands of potentially dangerous concrete school buildings, high-rise apartments and hospitals built before California changed its building code in 1976 have not been identified, according to experts.

The 80-foot structure being used in the experiment was built atop a giant table that will shake in ways similar to major quakes, such as the Northridge quake and Chile's magnitude-8.8 temblor that struck in 2010.

The top two floors are outfitted with a surgery room and intensive care unit. More than 500 sensors and 80 cameras placed strategically throughout the building will monitor everything from vibrating hospital beds to swaying surgical lights.

Also inside the structure are modern ceilings, a heating and air conditioning system, functional sprinklers, computer servers, laboratory equipment and electrical equipment and wiring.

Researchers also will look at fire barriers and run controlled burning tests following the two-week experiment as they try to understand how flames and smoke might spread in such a building.

Assembly bill to punish student-teacher dating dies

HANNAH DREIER
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. California lawmakers on Tuesday rejected a bill that would have made it a felony for teachers to date their students.

The legislation was prompted by the high-profile case of a 41-year-old Modesto teacher who left his wife and three children to move in with an 18 year-old student.

The Assembly Committee on Public Safety voted 3-0 against AB1861. Its two Republican members were absent, and one Democrat abstained from voting.

Assemblywoman Kristin Olsen, R-Modesto, who sponsored the bill, accused committee members of siding with predators.

"The committee today stood up for predators and union bosses instead of students," Olsen said in a phone interview. "We will continue to work hard to make sure that California passes this bill or something similar."

Olsen's bill would have made it a felony for a high school teacher to have a relationship with their student, regardless of the student's age. It also would have stripped offending teachers of their pensions and retiree health care benefits. In California, the age of consent is 18.

The bill was prompted by the relationship of teacher Christopher Hooker and student Jordan Powers. The two appeared on a number of national talk shows earlier this year and maintained they didn't have a sexual relationship until she turned 18.

Hooker was arrested earlier this month on suspicion of sexually abusing a different student more than a decade ago. A judge entered a not guilty plea on his behalf.

He and Powers broke up after the allegation surfaced.

The California Federation of Teachers and American Civil Liberties Union opposed the bill, and several committee members said the bill was an overreaction to an isolated case.

"When there's an individual case like this that attracts attention, the visceral takes over," said committee chairman Tom Ammiano, D-San Francisco.

Ammiano called the bill "not fully baked" and suggested it might violate the rights of consenting adults.

Olsen said at least 16 other states have passed similar laws. She said it was not knee-jerk legislation.

Assemblywoman Holly Mitchell, D-Los Angeles, objected to targeting the pensions of a single group of public employees. She said she would be open to a bill that made teacher-student relationships a felony but did not go after retirement benefits.

Assemblyman Gil Cedillo, D-Los Angeles, joined Ammiano and Mitchell in voting against the legislation. Assemblywoman Nancy Skinner, D-Berkeley, abstained from voting, and the two GOP members of the committee, Steve Knight, R-Lancaster, and Curt Hagman, R-Chino Hills, were absent.

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Cable television channel has literally gone to the dogs

SUE MANNING
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Filmmakers are calling DogTV a new breed of television — an eight-hour block of on-demand cable TV programming designed to keep your dog relaxed, stimulated and entertained while you are at work.

To get the right footage, cameramen got on their knees and shot low and long. "I shot from the point of view of the dog," said Gilad Neumann, chief executive officer of DogTV.

In production, they had to mute colors, alter sound and add music specially written for dogs.

There will be no commercials, no ratings and no reruns, although some might argue that watching a slug crawl is hardly exciting new programming.

One million subscribers with two cable companies have access to DogTV in San Diego. It is doing so well that parent company PTV Media plans to offer it nationally in the next several months, Neumann said.

It will cost about $4.99 a month, Neumann said. If you figure more than 46 million U.S. households have dogs (according to the American Pet Products Association) and 97 percent of U.S. homes have televisions, the future looks promising.

Bleu, a year-old French bulldog, has been watching for a month and snorts and grunts his approval, owner Mary Catania of San Diego said. He used to perk up when "Family Guy" came on, Catania said, but he seems more intrigued by DogTV.

"I always feel guilty leaving him alone all day when I'm at work," Catania said. "He's like my kid. I don't have any children so I really treat him like my child. Anything that makes him happy makes me happy."

For years, pet owners have been leaving a television or radio on when they go out so their pets have company, said Dr. Nick Dodman, director of the Animal Behavior Clinic in Department of Clinical Sciences at Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University in Massachusetts.

But Dodman said that according to research on the canine brain, with analog television, dogs could only see a flickering screen. New technologies like digital TV, high-definition cameras, and enhanced production have changed the way dogs perceive the images, while big screens allow them to see from anywhere in a room, Neumann said.

Do dogs really understand what they're watching? Dodman said research is ongoing, but it appears that dogs not only recognize other dogs on TV, they may even respond differently to their own breed.

They definitely recognize sounds, though, whether it's barking or sirens, and audio on DogTV has been tailored accordingly. Because high frequency sounds can be very irritating to dogs, they've been removed. And music is written and tailored for their hearing, though it sounds like elevator music to humans.

What you won't find on DogTV are the sounds that blare on regular TV: no gunshots, no explosions, no heavy metal music, Neumann said.

Dogs can see blue and yellow, but not red or green, Neumann said, so colors are altered for DogTV too.

Based on dog sleeping pattern studies, programmers alternate footage and soundtracks designed for stimulation, relaxation and exposure throughout the eight hours.

Exposure is designed to acquaint dogs with things they will see each day. "There are studies that show when young puppies are exposed to video images of other dogs, it acts as a form of socialization," Dodman said. Sights and sounds during this part of the programming expose the animals to things like traffic, babies, other pets and doorbells.

Relaxation segments feature sleeping dogs and nature scenes — like the slugs — accompanied by dog lullabies.

Stimulation includes dogs running, playing and surfing, animation and a lot of panting. The idea behind this part of DogTV is to get a dog moving, even if it is home alone.

Shows are "refreshed" daily for variety.

There has been a lot of feedback from viewers saying their cats like the show as well as their dogs, Neumann said. CatTV may be added later, but DogTV is strictly for the dogs, he said.

The Escondido Humane Society, on the outskirts of San Diego County, isn't wired for cable yet, but DogTV offered to give them relaxation-only test videos.

"We handle 5,000 animals a year. We get high-energy, big dogs that need to calm down. When we plugged it in, we saw almost immediate results," said development director Jean Loo-Russo.

If an extremely active dog is confined for long periods of time, a chemical imbalance can occur and it can go kennel crazy, Loo-Russo said.

You can prevent that with DogTV and 20-minute walks twice a day, she said.

Every dog at the shelter can't see a TV, but they are all within hearing distance and that's helping too, Loo-Russo said.

Pets may one day be able to sniff DogTV, Dodman said. "The technology is here to add smell. There are boxes you can buy that have 60 different wells that you can fill with scents. Like fireworks, you can cue them with what's on television."

Too bad they can't control the remote.

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STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Commission hears reports of abuse at jail

Guards at the downtown Men's Central Jail beat and harassed witnesses, but conditions have improved since video cameras were installed in the lockup that can capture abuses, an investigating commission was told.

A jail monitor testified Monday that she was intimidated by a Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy after the beating of an unconscious inmate, and a jail chaplain wept as he testified that deputies called him a rat for reporting another beating, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Sister Patty Bartlett, a Roman Catholic nun, testified that some inmates told her that deputies intentionally opened gates separating rival inmates to encourage fights.

The investigating commission was created by the county Board of Supervisors after it was learned last year that the FBI was looking into allegations of jailer misconduct.

The Sheriff's Department supports the commission's work, spokesman Steve Whitmore said.

A priest, the Rev. George Horan, testified that inmates told him some gang members were violently removed from cells by deputies who said the action was revenge for the killing of a sheriff's deputy by gang members on the outside. When word of the allegations reached the deputy's widow, she went to the jail and told the deputies they disgraced her husband's memory, Horan said.

Some speakers criticized jail management for failing to crack down on problem deputies. The jail's captain, Daniel Cruz, was placed on leave after an investigation of his tenure was launched.

However, Horan and Bartlett said that conditions had improved in recent months. The installation of video cameras has helped because some deputies no longer need to feel concern about covering up for their colleagues, since the cameras may have caught the misconduct, Horan said.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Gang member convicted of shotgun death of infant

A Los Angeles gang member is facing 200 years to life in prison for the shotgun death of an infant who was being fed in the front seat of a car parked in the San Fernando Valley.

A jury on Monday convicted 26-year-old Ricardo Hernandez of first-degree murder for killing 4-month-old Andrew Garcia and wounding two others outside a Van Nuys home on Sept. 27, 2009. He was also convicted of the attempted murders of six other people.

Hernandez will be sentenced May 31.

Prosecutors say a verbal confrontation outside the vehicle led to the shooting.

Hernandez fled to Mexico but was captured a year later in the state of Jalisco and he was returned to the United States.

AP

SACRAMENTO

Gov. Brown seeks to eliminate 718 unnecessary reports

Gov. Jerry Brown says his administration has found more than 700 unnecessary state reports as a result of a cost-cutting review he ordered last year.

The governor on Tuesday released a list of 718 reports his office believes are insignificant and outdated, about half of which must be submitted to the Legislature.

Some of the reports that agencies have to produce or transmit include an annual report on the kangaroo harvest in Australia and a monthly report on response to the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake.

The Democratic governor says government should focus on "providing information that is actually helpful to taxpayers."

The administration is ending production on about half of those reports. Brown's finance director, Ana Matosantos, is asking the Legislature to end reporting requirements on the remaining half.

AP

SACRAMENTO

Illegal prison cellphones being disabled

A company that supplies California prisons with pay phones is installing technology to disable cellphones.

Smuggled cellphones have been used by inmates to run criminal enterprises, intimidate witnesses and organize attacks on guards. Last year, California prison guards confiscated more than 15,000 contraband phones.

The Los Angeles Times says Global Tel Link has agreed to install technology that will block Web searches, text messages and cellphone calls in California prisons.

Officials say there will be no cost to taxpayers.

Global Tel Link expects demand for its pay phones in the prisons will skyrocket when cellphones are disabled.

A typical 15-minute collect call from a prison pay phone costs the person who receives it about $2.

AP

SAN FRANCISCO

Yahoo's 1Q earnings rise 28 percent

Yahoo's first-quarter results showed signs of modest progress under recently hired CEO Scott Thompson.

The long-struggling Internet company earned $286 million, or 23 cents per share, during the first three months of the year. That represented a 28 percent increase from net income of $223 million, or 17 cents per share, at the same time last year.

The earnings exceeded the average estimate of 17 cents per share among analysts surveyed by FactSet.

AP



TAXI
FROM PAGE 1

"I don't know if the first conversation with All Yellow or anyone else occurred after the city told us about the problems, or if there was another indication," said Donald Burris, attorney for Metro Cab.

The franchise is the company's most prized asset, Burris said, noting that the cars without the franchise were "of minimal value."

The City Council has to give the go ahead for All Yellow Taxi to take over the franchise for Metro Cab, which means that the company has to convince the municipal powers-that-be that it can meet the qualifications of any company that was awarded the franchise, said Salvatore Valles, who manages the taxi franchise system for the Finance Department.

That means proof that All Yellow Taxi has the financial wherewithal to make the purchase and keep up with its requirements, amongst other things, Valles said.

Metro Cab owners Slim Said and Fouad Saneh certainly believe that the company can, otherwise they wouldn't have selected them as a partner, Burris said.

"I can't see a disapproval here. We've been very careful," Burris said.

Prior to the franchise system, All Yellow Taxi was a licensed taxi service in Santa Monica.

The company competed for a spot in the franchise system and came in sixth. Only the top five were chosen.

High placement doesn't necessarily connote good performance, however. Metro Cab placed first in the franchise rankings.

The company is ready to take over the 63 spaces that Metro currently holds in the franchise, Gershwin said.

"All Yellow is and has always been able to meet the needs of the City of Santa Monica," he said.

The item is expected to go before the City Council for approval on May 22.

If approved, All Yellow Taxi has indicated that it can complete the transition and begin operating as Metro Cab within two weeks of the purchase, Burris said.

Staff raised concerns about Metro Cab in a report released in January.

Four of its drivers were cited for a lack of professionalism or poor service to customers, and it was found 23 cabs, or approximately a third of the 63 vehicles Metro operates in Santa Monica, were owned by individuals rather than an entity permitted under the franchise agreement.

Metro also did not have a system in place to make sure that its drivers were current with a required drug and alcohol testing program, that its licenses were current or that vehicles were maintained.

Finally, the company was late in paying the fines associated with those violations as well as its insurance costs. It also did not meet its business license requirements.

With a list of problems like that, other franchisees wondered why Metro hadn't lost its franchise earlier.

"It's a shame that Metro put in a bid for a franchise that promised the moon, scored the highest of all the applicants and a year later they're in several violations of the franchise agreement and they're financially upside down," said Michael Kalin, general manager of Bell Cab Co., another franchise holder.

The franchise has had a rocky history thus far.

The City Council approved it and selected the top five bidders in December 2010, but a coalition of Armenian cab companies, called the Taxi Drivers Association of Santa Monica, sued saying that City Hall had been biased because only one of the companies selected was owned by an Armenian despite the fact that one third of the applicants were Armenian-owned.

A judge ruled against the coalition in December 2011, calling the selection process "facially neutral."

The proposal for a franchise structure came after the Task Force on the Environment in 2006 recommended the development of an ordinance that creates a franchise system awarding licenses to companies whose cars meet certain emission and mileage standards. A study by Nelson/Nygaard Consulting Associates followed two years later, finding that at the time, there were 412 cars operated by 55 companies in the city

That number grew to 522 permitted cabs, all for a city that has about 91,000 residents.

City officials felt the number of cabs was too high, creating gridlock Downtown while contributing to global warming. They were also concerned that drivers were not able to make a living wage because of too much competition. Some drivers were said to be making only $24,000 annually for working six days a week.

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SAMOHI
FROM PAGE 3

ue his clutch hitting. On cue, Suzuki laced a double into left field, scoring Lares for the game's first run. Suzuki would later score on senior Adam Padilla's RBI single to center field.

The second inning was much like the first, but even more explosive for Samohi.

Alex Turner got things going by reaching on a wild pitch following a strike out. He promptly stole second base giving Lares the opportunity to drive in another Samohi run.

"I was trying to be patient," Lares said. "[Inglewood starter James Cathey] was hitting his spots."

Lares slapped a fast ball to left field for a double, pushing Turner across the plate. Suzuki followed with a walk. The first-year Viking would later score another run during the five-run rally, putting Samohi up 7-1.

"They are an outstanding team," Inglewood head coach Tracy Cathey Sr. said of Samohi. "Good coaching staff, they always compete."

The Samohi win sets up a rematch at Inglewood on Thursday. Cathey Sr. isn't sure who will take the mound, but Samohi has already selected Johnny Barry to start.

Samohi head coach Sheldon Philip-Guide called Barry a crafty hurler who locates his pitches well. He picked the senior to start as Samohi prepares to play four games between now and next Tuesday.

The Vikings will start Padilla on Saturday as part of the ongoing Redondo Tournament. Their opponent has not been announced. Connor Green will most likely throw on Monday against Torrance in the finale of the Babe Herman Tournament.

Philip-Guide had to juggle his rotation for the coming week to keep his starters fresh. In all, Samohi will start four different players including Matthew Franco, who started on Tuesday against Inglewood.

"My guys are pretty experienced," Philip-Guide said. "That helps in situations like these."

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UC SYSTEM
FROM PAGE 3

admission rate for in-state students dropped from 69.7 percent last year to 65.8 percent for this year.

"I don't see how it couldn't make us worried that our kids are going to have a much harder time getting into the local schools. It's distressing," said Berkeley resident Carrie Hibbs, whose daughter is a high school junior hoping to attend the University of California at Santa Barbara in the fall of 2013. "It just means there will be a trickle-down effect, with more students looking to Cal State schools and them becoming more competitive and crowded, so it's going to affect a lot of us."

Kate Jeffery, the UC system's interim director of undergraduate admissions, acknowledged that California high school students whose educations are subsidized by the state are facing stiffer completion from nonresidents "who are paying their own way, if you will." Nonresidents will pay about $36,078 in tuition in the coming academic year, compared with $13,200 for residents.

"The issue with the California resident students is a funding problem, the amount of money we get from the state to educate students," Jeffery said. "That amount has not increased."

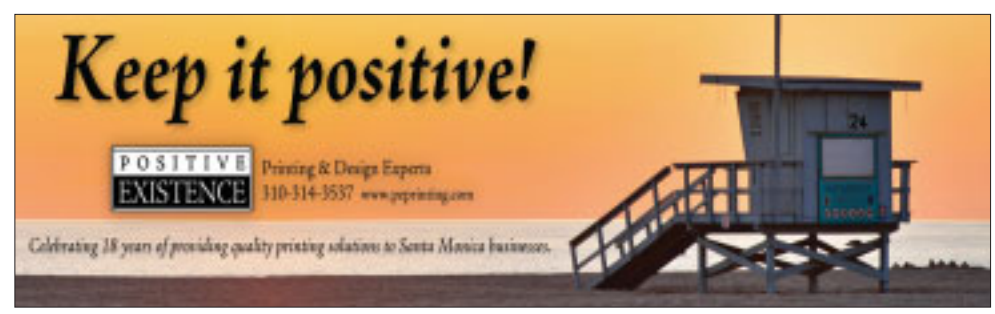
Because not all students who are admitted end up enrolling, it is still too early to say what proportion of the freshman class will come from outside California, she said.

Last year, nonresidents accepted their admission offers at lower rates than in-state students, and ended up comprising about 12 percent of the freshmen who planned to enroll in the fall.

Jeffery sought to emphasize the benefits of building a student body that has more non-Californians. Apart from the financial contribution, out-of-state students bring geographical and cultural diversity to campuses, she said.

Jim Walker, a retired high school educator who spent years reading applications to UC Berkeley, said that while it was naturally distressing for college-bound students to not be accepted to the campus they wanted, the university system should be commended for continuing to meet its decades-old pledge to admit the top 9 percent of California's high school graduates.

"The University of California, to this date, has met its commitment and will continue to do so," Walker said. "You may not always get the campus of your choice because of the increased number of applicants, but the commitment is there if you take the right courses and do well."





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SMC
FROM PAGE 1

tract education system, a mechanism officially sanctioned by the Legislature two decades ago that allowed employers to pay for their workers to go to classes through the community college system.

Those employers would pay the full cost of classes, including teacher salaries, facilities costs and instructional materials.

"It is our legal opinion that the California Education Code limits contract education programs to employers/industries that request specific job training or classes for current or prospective employees," wrote Paige Marlatt Dorr, director of communications with the chancellor's office, in an e-mail.

Furthermore, if SMC officials decide to go forward with a contract education system at some point in the future, they could be open to legal action from the Chancellor's Office or another outside organization, said Paul Feist, vice chancellor of communications.

"They put their program on hold, so there's no activity around it right now," Feist said.

SMC officials agree to disagree, said Bruce Smith, spokesperson for the college.

"The college has not received a written opinion from the attorney general setting forth the basis for its legal opinion," Smith wrote in an e-mail. "Until we receive such an opinion, it is clearly difficult to make any comments."

The college may be tight-lipped about the Attorney General's Office response to its proposal, but on March 23, Campus Counsel Robert Myers sent a 57-page document to Steven Bruckman, general counsel for the chancellor's office, explaining in detail why SMC officials believe they're able to move forward with the program.

It comes down to a difference in opinion.

In 1996, Bruckman wrote a three-page response to a college seeking to offer a nursing program with a hospital that wanted to charge members of the public that did not work for the hospital a fee to cover the cost it was paying the college to provide the class.

Bruckman wrote that the community college could not do that because the fee (then $26 per unit for a community college class) was fixed except in the circumstance of contract education where a "public or private agency" took on the cost.

If the hospital did not spend money on the program because it recouped its costs from members of the public, it wasn't operating within the rules, Bruckman wrote.

"It is one thing to require that businesses pay the full cost of having a college provide training to their employees. It is quite another to permit such a contract education arrangement to, in effect, create a whole new mechanism by which colleges may charge students for the full cost of providing them with instruction," Bruckman wrote.

Myers countered with his own analysis, which suggests that the situation 15 years ago, referred to as "the Nursing Opinion," could not apply to SMC's present circumstances.

"With all due respect, we believe that the Nursing Opinion's statutory analysis regarding the legality of such a program is deeply flawed," Myers wrote.

Santa Monica College planned to contract with a nonprofit organization called the Santa Monica Transfer and Career Alliance to provide the courses, something that the Nursing Opinion does not address.

A document created in 1986 for the state Legislature looking at contract education in California showed that there were already nonprofits set up by districts that served as contract education partners.

"By regulating these entities, the Legislature obviously anticipated and implicitly endorsed their continued existence," Myers wrote.

Myers also rejected the notion that the chancellor's office could weigh in on the cost of the classes because they would be run without any state funding.

While SMC officials and the chancellor's office argue on how best to provide students with an education, neither side contests that something must be done.

Over $800 million has been cut from community college budgets as a result of the state's financial woes in the past three years. In Santa Monica alone, over 1,000 courses have been cut, meaning students are forced to stay in community college longer to get the classes they need to move on or transfer to another university.

The self-funded system, called the Advance Your Dreams program by officials, was meant to fill in some of those gaps by providing in-demand courses to students who needed them and wanted to pay for them during the summer.

A pilot program meant for this year's summer session would have offered 50 additional courses. It was canceled as of April 6 after heavy protests resulted in students being pepper sprayed outside a SMC Board of Trustees meeting.

President Chui Tsang and the board backpedaled and agreed to put the program on hold until stakeholder groups were able to weigh in more thoroughly on the proposal.

Although it was canceled for the summer session, SMC may still move forward with contract education in the future, officials have said.

It's hard to know what view state officials will hold on SMC's position in the future, given a bill currently in the State Senate regarding the provision of career and workforce training courses.

Introduced by State Sen. Roderick Wright (D-Compton) in February, the bill would start a voluntary pilot program on eight campuses in different community college districts that would allow the districts to set fees for classes no higher than the cost of maintaining the pilot program to supplement existing course offerings.

There's no guarantee that SMC would be one of those campuses if the bill were to become law.

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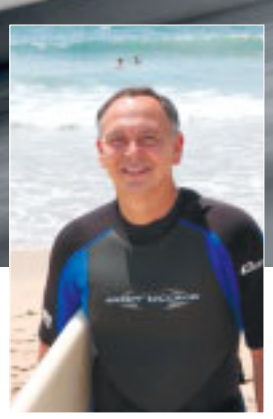


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Digital TV outlets try a broadcast tactic

JAKE COYLE
AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK Internet video wants some of television's ad dollars, and it's not above a little copycatting to help the cause.

Beginning Thursday, many of the top digital outlets will for the first time band together to try an old TV tradition: the upfront. Over the next two weeks, YouTube, Yahoo, AOL, Hulu and others will hold their version of the annual pitch to advertisers to promote their programming.

By taking a page from TV, the Digital Content NewFronts, as they're called, hope to showcase increasingly high-quality Web series and convince advertisers that digital video deserves more of their attention.

Is digital content ready for primetime?

Most of the companies hosting a NewFront have considerably invested in original content. YouTube spent $100 million to create nearly 100 niche-oriented channels. Hulu, which has waded into original programming in addition to its vast library of network shows, has partnered with filmmakers like Richard Linklater and Morgan Spurlock. Yahoo has teamed with Tom Hanks for a highly-anticipated animated sci-fi series.

"This first time is really about perception change, in my mind," says Erin McPherson, head of original programming at Yahoo. "If real dollars flow from it, that's gravy."

Hulu will kick things off with its presentation Thursday in New York. Another 15 events will follow through May 2.

The NewFronts were created by the ad agency Digitas, which organized the founding partners — Google Inc.'s YouTube, Microsoft Advertising, Hulu, Yahoo and AOL. Those companies as well as MSN, Vevo, NBCUniversal Digital Media and Disney Interactive will tout their shows in presentations intentionally scheduled shortly before the network upfronts in May.

"What better time to showcase it than three weeks ahead of the television upfronts?" says John McCarus, senior vice president and director of brand content at Digitas. "It's driven by the budget cycles from a marketer's perspective. This is the time of year they're starting to think about how their dollars are going to be spent."

Last year, online video was approximately a $2 billion business in the U.S., a fraction of the $60.7 billion spent on TV advertising, according to research firm eMarketer. But online video ad spending is fast increasing, and many expect it to reach $3 billion this year.

"It's a watershed year," says McCarus. "There is an opportunity and a reason to collaborate together and show strength in numbers for what is a newly formed marketplace."

Like many of the other participants, Yahoo hopes to simply inform advertisers of its business. By capitalizing on its considerable traffic, Yahoo has lured viewers to its now robust original video offerings. It churns out more than 40 series a month.

"It's been hard to buy digital," McPherson says. "We're fragmented. We all use different methods of measurement. We all have different stories to tell, and our upfronts, so to speak, are all year round, all the time."

Whereas the broadcast product is easily visible (at the same weekly times, at the same place on the TV dial) and is rated by a standardized system, digital media's landscape is more diffuse.

"The big goal for us is to educate the marketplace," says Nicholas Lehman, president of digital for NBCUniversal entertainment and digital networks and integrated media division.

Lehman will be highlighting NBCUniversal's varied digital portfolio, including Fandango, iVillage and DailyCandy, as well as online content related to NBC broadcast programming.

Lehman is perhaps in a unique position among the NewFront presenters, given that his company is also a major TV network — and thus very much in the crosshairs of some NewFront presenters.

"We think the platforms are all complimentary if we execute the right way," says Lehman. "We've seen a lot of success in how we can reinforce on-air ratings with digital platforms, with digital engagement, and vice versa. If used the right way, it can be very symbiotic."

Though NBC shuttered its Digital Studios last year, Lehman pledges NBCUniversal Digital will be making announcements around original video content at the NewFronts.

Presenters are largely saving their news for the stage, but many are expected to unveil new programs. Talent will be trotted out. Altogether, it will be a moment for digital to show that it's ready to play on TV's stage.

McCarus even envisions the scales tipping the other way: "In five years, I wouldn't be surprised if the broadcast networks started to participate in the digital content NewFronts as this becomes the clear winning game."

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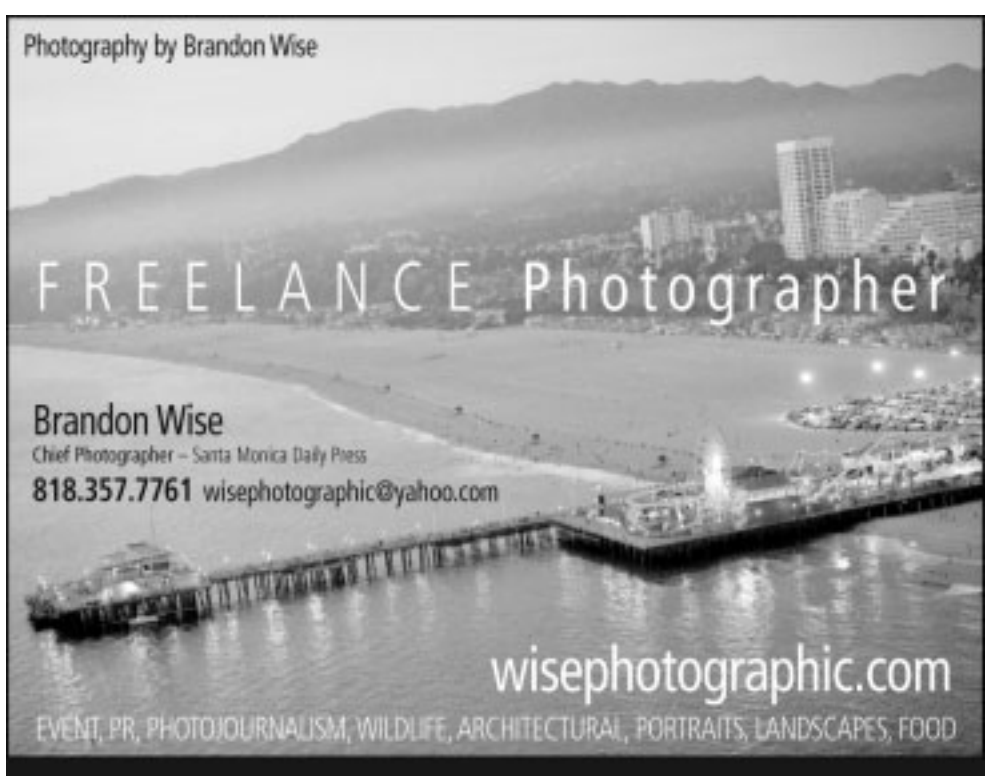
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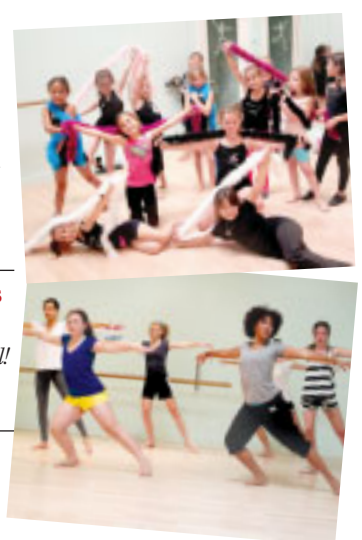

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Wisconsin cracks down on sex, drugs at nude beach

TODD RICHMOND
Associated Press

TOWN OF MAZOMANIE, Wis. Nudity on the beach? Sure. Sex in the woods? No way.

Nudists from around the country have flocked to a section of soft, sandy Wisconsin River shoreline for decades, confident police and prosecutors won't go after them for leaving their Bermudas and bikinis behind. But the fun doesn't stop at volleyball and sunbathing — many people are slipping off into the woods for sex. Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources warden reports read like pornographic novels, but the agency can't seem to halt the hookups.

The agency said Tuesday it plans to close woods around the beach to the public this week in an attempt to force people to stay in view and show some decorum. But residents say they've been shocked by things people do out in the open.

"They were having sex right on the islands, the sandbars when the river was lower," said Ruth Bender, who owns property directly across the river from the beach. "People can't understand something like that is going on. That's a nice section of the river. I don't know what fun they get out of that."

The DNR bought the sandbar-studded section of the Wisconsin River about 25 miles northwest of the capital of Madison in 1949 in an effort to open up more land for hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities. The parcel, just north of Mazomanie, a city of about 1,400 people, includes a naturally secluded beach that offers spectacular views of the surrounding forest and bluffs.

Droves of nudists claimed the beach as their own decades ago as word spread that that prosecutors in Dane County, perhaps the most liberal jurisdiction in the state, wouldn't go after anyone just for shedding their swimsuits. The DNR estimates as many as 70,000 people have visited the beach some summers.

"It's difficult to find a place (to be nude)," said Bob Morton, executive director of the Austin, Tex., Naturist Action Committee, which lobbies on behalf of nudists. He said he has visited the beach several times. "Being able to connect with nature is a powerful connection when you go to a place like a river. You feel a certain sense of personal freedom that you don't really get sitting in your apartment in Milwaukee."

Wisconsin law makes "publicly and indecently" exposing one's genitals a misdemeanor, but a succession of Dane County district attorneys have said nudists must cause some sort of disturbance before they can be prosecuted.

Their lack of action has inflamed some of the nudists' opponents. Minister Ralph Ovadal led protests at the beach. Assembly Republicans passed a bill in 1999 to ban nudity on public land, but the measure went nowhere.

Bender, who ran a canoe rental business on the river, filed a lawsuit in 2001 to force the DNR to make beach-goers put their clothes on. She said nudists had sex around the beach, wandered onto her property and waded out into the river and exposed themselves as her customers paddled by, causing people to avoid the area and hurting her business. The DNR countered that wardens try to curtail violations that go beyond just being naked and people can avoid the beach or look away. Dane County Circuit Judge Sarah O'Brien ultimately dismissed the suit.

While nudity may be OK, state officials say all the sex in the woods and bushes around the beach clearly crosses the line into disorderly conduct. The DNR has been trying to stop it for years to no avail.

The agency closed the area from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m. and banned sandbar camping in the late 1990s. It also installed a gate blocking cars in hopes of preventing people from driving down to the shore for a quick tryst.

In 2007, wardens closed off portions of the woods flanking the road, hoping to curtail sex in the underbrush. The DNR also cut down brush along the beach's tree line to eliminate cover and wardens have taken to hiding in the woods around the beach and setting up on the bluffs across the river with telescopes, looking for lewd behavior. DNR reports tell graphic stories of wardens citing men for engaging in oral sex, mutual masturbation and possessing marijuana.

Arrests for sex and drugs around the beach hit a five-year high last year. Wardens arrested 26 people for illicit sex and 16 people for drugs in just nine days of surveillance last year, up from 11 sex arrests and three drug arrests in six days in 2007, according to DNR data.

Jeremy Plautz, the warden who supervises DNR law enforcement in Dane County, didn't have an explanation for the place's allure, pointing out the woods are full of poison ivy, nettles and mosquitoes.

By closing another 70 acres around the beach this week, Plautz said the DNR hopes to keep people on the beach itself and in full view.

"Our overall goal down here is to reduce user conflicts," he said. "This is sort of the next step."

As Plautz was showing reporters around the deserted beach on a gloomy April day, frequent visitor Charlie Wise stepped onto the sand. Wise, 59, of Sauk City, was fully clothed that day. He listened quietly to Plautz describe the closures, puffing on his pipe. Then he told reporters he thought the closures were a "horrible waste of taxpayers' money."

"They keep trying to save us from ourselves," he said. "Every creature on this property is allowed to have sex except the people who run the property."

DNR reports and court records show Wise was among the people cited in 2010 for sexual activity and marijuana possession near the beach.

Morton, of the Naturist Action Committee, said the beach isn't the only place where drug use and illicit sex take place. He said the problem wasn't nudists but a group of what he called "never-do-wells."

"When we find that, we tap someone on the shoulder and say, 'Hey, not here. Get a room,'" Morton said. "Does this happen enough for the DNR? Probably not. It's not really a crackdown on us. It's a crackdown on the people we don't really want to associate with."

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New Mexico tries to shed negative image with new ads

JERI CLAUSING
Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. New Mexico this year is celebrating 100 years of statehood, but many people still confuse the Land of Enchantment with its south of the border neighbor. And some who do know the state think it's nothing but a boring desert wasteland they would only visit on the way to Arizona or Colorado.

Tourism Secretary Monique Jacobson hopes to finally change some of those perceptions with a new $2 million statewide branding campaign that puts a heavy focus on the state's unique culture and outdoor adventures. It also gives the state a new logo, "New Mexico True."

Development of the campaign, which tourism officials launched on Tuesday, has been Jacobson's almost sole focus since taking over the department last year. Jacobson is the daughter of a Taos Ski Valley hotel owner who returned to New Mexico a year ago after spending several years in marketing with Quaker Oats in Chicago.

The ads — which feature people kayaking on the Rio Grande, hiking around archaeological sites in Chaco Canyon, running among petroglyphs at a national monument on the western edge of Albuquerque, hanging out in hot springs and eating and shopping in art enclaves like Santa Fe and Taos — have two key goals.

"The first is to combat the No. 1 misconception that there is nothing to do in New Mexico," Jacobson said, noting the focus is on "sight-doing, not sightseeing."

The second goal, Jacobson said, "is to connect emotionally, to build a lifestyle brand .... a place (people) want to go back to year after year."

Focus groups held last year in Chicago, Los Angeles and Houston underscored how tough her job may be.

While the participants gushed about Colorado and its "beautiful mountains," "crisp air" and "snow," two people in Los Angeles wrote "snooze" when asked about New Mexico. Someone from Houston noted he "drove through it on the way to Colorado." Others referred to is a "boring," "the lost state" and a "desert wasteland." And several people noted New Mexico, which is land locked, has nice beaches.

Still, Jacobson and industry officials have high hopes for the comprehensive branding effort. It was developed by the Austin-based Vendor, whose principals have worked on such brands as Southwest Airlines, Nike, Wal-Mart Stores, BMW and AT&T.

The campaign will be launched first on television and in print ads in neighboring Arizona, Colorado and Texas. Digital niche versions targeting golfers, skiers, bikers, runners and families will launch this summer and fall. And the goal is to take the campaign nationally this fall, Jacobson said.

Similar efforts have proven highly successful for Michigan, California and Oregon as well as the city of Philadelphia, according to industry officials and research from Longwoods International for the United States Travel Association.

One of the questions in New Mexico, however, is not just whether the state's message will be a winner, but whether the tourism department has the resources to be heard over neighbors like Colorado and Arizona, who have better known attractions and larger marketing budgets. Colorado, for example, just launched a $9 million "Come to Life" marketing campaign.

The New Mexico campaign was developed and launched with the bulk of the department's total annual $2.5 million annual advertising budget. That compares to more than $12 million Michigan spent to launch its Pure Michigan branding campaign, featuring Michigan native Tim Allen, in 2009, according to a report from Longwoods International. That budget was doubled to $28 million for a national launch after research showed the regional campaign generated almost 2 million additional trips to the state with a 3-to-1 return on investment for every taxpayer dollar spent.

But even $2 million can have a huge impact, said Nan Marchand Beauvois, senior director of national council relations for USTA.

"It not how much you spend," she said. "It's using what you have efficiently and being extremely targeted and consistent with your messaging."

Most important, she said, is that the state has developed a brand to create awareness of the state.

Such campaigns, she said, "are truly, truly crucial. It's an investment, not an expenditure. It's growing the business of the state through tourism."

Jacobson said the department will be closely monitoring the campaign's impact in hopes of being able to take winning results to lawmakers for a budget boost next year.

The state has done television ads in the past, but the efforts weren't tied to a comprehensive multi-media message that would create a brand that could resonate for the whole state. One of its more recent efforts, for instance, played off the city of Roswell by featuring aliens. That created buzz, Jacobson, said, but didn't sell the state as whole.

Sharon Schultz, president of the Tourism Association of New Mexico, says the new campaign brings New Mexico's advertising efforts to a new level.

"I think it will resonate well," she said, noting a preview of the ads was well received by the industry.

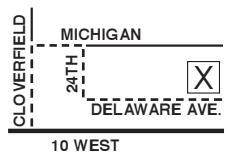
Colorado's tourism head Al White, who earlier this year joked New Mexico could save its money by adopting the theme "just south of paradise," complemented Jacboson and said he was pleased to see the New Mexico effort.

"New Mexico really has a great product. It has natural beauty and powerful culture, history and heritage," he said. "It behooves us all to work together, especially as international tourism picks up. An international traveler is going to want to see the whole region."

If successful, however, the ads could mark the death knell for a longstanding feature in the tourism department's monthly New Mexico magazine.

"One of our 50 is Missing," is a column where readers share tales of friends and acquaintances who don't know New Mexico is part of the United States. The state would like to erase impressions like this one, offered by a reader quoting a friend: "New Mexico's been a country for a lot longer than 100 years, and it was never a U.S. state."

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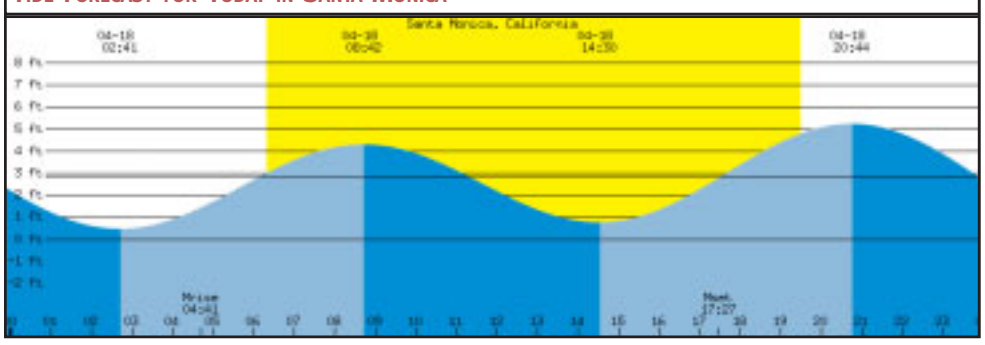
Swell Forecast

WNW swell is due to bring chest to head high sets to west facing breaks. South facing breaks should run chest max.

Long Range Synopsis

Looks smaller, about chest max everywhere.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **April 4, 2012**

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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 -- 24 / 14
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	A
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and 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 Don 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
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	A
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	F
Big Rock Beach at 19648 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 CBW jetty).	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	A
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	A
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	A

LEGEND

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

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

ns -- no sample taken

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

MLB

Potential Clemens jurors question inquiry by Congress

FREDERIC J. FROMMER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Prosecutors and the judge in Roger Clemens' retrial are finding potential jurors who view the congressional hearings where he allegedly lied as a waste of money, which could pose a serious hurdle to convicting the famed baseball pitcher of perjury about whether he used drugs.

Two of those prospective jurors have already survived the first cut in choosing the panel, and on Tuesday another one also did so, even though he said didn't know if it was appropriate for Congress to investigate performance-enhancing drugs in sports.

Wearing a dark suit and red tie, Clemens, once an overpowering right-handed pitcher, was back at the defense table jotting notes with his right hand and occasionally flipping through pages with his left.

The seven-time Cy Young Award winner is facing the government's second attempt to prove that he misled a House committee at a landmark drugs-and-sports hearing in 2008. The first trial last July ended in a mistrial when prosecutors introduced inadmissible evidence after only two witnesses had been called.

The man who questioned the congressional investigation Tuesday, a graphic designer, also said he believed that baseball's career home run leader Barry Bonds took performance-enhancing drugs. Bonds was found guilty last year on just one count of obstruction of justice, for giving an evasive answer to a grand jury when asked about drug use.

The juror said Bonds should have been forthcoming about drug use: "It was as simple as stepping up to the plate and being a man about it." He added that he never thought of Bonds as a man of integrity.

Asked by Clemens lawyer Rusty Hardin if he had similar feelings about Clemens, he responded that he viewed Clemens in a different way. Hardin called him an "ambivalent juror" and asked the judge to strike him. But U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton declined.

The judge said disqualification might be justified if the man were being asked to serve on a jury for Bonds, but not in this case. Hardin will still have an opportunity to strike him later in the process, but he'd have to use one of his 12 unexplained strikes.

Also Tuesday, a man who admitted to being arrested "quite a few times" on misdemeanors was approved to return for the next stage of selection. The man, who said he was in his early 60s and "semiretired," at first said he didn't think it should be a crime for a man to lie only about himself before Congress. But when a prosecutor asked if the person's lies affected an investigation that could affect the health of children, he said that should be a crime.

Another potential juror was qualified for the next stage although he said it appeared Attorney General Eric Holder was not giving complete information to congressional investigators looking into the federal government's flawed gun-smuggling investigation in the Phoenix-area known as Operation Fast and Furious.

One was excused after he said he didn't believe Clemens took steroids.

On Monday, one potential juror said he felt "it was a little bit ridiculous" when Congress held hearings on drug use in sports because he felt the government should have been focusing on bigger problems. Asked whether he thought it was wasteful for Congress to hold the steroid hearings, he responded, "Yes."

Nevertheless, the native of Chile — an investment officer for an international bank — was asked to return, the only male to remain in the jury pool among those who were individually screened on the first day. He said he could keep the issue of whether Clemens lied separate from whether Congress should have had the hearings in the first place, saying, "This is a completely different process."

Another potential juror recalled the 2008 hearing by saying, "At the time, I remember thinking it didn't seem to be a great use of taxpayer money." But she, too, was kept in the pool after she said she could be impartial.

"Even if I don't agree with the reason that you're brought before Congress, you still have to tell the truth. ... If you perjure yourself before Congress, it's still illegal," said the woman, who is an executive for an environmental nonprofit organization. The woman said her father played minor league baseball.

But another potential juror was excused after she volunteered, "I don't know if that's the best use of government tax dollars at this time." She said her feelings could influence her ability to serve.

Another was excused when she said Congress spent "too much time" on the investigation.

Clemens lawyer Rusty Hardin even hinted that the defense might challenge Congress' authority to call the hearing in the first place, but Walton was skeptical of that line of questioning. The judge reminded lawyers again that some of the jurors from the first trial felt a retrial would be a waste of taxpayer money. He said that one of the hurdles in the case is that some people think "we have some significant problems in this country that are not being addressed by this Congress."

By the end of the first day, only 13 potential jurors had been screened and just seven had been asked to return Wednesday for more questioning.

Hardin asked several of the potential jurors if they could conceive of a situation in which somebody says something under oath that he believed to be true, which turns out not to be, without telling an intentional lie — raising the possibility that could be part of Clemens' defense.

Clemens faces a maximum sentence of up to 30 years in prison and a $1.5 million fine if convicted on all six charges. Maximum penalties are unlikely because Clemens doesn't have a criminal record, but Walton made plain at the first trial that Clemens was at risk of going to jail. Under U.S. sentencing guidelines, he probably would face up to 15 months to 21 months in prison.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Last Winter (NR) 1hr 43min
7:30pm
With Belgian beer reception and waffles from Crispy Truck.

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

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

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

L!fe Happens (R) 1hr 41min
1:30pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:40pm

Blue Like Jazz (PG-13) 1hr 46min
1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 9:50pm

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

Cabin in the Woods (R) 1hr 35min
11:15am, 1:35pm, 3:55pm, 6:15pm, 8:40pm, 9:45pm

Three Stooges (PG) 1hr 32min
11:00am, 1:15pm, 3:30pm, 5:35pm, 8:10pm, 10:30pm

21 Jump Street (R) 1hr 49min
11:10am, 1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 10:15pm

Hunger Games (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
11:55am, 3:30pm, 7:00pm, 10:25pm

American Reunion (R) 1hr 53min
11:20am, 2:00pm, 4:40pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Titanic 3D (PG-13) 3hrs 14min
11:45am, 4:10pm, 8:30pm

Salmon Fishing in the Yemen (PG-13) 1hr 52min
11:25am, 1:50pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm

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

Lady (R) 2hrs 25min
1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

Hunter (R) 1hr 40min
1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:10pm

Comic-Con: Episode IV - A Fan's Hope (PG-13) 1hr 28min
4:40pm, 9:45pm

Delicacy (La delicatesse) (PG-13) 1hr 48min
1:50pm, 7:10pm

All In (NR) 1hr 47min
1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:20pm, 10:00pm

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

Three Stooges (PG) 1hr 32min
11:15am, 1:45pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

Cabin in the Woods 3D (R) 1hr 35min
11:45am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:10pm

Lockout (PG-13) 1hr 50min
11:30am, 2:00pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

Woman Thou Art Loosed: On the 7th Day (PG-13) 1hr 41min
11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:45pm

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

Say 'yes' to an offer, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ How you feel when you wake up and how you feel by noon could be very different. You sense that you are in a whirlwind of emotions, but one you can handle. Tonight: Go with whimsy.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Say less and listen more. You cannot help but gain understanding through a conversation. You suddenly might understand why someone decided to head in a particular direction. Schedule a much-needed checkup. Tonight: Get some extra z's.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Your friendship means a lot to others. You also have a lot of responsibilities. Be realistic -- you can spread yourself only so thin, even as energetic as you are. A meeting provokes many ideas and suggestions. Tonight: Follow the fun.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ You are on top of your game. Listen to news from a boss or older friend with a grain of salt. Everything could reverse itself before the end of the day. Stay direct when dealing with others; do not lose your focus. Tonight: You might decide to go your own way.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Detach, and you'll seem far more supportive to others, as there is less of a tendency to trigger a reaction. What you will notice is that what you would judge in someone else is present within yourself. Tonight: Wherever there is good music.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Togetherness comes from letting go of your view of what should be. Try to see life from a different perspective. Ask questions. You'll soon discover that there is no right or wrong, only what works for an individual. Tonight: Jump on an opportunity.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Defer to others for the moment; listen to their views. You are likely to have an animated debate. The unexpected runs riot in the best-laid plans, especially involving a partner or key associate. Hang in there. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Be aware of what is happening behind the scenes. Know what you want from a situation. Communication is vital, in that it will lead you and others to find a new approach to handling a problematic issue. Trust yourself, and you will find answers. Tonight: All fired up.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Infuse whatever situation you are in with creativity and perspective. Others will jump on the bandwagon with you as they see the wisdom of your ways. A surprise could he heading down the pike, just for you. Tonight: Take a midweek break.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Sometimes you need to stop and center yourself. Part of the reason that this process seems necessary is that you are changing. Old choices reflect your former self. Tonight: Don't stray far from home.

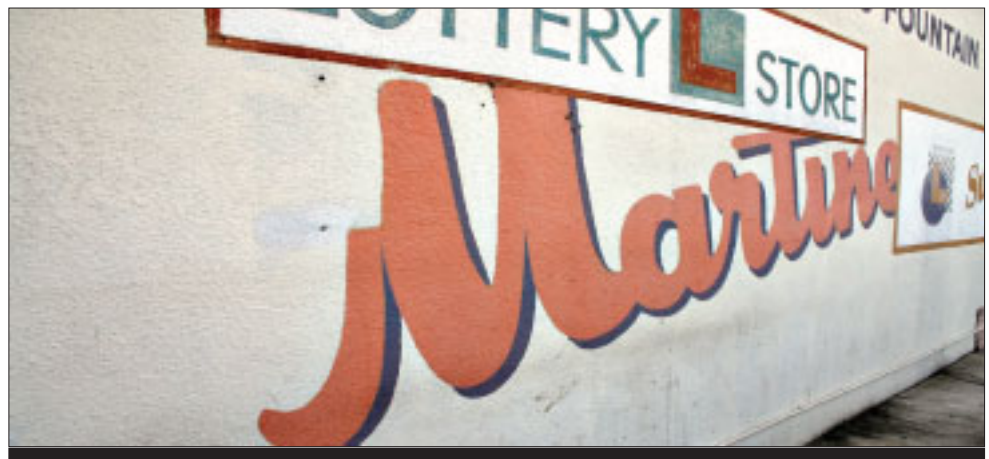
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Keep conversations moving. You can facilitate a friendship or agreement just by employing your innate skills. Your perceptions might be changing during this process. Tonight: Join a friend for dinner.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Listen to news carefully. Be aware of what is being shared by someone whose financial wisdom you respect. A meeting could be provocative and draw a strong reaction. Use care, as you might be more unpredictable than usual. Tonight: Tap into self-discipline.

Happy birthday

This year you are an emotional pendulum, swinging from moody to introverted and from emotional to dynamic. You act before thinking and are full of energy. Others might wonder who is the real you. Try both sides of your personality this year. If you are single, you attract impulsive and spontaneous people. As a result, your relationships will have an unpredictable tone. If you are attached, the two of you become more carefree than you were before you met each other. You infuse your relationship with a wild excitement. Another ARIES might be very different, but he or she has a similar intensity....

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



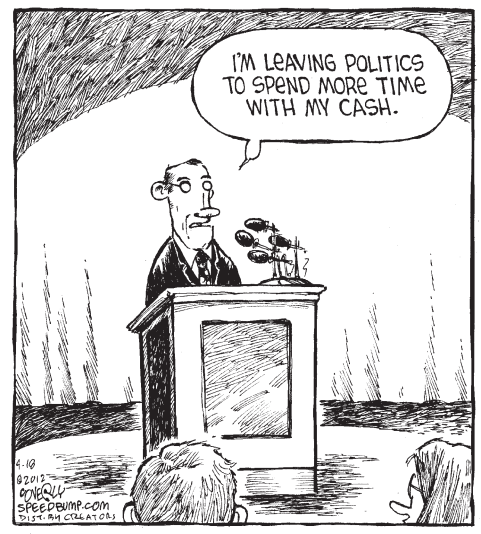
MYSTERY REVEALED!

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

Reader Barry Barker correctly identified this photo of a mural on the side of Ed's Liquor on Pico Boulevard. He will receive a prize from the Daily Press. See Thursday's edition for another chance to play. Send your mystery photos to *editor@smdp.com* to be used in future issues.

Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



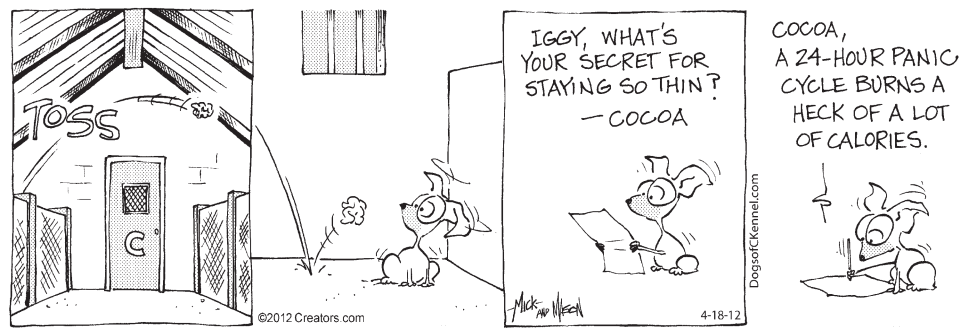
Strange Brew

By John Deering



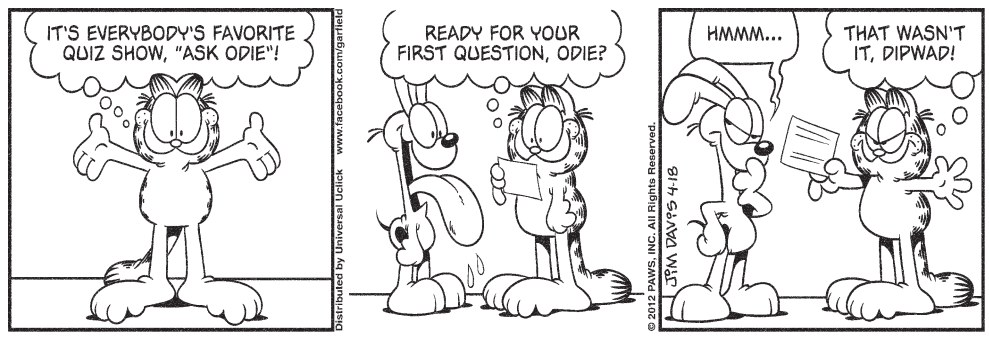
Dogs of C-Kennel

By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



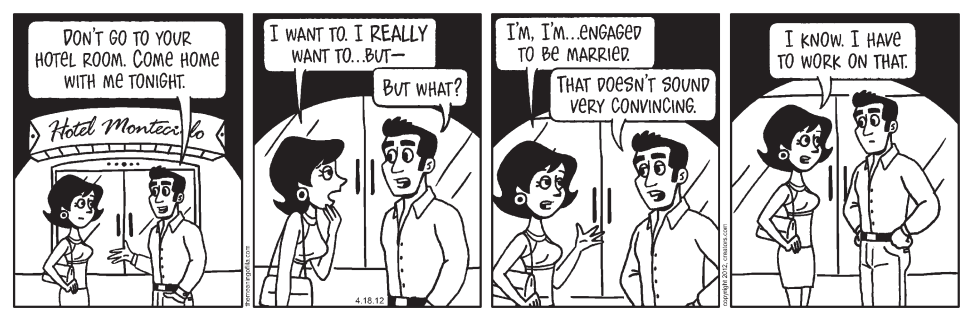
Garfield

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 ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Seaside setting
5 Boot part
9 Warning sound
11 Act the waiter
12 Blasting stuff
13 Packing
14 Tennis feat
15 Purpose of certain machines
17 Bank business
19 Once called
20 Girder material
21 Tie the knot
22 Stage comment
24 Blue
26 Heart part
29 Fix seams
30 Dispatching
32 Undecided
34 Put away
35 Stellar hunter
36 Stellar scales
38 Signs a lease
39 "Oklahoma!" aunt
40 Advantage
41 Sediment

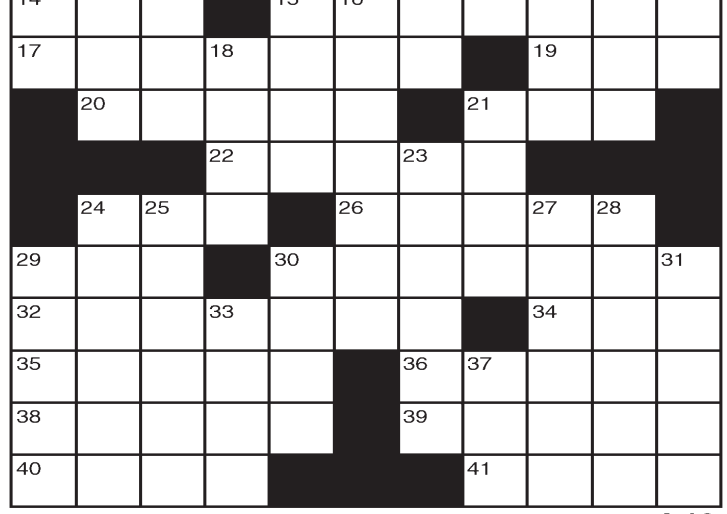
DOWN

1 Venice sight
2 "— Restaurant"
3 Gadget protector
4 Screw up
5 Grazing group
6 Kingly fur
7 Made flat
8 Pigeon's perch
10 Multiplex offering
11 Warbled
16 Pep up
18 In need of recharging
21 Join, in a way
23 Hang loosely
24 Become furious
25 Storefront sight
27 Practical
28 Main dish
29 Future fern
30 Confession list
31 Bike parts
33 Be too fond
37 Suffering

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



4-18

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

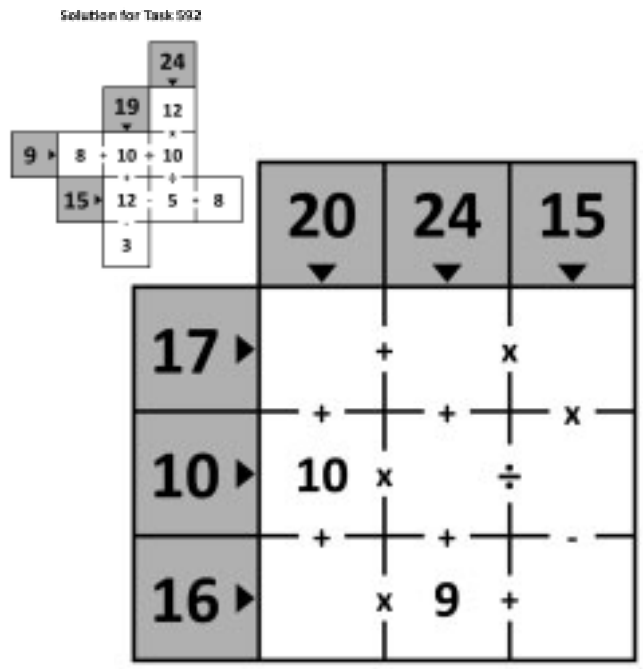
• Each empty square dictates the math operation that must be performed to meet the demands.

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

Go to www.zokigames.net for more fun and challenging games and links to our mobile phone apps.

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

1, 2, 4, 7, 9, 11, 11



DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS — Draw Date: 4/17
Meganumber:
Jackpot: $53M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS — Draw Date: 4/14
1 3 19 36 45
Meganumber: 8
Jackpot: $9M

Fantasy 5 — Draw Date: 4/17
11 30 31 37 38

DAILY 3 — Draw Date: 4/17
MIDDAY: 8 1 8
EVENING: 1 8 8

SANTA ANITA PARK — Draw Date: 4/17
1st: 06 Whirl Win
2nd: 05 California Classic
3rd: 11 Money Bags
RACE TIME: 1:41.05

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ In assigning a bail of only $20,000, the judge in Ellisville, Miss., seemed torn about whether to believe that Harold Hadley is a terrorist -- that is, did Hadley plant a bomb at Jones County Junior College? In February, investigators told WDAM-TV that the evidence against Hadley included a note on toilet paper on which he had written in effect, "I passed a bomb in the library." However, no bomb was found, and a relative of Hadley's told the judge that Hadley often speaks of breaking wind as "passing a bomb." The case is continuing.

■ John Hughes, 55, was fined $1,000 in February in Butte, Mont., after pleading guilty to reckless driving for leading police on a 100-mph-plus chase starting at 3:25 a.m. After police deflated his tires and arrested him, an officer asked why he had taken off. Said Hughes, "I just always wanted to do that."

■ Melvyn Webb, 54, was acquitted in March of alleged indecent behavior on a train. An eight-woman, four-man jury in Reading (England) Crown Court found Webb's explanation entirely plausible -- that he was a banjo player and was "playing" some riffs underneath the newspaper in his lap. "(S)ometimes I do, with my hands, pick out a pattern on my knees," he said. (On the other hand, the female witness against him had testified that Webb "was facing me, breathing heavily and snarling.")

TODAY IN HISTORY

1912 – The Cunard liner RMS Carpathia brings 705 survivors from the RMS Titanic to New York City.

1915 – French pilot Roland Garros is shot down and glides to a landing on the German side of the lines during World War I.

WORD UP!

xenophilia
\ zen-uh-FIL-ee-uh \ , noun;
1.
An attraction to foreign peoples, cultures, or customs.

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Assisted Living community is looking for PT caregivers and PT medication technicians to assist elderly residents. 2 yrs of experience preferred. Must have good attitude and a love for seniors. Schedule will include weekends. Pre employment drug screen and background check required. If interested, please come to 2107 Ocean Ave. SM, CA 90405 and fill out an application. EOE

COMMISSION SALES rep needed part time with internet marketing experience. Submit resume to bsberkowitz@aol.com

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

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A WATERKEEPER ALLIANCE SPLASH SERIES EVENT TO BENEFIT SANTA MONICA BAYKEEPER

STAND-UP FOR CLEAN WATER

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 Booth, 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

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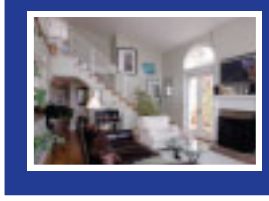
Kate Bransfield

Estates Director
Society of Excellence
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SantaMonicaListings.com

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

North Of Montana Activity

ADDRESS	Bedrooms	Baths	Sq Feet	Year Built	Lot Size	Days on Market	List Price
Active Listings							
622 7TH ST	3	2	1,900	1922	5,280	14	$1,650,000
525 16TH ST	2	1.5	1,662	1925	7,511	33	$1,895,000
2520 ALTA AVE	3	3	2,283	1927	8,700	26	$2,199,000
709 10TH ST	4	3.5	3,326	1920	7,500	12	$2,495,000
509 17TH ST	5	3	2,927	1927	8,940	8	$2,500,000
422 22ND ST	5	4.5	4,682	1986	7,550	33	$2,975,000
477 21ST PL	4	5.5	4,245	1923	9,880	36	$3,195,000
538 10TH ST	5	4.5	4,271	2000	7,500	1	$3,250,000
307 21ST ST	5	4.75	4,518	1935	8,940	19	$3,295,000
335 24TH ST	5	4.5	4,682	1929	8,700	19	$3,499,000
408 17TH ST	5	4.5	3,522	1929	7,500	24	$3,550,000
524 15TH ST	3	4.5	4,043	2008	7,500	15	$3,550,000
610 25TH ST	5	4.5	4,266	1924	8,700	43	$3,599,000
515 MARGUERITA AVE	4	2	3,196	1923	13,188	46	$3,795,000
509 21ST PL	6	5.5	5,748	2006	7,600	68	$3,995,000
533 24TH ST	6	5.5	5,581	1984	8,700	278	$3,999,000
635 20TH ST	4	5.5	5,409	1924	8,940	19	$4,395,000
101 17TH ST	6	8.5	8,578	2009	14,453	75	$6,995,000
444 14TH ST	5	6	4,200	2002	15,000	29	$7,395,000
436 GEORGINA AVE	6	9.5	11,028	1982	22,190	99	$8,499,000
208 ADELAIDE DR	4	5.5	0	1942	20,586	11	$11,850,000
Sold in the Last Three Months							
428 14TH ST	3	1	1,600	1924	7,500	20	$1,649,500
417 EUCLID ST	2	1	1,245	1930	7,500	18	$1,688,000
239 EUCLID ST	3	1.75	1,604	1940	7,500	14	$1,795,000
225 12TH ST	2	2	1,568	1923	7,500	15	$1,825,000
320 22ND ST	3	2	2,130	1924	7,550	87	$1,850,000
1610 SAN VICENTE BLVD	3	3.75	3,517	1944	10,197	15	$1,895,000
733 20TH ST	3	2	1,704	1927	8,940	26	$1,950,000
627 24TH ST	3	2	1,843	1928	8,700	14	$1,999,000
527 19TH ST	3	2	2,284	1936	8,940	10	$2,350,000
363 21ST PL	4	3.75	2,567	1926	7,600	54	$2,550,000
538 MARGUERITA AVE	2	1.75	2,121	1954	11,492	14	$2,595,000
230 16TH ST	5	3.5	3,474	1926	7,500	51	$2,875,000
1424 MARGUERITA ST	5	4.5	4,849	1982	8,260	18	$2,999,000
310 22ND ST	5	6	6,505	1989	7,550	70	$3,100,000
1105 GEORGINA AVE	4	4.5	2,921	1931	14,240	11	$3,250,000
427 21ST ST	5	4.5	4,796	2008	8,940	15	$3,575,000
258 16TH ST	5	5.5	4,235	2002	7,500	22	$3,995,000
302 MARGUERITA AVE	3	3	4,184	1973	11,130	24	$4,250,000
2202 GEORGINA AVE	7	8.5	11,000	2012	13,030	1	$9,000,000

What is Your Home Worth? Contact Me to Find Out!

This is not intended as a solicitation if you currently have a broker. The information has been retrieved from the Multiple Listing Service. Some of these properties have been sold or listed with other Real Estate Agents.