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Santa Monica Daily Press
FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2013
Volume 12 Issue 143

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

FREEWAY PROJECT DELAYED
SEE PAGE 3

THE DRAMA CONTINUES ISSUE



Morgan Genser *editor@smdp.com*

STRIKE! **Santa Monica's Sara Garcia delivers a pitch against Inglewood on Thursday at Memorial Park. Samohi would go on to win the game, 18-0, as Garcia pitched a no-hitter.**

Problem roots could spell trouble for city's trees

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

MAIN LIBRARY Trees throughout Santa Monica may be in bad shape because of faulty roots and other ailments, a situation that could have been prevented by proper selection and planting procedures, according to a report.

HortScience, a firm that consults on urban forests, examined 54 trees in various portions of the city and found that more than half of those selected were in either "poor" or "fair" condition.

In some instances, roots showed kinks, which prevent nutrients and other materials from getting to the tree. More severe problems occurred when trees spent too long in their pots before being planted, causing a phenomenon called root "circling" or "girdling," which can cut years off a tree's

SEE TREES PAGE 7



MOVING IT

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

Tennis star Venus Williams works out during the Pop-Up FiTrends Expo at the Annenberg Community Beach House on Thursday.

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

No-hitter propels Samohi to 85th straight league win

Garcia adds 13 strikeouts, home run to her big day

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

MEMORIAL PARK And the streak continues.

Santa Monica softball won its 85th straight Ocean League game Thursday at Memorial Park on the strength of a no-hitter by junior Sara Garcia. The latest victim was Inglewood, who fell 18-0.

"I just work on focusing on my mechanics," Garcia said. "I just tried to locate my pitches all day."

The final score of Thursday's game was no surprise considering that Samohi knocked off Inglewood 32-2 earlier this

SEE SOFTBALL PAGE 8

Food trucks limited, pedicabs allowed

Editor's note: This story is part of an ongoing series that tracks the second and final readings of ordinances approved by the City Council. Second readings are held without public comment, although the issues have been discussed, often at length, during prior City Council meetings.

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The City Council followed through on two ordinances Tuesday night that would regulate food and travel on Santa Monica's streets.

With no discussion, council members heard and voted on an ordinance restricting the time and place that food trucks could

SEE READINGS PAGE 5

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1513 Glencoe Avenue	$735,000
2512 4th Street	$720,000
RECENT BUYER REPRESENTED SALES	
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680 N Las Casas Avenue	1.250 Million
727 Hill Street	$770,000
2613 6th Street #F	$715,000
3985 Moore Street #4	$409,000

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Friday, April 26, 2013

Paper made
Recreation Center
1450 Ocean Ave., 12 p.m. — 2 p.m.
Make paper using your own junk mail. Leave with a stack of handmade papers and information about how to make more, using various ingredients and techniques. Please bring old towels and a board to keep your papers flat when taking them home. For more information, visit smpl.org.

A 'Beautiful' film
Miles Memorial Playhouse
1130 Lincoln Blvd., 7 p.m.
"Beautiful" is a docu-film project about discovering your true self by helping others. The project connects young individuals on the autism spectrum with mainstream youth through the art of ballet and movement. The film is part of a campaign for the autism community integration project PRE (Paradise Ranch Estates). This event begins with a short screening of the film, followed by talks by documentary producers, artists, and involved community members as well as a guest speaker to be announced. For more information, call (310) 717-6336.

Blind comedy
Promenade Playhouse
1404 Third Street Promenade, 8 p.m.
Twelve visually-impaired actors and musicians take the stage in an original comedy called "Yesterday's," created and performed by Theatre by the Blind, the country's only theater troupe composed entirely of blind actors. Admission is $20. For more information and tickets, visit creoutreach.org.

Saturday, April 27, 2013

Manly melodies
First Presbyterian Church
1220 Second St., 8 p.m.
Jacaranda's three-concert series continues with a staging of Benjamin Britten's "Curlew River." The 70-minute tale of tragedy premieres in Los Angeles with an all male cast, and the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles. Tickets are $40; $20 for students. For more information, call (213) 483-0216.

Chain reaction of charity
Rusty's Surf Ranch
256 Santa Monica Pier, 8 p.m.
Rusty's Surf Ranch will be hosting a fundraiser this weekend for the "Chain Reaction" sculpture located in the Civic Center. Editorial cartoonist Paul Conrad donated the artwork to the city over 20 years ago, and since then the sculpture has fallen into disrepair. All proceeds will go to restoring the sculpture. Admission is $20; $10 for students. Tickets can be purchased at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/367095.

Sunday, April 28, 2013

Cool cats with hats
Hotel Shangri-La Pool Courtyard
1301 Ocean Ave., 2 p.m. — 5 p.m.
British fashion designer and corset maker Mich Dulce is coming to town. The famed milliner is throwing a jubilee-style hat party complete with bunting, biscuits, tea, and cake in association with BritWeek. Reservations are highly recommended at RSVP@Shangrila-Hotel.com.

Bad to the bone
Rusty's Surf Ranch
256 Santa Monica Pier,
5:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Local band The Bonedaddys will perform two shows on Sunday in an effort to raise funds and awareness for The Church in Ocean Park. The 30-year-old Methodist church, which has a history of social activism, needs some loving. The church needs to raise $95,000 to pay for necessary electrical and sound system upgrades, as well as support to expand on current outreach programs. Tickets for the 6 p.m. show with dinner are $50, and $15 for the 8 p.m. show. To purchase tickets visit, churchop.nationbuilder.com.

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



Report: I-405 project delayed at least a year

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Los Angeles motorists are accustomed to waiting in traffic on Interstate 405. Now they'll have an even longer wait for construction to be completed on the key north-south artery.

The ongoing project to widen one of the nation's busiest freeways will take a year longer than initially planned, and the price tag will jump about $100 million beyond the initial $1 billion figure, the Los Angeles Times reported Wednesday.

Several factors have contributed to the cost overruns and delays, including the structural failure of miles of sound walls, a legal fight over the placement of ramps, and the logistics of relocating utility lines, the newspaper said.

"This project has been horribly managed," said Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, pointing the finger at the main contractor, Kiewit Infrastructure West Co., and subcontractors. "They've shown a complete lack of sensitivity and empathy for the community in which they're doing the work."

Kiewit defended its work.

"The costs and schedule impacts are the result of the project's overall complexity and the significant challenges associated with multiple unexpected utility and right of way issues," the company said. "Kiewit and Metro are committed to working together to minimize future delays and resolve final costs."

Metropolitan Transportation Authority officials agreed that some of the problems, such as the utility lines and ramps, were out of the contractor's control.

Transportation officials now say they hope to complete the bulk of the project by June 2014, with some of the work around traffic-clogged Sunset Boulevard lasting perhaps into the fall of that year.

The project was first forecast to be done this spring, and the date was later pushed back to December.

Preliminary work on the final 10-mile leg of a carpool lane through the Sepulveda Pass began four years ago. In addition to completing the northbound carpool link between Orange County and the San Fernando Valley, the project called for new ramps, rebuilding three bridges and adding miles of retaining and sound walls.

One frustrated commuter has even put $50,000 of his own money to get the project moving more quickly — but there's little to show for it.

Elon Musk, who co-founded PayPal and Tesla Motors Inc., says it's easier getting rockets into orbit than driving between his Bel-Air home and his Space Exploration Technologies factory in Hawthorne.

"The 405 ... varies from bad to horrendous," Musk told the newspaper.

The ambitious project has required two temporary weekend closures of the busy freeway — one last year and another in 2011 — that became known as Carmageddon I and II.



Photo courtesy Santa Monica High School

OLD SCHOOL: **Robert Isreal will play Barnum Hall's restored Wurlitzer organ during a pair of Buster Keaton silent films on Saturday.**

Hall is alive with the sound of music

BY ALEX VEJAR
Special to the Daily Press

SAMOHI The revving of an engine, gunshots and booming explosions are all common sounds used in modern movies.

But a unique event at Santa Monica High School's Barnum Hall will remind viewers of a time when orchestral music filled the theater.

Samohi's revamped Barnum Hall will show "Sherlock, Jr." and "The Cook," silent films starring comedic actor Buster Keaton, accompanied by a live performance from theater organist and composer Robert Israel.

"We thought it would be a really fun thing for the kids to get excited about," Samohi band director Terry Sakow said of the event.

Hunt believes Saturday's film screening can shed light on an old tradition that has seemingly been long forgotten in today's society.

"I think it's a great opportunity to present to the young kids today what it was their great-grandparents and grandparents experienced when they were young," said Henry Hunt, board member of the Los Angeles Theatre Organ Society.

Jean Sedillos, chair of the Restore Barnum Hall committee, which raised funds to bring the historic venue back to life, also feels that the live organ playing will bring viewers back to a simpler time.

"This is how movies were before people could talk," Sedillos said. "It's just a fun time back into history."

After all the renovations that Barnum Hall has been through over the years, Hunt said that it has become "a great auditorium."

"It really is the best-kept secret that Santa Monica has," Hunt said.

Israel will be performing on a Wurlitzer organ that replaced the hall's original, which was fatally damaged in the Northridge earthquake of 1994. Hunt calls the new organ "a mechanical monster" and "a rebuilt classic."

The new organ was donated by Gordon Belt and installed in the hall in 2009.

Originally named The Auditorium when it was built in 1937, Barnum Hall was renamed after the late William F. Barnum, a former Samohi principal.

The hall, Sakow said, is "a center of culture for the community," and he feels its impact is still being felt after almost 80 years of being a part of Santa Monica.

"It's still employing people many, many years after Roosevelt's administration," Sakow said. "It's a great investment."

The restoration of the hall took approximately 10 years and was aided by several donations from the community, a $1 million grant from the city of Santa Monica, and the passing of Proposition X, a bond measure which used state money to fund several projects in Santa Monica and surrounding cities.

The evening of silent films and live organ music will culminate with the animated short "Sense and Nonsense," one of the few surviving silent films featuring George Herriman's comic strip character Krazy Kat.

The April 27 event will also serve as a fundraiser for the Samohi Band program.

General admission to the film screening is $10; $5 for students and seniors. Barnum Hall is located at 600 Olympic Blvd. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit samohiband.org.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

On board

Editor:

Thank you for printing the letter from Jonathan Mann ("Calling for a recall," Letters to the Editor, April 25). I agree with you and would love to vote for a recall of these council people.

What happened to Santa Monica? It has exploded with all kinds of building everywhere. Traffic jams and streets reduced to one lane. What is going to happen to our clean air and the great weather we have enjoyed? Santa Monicans need to make a stand. Let's call for a recall!

Lita Hern
Santa Monica

Poor post office service

Editor:

Last year when postal officials held a community meeting regarding service in our fair city, we were assured that it would not be to our disadvantage. We all knew they were blowing smoke.

So, as a matter of convenience I stopped at the Will Rogers post office on Wilshire Boulevard and the sign on the door said, "We don't have stamps. Please go to the main post office on Fifth Street."

So, I went to Fifth Street and to my dismay there were two clerks trying to service the 42 people in line.

The United States Postal Service says they are losing money because customers are using other methods to do their mail. Obviously, they are their own worst enemy and we here in Santa Monica are the ones who are getting the short end of the stick. What will happen when the main building is closed and sold?

There was no outcry when they made the announcement and now we will suffer the consequences.

Herb Silverstein
Santa Monica

Setting the terms

Editor:

So the city of Santa Monica lines up to reverse the Elks' claim on the plots at Woodlawn Cemetery ("City Hall, Elks battle over burial plots," April 18). Is this OK with you, my fellow Santa Monica voters, that our local government has the power to set an arbitrary timeline and if their opponents miss the timeline they lose their rights? In other words, does the city of Santa Monica have a right to set a certain time limit for response, set the ground rules, indicate the documents needed and dictate the terms? Are we OK with the city's land grab? Do we the people have a responsibility and duty to protect our rights? We would prevail well if the answer is yes.

The current Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights administration (my opponents) enjoy unprecedented power. Are you, my fellow voters, tired of surrendering our rights so easily?

Robert Kronovet
Santa Monica

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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Rent control anniversary not celebrated by everyone

RECENTLY THERE HAVE BEEN TWO LETTERS to the editor published in the Daily Press which bemoaned rent control. One was from Helen McRoskey, a Santa Monica resident who apparently is not terribly fond of me, and the other from Arthur Schaper from Torrance, Calif., who has frequently e-mailed with long-winded rebuttals to my columns. Clearly, "Artie," as I've come to call him, has a lot of free time.

Since this April marked the 34th anniversary of rent control, I thought I'd respond to both letters, but first a bit of history on the subject. I consider myself qualified if for no other reason than I've lived long enough to have seen it.

When I moved here in 1975, Ocean Park was not exactly "high end." The Shores was built in 1966 as part of an urban renewal project. Thankfully, the area didn't become another Miami Beach as hoped by developers, but the point is "renewal" didn't catch on. Until later.

Around 1977, Santa Monica suddenly became the "in place" to live on the Westside. Whereas there had been 150 vacancies at The Shores, now we were full. But, thanks to supply and demand, rents began to go up. And up. And up.

It wasn't uncommon to receive $50 to $100 rent hikes. It seemed like every time I went to the mailbox waiting for me was another rent increase with no end in sight. It was a nightmare for residents, especially the elderly and those with low incomes.

Tenant advocates organized and in June of 1978 rent control was on the ballot. So was Proposition 13, whose backers promised tenants that landlords would pass on property tax savings. (And if we bought that they had a bridge they wanted to sell.)

Rent control failed, but Prop. 13 was victorious. However, instead of savings for tenants rents went up faster than before, followed by hundreds of evictions and even buildings being demolished. Betrayed, tenant advocates hurriedly got rent control qualified for the next ballot.

On April 10, 1979 rent control passed with base rents being rolled back to 1978 to counteract the recent gouging. On election night I happened to be working as a security guard at The Shores and clearly remember my ears ringing after I answered one particular phone call.

It was Larry Kates, The Shores' controversial co-owner, who was screaming so loudly that I had to hold the receiver away from my ear. Even with the phone on the desk, I could hear his every word.

Furious at the election, Kates' vowed that he'd "level The Shores and turn the buildings into parking lots." (Fortunately he didn't or I might be writing this from a stretch of asphalt.) All of this brings me full circle back to Helen's and Artie's letters to the editor.

Apparently Helen was miffed by my April 5 column entitled "On location, on location, on location," in which I complained about Santa Monica frequently being a back lot for Hollywood production companies. Maybe "miffed" was an understatement. Helen began the letter by calling me a "laughing hyena," and, frankly, that was the nicest part.

Helen went on to call me, "A greedy, rent-controlled tenant living on someone else's dime." (Yes, Helen, but how do you really feel?) Actually, while it's much less than market rates would have been, in 38 years I've paid approximately $350 million in rent.

IT SEEMED LIKE EVERY TIME I WENT TO THE MAILBOX WAITING FOR ME WAS ANOTHER RENT INCREASE WITH NO END IN SIGHT. IT WAS A NIGHTMARE FOR RESIDENTS, ESPECIALLY THE ELDERLY AND THOSE WITH LOW INCOMES.

Helen implied that if I were paying fair market rates I'd have a right to complain about noisy trucks rolling in at 6 a.m. and unloading and the production company taking up the lobby, the parking lot and north-facing tenants not allowed to use their balconies all day. But, as a rent-controlled tenant, I should shut up.

As absurd as Helen's attack is (relax, Helen, at least I'm not calling you a hyena), Artie's takes the cake. One of his reasons for abolishing rent control is that "Whitey" Bulger, the infamous former fugitive and alleged multiple murderer (19 counts) now in custody in Boston, when arrested was living in a Santa Monica rent-control unit! (Case closed.)

Following Artie's logic, the FBI's most wanted list is likely filled with mobsters living in rent-controlled units. (If somehow Whitey gets off and reads what Artie wrote it might be 20 counts.)

Artie is a self-proclaimed conservative blogger who theorizes that since he and I both love the TV show "Seinfeld," off the air in 1998, maybe we can resolve our political differences. While it's a sweet thought, 75 million people watched the "Seinfeld" finale. So, Artie, the fact that you and I like the show, isn't necessarily the basis for a political kumbaya.

On the other hand, I suppose I should be grateful that Helen and Artie used letters to the editor to vent their displeasure. It sure beats the ear-ringing of a screaming phone call.

JACK can be reached at jnsmdp@aol.com

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READINGS
FROM PAGE 1

sling their wares on Main Street, as well as a new regulatory system for pedicabs, which are human-powered taxis.

It's not unusual for second readings to pass with merely an introduction and a roll call vote. Much more abnormal was the fact that the first ordinance, which banned food trucks from a portion of the city on weekends and on major holidays, passed the first time without verbal support or opposition from the public.

The ordinance, which will take effect in less than 30 days, extends a blanket ban on food trucks on Main Street between 1 a.m. and 3 a.m. to include the half block between Marine Street and Santa Monica's southern border with Los Angeles.

It also expands the prohibition to include eight major holidays that might fall on weekdays and were otherwise excluded from the first ordinance.

Those include New Year's Day, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day, Halloween, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day and Cinco de Mayo.

Cinco de Mayo was originally omitted from the list, but later replaced Columbus Day.

The City Council banned food trucks between Ocean Park Boulevard and Marine Street on Saturdays and Sundays during those hours in November 2011 on advice from Santa Monica Police Department officials that the trucks caused often-intoxicated bar patrons to swarm on sidewalks, creating a safety hazard.

The trucks are some of the only food-providing businesses open at that hour on Main Street, and people leaving bars after last call would make a pit stop at the trucks, taking up sidewalk space, sitting on curbs and even running out into the street, SMPD Cap. Dan Salerno told the City Council on April 9.

"We're fearful of a collision," Salerno said.

People also had a tendency to forget themselves, leaving wrappers and food on the ground for others to slip on or vermin to eat, Salerno said.

After the original ordinance went into effect, safety officials saw an improvement except on holidays that fall on weekdays and are traditionally associated with alcohol consumption.

It also didn't handle the half block between Marine Street and the border with Venice, which contains four parking spots that became prime real estate for food trucks, according to a report.

The expanded ordinance would fix those problems, Salerno told council members.

Councilmember Terry O'Day originally voted against the ordinance, but chose to vote with his colleagues on Tuesday.

PEDAL POWER

Pedicab regulations, which dominated the April 9 meeting, also passed with nary a whimper.

Santa Monica officials had no way of controlling the human-powered taxis, which, by dint of being a bicycle, were allowed to operate on city streets without any restrictions.

Council members fearful of a "wild west" of the unwieldy vehicles on Santa Monica streets chose to approve what limitations they could, including a ban from the Beach Bike Path.

Pedicabs must also post their fares and have headlights, tail lights, turn signals, brakes, spoke reflectors and each of the passengers must be restrained by seat belts.

Drivers must be at least 18 years old and free of drug, driving under the influence or sex offense convictions. They must also have taken a bicycle safety training course, and have a decent driving history through the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Companies will also have to pay for permits to cover administrative costs, which Salvador Valles, business and operations manager with the city's Finance Department, estimated at $2,950.

Future regulations may be in store if needed, council members warned.

ashley@smdp.com

The Q Line

A place to rest

City Hall and the Elks club are battling over burial plots at Woodlawn Cemetery that the club says rightfully belong to them. The city disagrees as legal proceedings continue.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think the Elks have the right to the burial plots or is City Hall right in denying them ownership?

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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CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Couple robbed while walking through Virginia Ave. Park

Crime Watch is a weekly series culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, AT 1:47 A.M.,
Santa Monica Police officers responded to the 2100 block of Pico Boulevard regarding a report of an armed robbery that recently took place. When officers arrived they spoke with one of the alleged victims who pointed to two people and said they were two of the six who robbed them at knife point. Officers detained the two suspects and continued to interview the victims, who said that they were walking through Virginia Avenue Park when they were surrounded by six guys who pulled out knives and demanded money. One of the suspects took one victim's wallet and stole $100 and his identification. They then began walking the victims toward a liquor store on the belief that they would obtain more money. As the victims got close, they used a cell phone to call 911 while running away. One knife was recovered and the identifications were found discarded. No money was found. The suspects were booked for robbery. They were identified as Martin Salinas, 21, and Frank Slobotski, 19; both from Santa Monica. Police did not provide bail information. Four other suspects have not yet been identified and the investigation continues.

SATURDAY, APRIL 20, AT 4:30 A.M.,
Officers were on patrol along the 2200 block of Third Street when they saw a man riding a bike without a headlight, a requirement under the California Vehicle Code. The man was stopped for the violation and allegedly told officers that he did not have any identification on him. He consented to a search and officers found a pair of bolt cutters inside a backpack. He also had a no-bail warrant for his arrest for sales and transportation of marijuana, police said. He was placed under arrest for the warrant and possession of burglary tools. He was identified as Jason Mosca, 35, of Los Angeles. No bail was set.

FRIDAY, APRIL 19, AT 12:05 A.M.,
Officers responded to the 1800 block of Euclid Street regarding a report of people fighting. When officers arrived they did not find anyone fighting, but they did trace the disturbance to an apartment where several people were inside. One person exited and officers noticed he was sweating profusely and was ridged. Officers checked his pulse, which was elevated, and took him into custody for being under the influence of drugs. The suspect allegedly became aggressive and kicked an officer's leg. The suspect was placed under arrest for being under the influence and battery on a police officer. He was identified as Shaun Quilty, 23. The suspect refused to give officers his address. His bail was set at $20,000.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, AT P.M., 2:03 A.M.,
Officers on patrol along Palisades Park saw a man sitting on a bench after the park was closed – a violation of the Santa Monica Municipal Code. The man was detained and when asked for identification he told police that he did not have any. He proceeded to give officers several different names. He was placed under arrest and during a search the suspect was allegedly found to be in possession of methamphetamine and a syringe. He was booked for possession of meth and drug paraphernalia and a probation violation. He was identified as Simeon Sells, 36, of Los Angeles. No bail was set.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, AT 4:59 P.M.,
Officers responded to the OPCC Access Center located at 503 Olympic Blvd. regarding a report of an assault. When officers arrived they were told that the suspect had a knife and tried to stab the victim while standing outside the facility. Officers detained the suspect on the 700 block of Olympic Boulevard. The alleged victim told officers that he tried to exchange some tokens for a dollar bill and that angered the suspect, who tried to stab him in the stomach. He moved and the suspect missed. The suspect was placed under arrest for assault with a deadly weapon. He was identified as Raymond Lee Williams, 64, a transient. His bail was set at $30,000.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, AT 11:55 A.M.,
Officers responded to the 1300 block of Fourth Street to assist a park ranger who was with a man who appeared to be intoxicated. When officers arrived they saw the suspect using a shopping cart to steady himself and learned that he allegedly almost broke a store window when he fell. He displayed all the signs of being drunk so officers placed him under arrest for being drunk in public and for the misappropriation of a shopping cart. He was identified as Glenn Ford, 62, a transient. His bail was set at $500.

MONDAY, APRIL 15, AT 8:52 A.M.,
Officers responded to the Holiday Motel on the 1100 block of Pico Boulevard regarding a guest causing a disturbance inside one of the rooms. When officers arrived they contacted the motel owner, who said that a guest was being loud and banging on the walls in her room. He asked officers to quiet her. Officers approached the woman and tried to talk with her but she would not calm down. Officers believed she was under the influence of drugs and saw a glass jar filled with marijuana inside her room. The owner asked the woman to leave the motel, but she refused so officers placed her under arrest for trespassing and marijuana possession. She was identified as Jowhara Haddad, 31, of Los Angeles. Her bail was set at $10,000.

editor@smdp.com

Editor-in-chief **KEVIN HERRERA** compiled these reports.



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

ON THE JOB: **A worker with West Coast Arborists trims trees on Fifth Street last year.**

TREES
FROM PAGE 1

lifespan.

That puts West Coast Arborists, a company that selects and plants trees in Santa Monica, firmly in the hot seat, as well as a handful of city officials, several of whom have since retired, who were responsible for monitoring the condition of trees planted in the city.

Urban Forest Task Force members drilled into company representatives at a meeting Wednesday night, noting that more than 80 trees in one beach parking lot alone had died under their watch.

"What assurances do we have that the problems we have found so far won't continue, and who's going to ensure that these best practices will be followed?" asked task force member John C. Smith.

Company representatives committed to replacing the Torrey pines in the beach parking lot, as well as providing a list of trees that had been replaced multiple times in the last five years.

They will also turn control of a database documenting the work done on trees to City Hall.

This comes after other trees examined by HortScience and Robin Beaudry, the city arborist, showed signs of roots growing in circles around the base of the tree, sometimes cutting into the trunk itself.

Called circling and girdling respectively, the conditions can often be discovered early on in the tree's life, often before they leave the nursery from which they were purchased, said Nick Kuhn, president of the Society for Municipal Arborists, a group of municipal tree managers who work with community forests.

Nurseries are under pressure to grow trees quickly, and often they come out with bad quality plants, Kuhn said.

"This is a concern nationwide, probably worldwide," Kuhn said. "Trees grown in the nursery are a product. They're growing them as fast as they can."

The HortScience report was ordered by former Community Forest Supervisor Randy Little in early February when evidence emerged suggesting that some of the 35,000 trees in Santa Monica's urban forest had been either improperly planted or were unhealthy specimens from the start.

In a letter sent to the District Attorney's Office Monday, Beaudry alleged that the bad practices were part of a scheme by West Coast Arborists to make more money by planting and subsequently replacing defective trees. He went on to say that former City Forester Walt Warriner approved invoices by West Coast Arborists for hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of work that has been unaccounted for.

A subsequent investigation by Management Partners, a consultant, found no wrongdoing, just bad accounting practices, although the review did not rise to the level of a forensic audit, said City Attorney Marsha Moutrie. The consultant recommended city officials do a comprehensive review of all invoices from West Coast Arborists to see if City Hall was overcharged.

Beaudry's concerns arose from his own inspections of trees, which began after he was hired in October 2012. He uncovered and photographed the root systems of newly planted trees that he says show severe signs of root girdling.

In extreme cases, girdling can bite so far into the tree that it snaps at the base. It can happen when plants have been in small containers for too long, causing their roots to warp, or when the tree is planted too deeply into the soil, according to a document posted by city officials to the Urban Forest Task Force website.

The HortScience report identified other problems with care for the trees that did not relate to their time at the nursery, including over-watering and imperfect soil conditions.

"This was a colossal disregard for contract specification and the Urban Forest Master Plan," Beaudry said.

The Urban Forest Master Plan, adopted by the City Council in December 2011, lays out specific standards for tree selection and care, including requirements that trees be rejected if they are "root bound, shows evidence of girdling or kinking roots, or has roots protruding above the soil."

The HortScience report states that the root defects were well within the range that are often found with nursery-grown stock.

The trees were usually purchased and planted by West Coast Arborists, although other companies have also taken part, said Karen Ginsberg, director of Community and Cultural Services, the department that housed the Public Landscape Division that oversaw the urban forest.

For certain projects in the city that involve trees, like Tongva Park across from City Hall, private parties hire their own subcontractors to bring in trees, Ginsberg said.

West Coast Arborist employee Andy Trotter told task force members that his company would work with City Hall to

SEE **REPORT** PAGE 9

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Morgan Genser *editor@smdp.com*

STAYING SAFE: **Santa Monica High's Jennifer Eyler (right) beats Fabiola Jimenez's tag attempt during an 18-0 win over Ocean League foe Inglewood on Thursday at Memorial Park.**

SOFTBALL

FROM PAGE 1

month. The two runs Inglewood recorded are the only ones given up by Samohi to league opponents this season.

Inglewood was in trouble from the first pitch. Garcia struck out the side making way for an 8-run explosion in the bottom of the first.

Garcia led the inning off with a walk against Inglewood starter Meghan Moore, scoring on a double off the bat of senior Marissa Padilla.

It was all Samohi would need.

To keep the game from getting any more out of hand after the first inning, Samohi base runners stepped off the bag periodically before pitches to help Inglewood ring up outs. In softball, if a runner leaves a base before the pitch is delivered it is an automatic out.

"I can't take anything away from that program," Inglewood head coach Noe Bautista said of Samohi. "I tip my hat to what they have been able to do."

The win improves Samohi's overall record to 10-7 and 6-0 in league. Inglewood dropped to 1-6 in league.

Adding to Garcia's dominant showing was a 3-run home run she drove to center

SEE **SAMOHI** PAGE 9

TOWN HALL DISCUSSION ON URBAN FORM



DOWNTOWN Specific Plan

WHEN: MONDAY, MAY 6th 6:00PM

WHERE: CIVIC CENTER, EAST WING
1855 MAIN STREET, SANTA MONICA

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- DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS
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- OPPORTUNITY SITES
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- PROCESS
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REPORT
FROM PAGE 7

improve the quality of trees that came into the city, but that some of City Hall's demands on his company made it difficult to acquire good trees.

For instance, the Urban Forest Master Plan dictates that certain kinds of trees be planted on various streets. The original goal was to increase the diversity of trees in the urban forest, in part to ensure that if one pest or disease found its way into the city, it could not wipe out a large percentage of the trees.

Some of those trees are hard to find, Trotter said.

The Torrey pines that died near the beach, for instance, were difficult to locate.

"Let's pick species that are commonly available, where nurseries are growing them, and have staff inspect the trees," Trotter said.

Many task force members seemed nervous that things will get worse before they get better.

"The pines," said task force member Grace Phillips, "were the canary in the coal mine."

ashley@smdp.com

SAMOHI
FROM PAGE 8

field that put Samohi up 18-0 in the fourth inning of a game that was called after five innings due to the mercy rule.

Despite Garcia's dominant performance, head coach Debbie Skaggs said that Garcia needs to work on her control after issuing four walks to Inglewood.

Beyond that, Skaggs was just happy to see the streak continue.

Playing in the traditionally weak Ocean League has helped Samohi continue its impressive streak, but keeping the girls' heads in the game has been the trick to keeping it alive.

Skaggs said that her Vikings, at times, enter league games with less than complete enthusiasm.

"We try to set small goals," Skaggs said. "But, it's been tough to keep it going."

The only credible streak buster in league is Hawthorne.

Samohi was able to eke out a 1-0 win over Hawthorne on April 16 in windy conditions.

The two teams face each other on May 2 at Hawthorne. Skaggs is confident her girls can put up more offense that time around, but she is cautiously optimistic that the Vikings can pull it off.

"They are much improved," Skaggs said of Hawthorne. "We expect a good game."

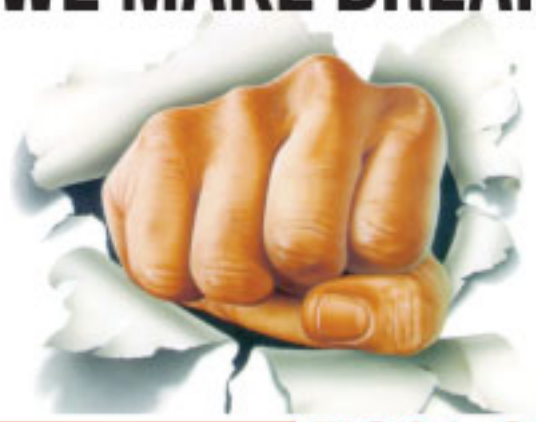
Next for Samohi is a pair of games on Saturday as part of the El Segundo Tournament. They face Serra first. If they advance they will take on the winner of the Agoura-Mary Star matchup. The games will be played at El Segundo High.

Garcia believes that big wins over league opponents are nice, but it's tournaments and preseason games that really prepare the Vikings for the playoffs and a possible second CIF-Southern Section title since 2010.

"It's what we all play for — winning CIF," Garcia said.

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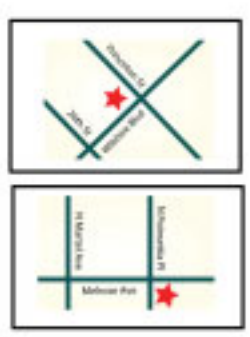
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NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTION BY THE SANTA MONICA REDEVELOPMENT SUCCESSOR AGENCY OVERSIGHT BOARD TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY ASSETS CONSTRUCTED AND USED FOR A GOVERNMENTAL PURPOSE TO THE CITY OF SANTA MONICA PURSUANT TO SUBDIVISION (A) OF HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTION 34181

On May 8, 2013, the Santa Monica Redevelopment Successor Agency Oversight Board ("Oversight Board") will consider a proposed action to authorize the transfer of ownership of real property assets constructed and used for a governmental purpose to the City pursuant to any existing agreements relating to the construction or use of that asset ("Proposed Action"). *All addresses are located within the City of Santa Monica, California

Address*	Government Purpose
1700 Main	public park
1673 Ocean Ave	public park
1665, 1677 and 1683 Ocean Ave	public right of way
1234 4th Street (Parking Structure 1)	public parking structure
1235 2nd Street (Parking Structure 2)	public parking structure
1318 and 1320 4th Street (Parking Structure 3)	public parking structure
1321 2nd Street (Parking Structure 4)	public parking structure
1440 4th Street (Parking Structure 5)	public parking structure
1431 2nd Street (Parking Structure 6)	public parking structure
320 Broadway (Parking Structure 7)	public parking structure
215 Colorado (Parking Structure 8)	public parking structure
2701 Barnard Way	public park and landscaped pathway
3275 Barnard Way	public landscape parkway
3285 and 3358 Barnard Way	public street and landscape parkway
2918 Barnard Way and 110 Pier	public street, bike path and park

WHAT: Santa Monica Redevelopment Successor Agency Oversight Board Public Meeting to consider the Proposed Action

WHERE: Ken Edwards Center
1527 4th Street, Room 100 A/B
Santa Monica, 90401

WHEN: ~~Monday, April 22, 2013~~ Wednesday, May 8, 2013 (Item 2-A Continued)
5:30 p.m.



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Police say Boston suspects planned to attack New York

COLLEEN LONG & JENNIFER PELTZ
Associated Press

NEW YORK The Boston Marathon bombers were headed for New York's Times Square to blow up the rest of their explosives, authorities said Thursday, in what they portrayed as a chilling, spur-of-the-moment scheme that fell apart when the brothers realized the car they had hijacked was low on gas.

"New York City was next on their list of targets," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said.

New York Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said Dzhokhar Tsarnaev told interrogators from his hospital bed that he and his older brother decided on the spot last Thursday night to drive to New York and launch an attack. In their stolen SUV they had five pipe bombs and a pressure-cooker explosive like the ones that blew up at the marathon, Kelly said.

But when the Tsarnaev brothers stopped at a gas station on the outskirts of Boston, the carjacking victim they were holding hostage escaped and called police, Kelly said. Later that night, police intercepted the brothers in a blazing gunbattle that left 26-year-old Tamerlan Tsarnaev dead.

"We don't know if we would have been able to stop the terrorists had they arrived here from Boston," the mayor said. "We're just thankful that we didn't have to find out that answer."

The news caused New Yorkers to shudder with the thought that the city may have narrowly escaped another terrorist attack, though whether the brothers could have made it to the city is an open question. They were two of the most-wanted men in the world, their faces splashed all over the Internet and TV in surveillance-camera images released by the FBI hours earlier.

Dzhokhar, 19, is charged with carrying out the Boston Marathon bombing April 15 that killed three people and wounded more than 260, and he could get the death penalty. Christina DiIorio-Sterling, a spokeswoman for U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz in Boston, would not comment on whether authorities plan to add charges based on the alleged plot to attack New York.

The Middlesex County district attorney's office also is building a murder case against the surviving Tsarnaev for the death of MIT police officer Sean Collier three days after the bombings, office spokeswoman Stephanie Guyotte said.

Investigators and lawmakers briefed by the FBI have said the Tsarnaev brothers — ethnic Chechens from Russia who had lived in the U.S. for about a decade — were motivated by anger over the U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Based on the younger man's interrogation and other evidence, authorities have said it appears so far that the brothers were radicalized via Islamic jihadi material on the Internet instead of any direct contact with terrorist organizations, but they warned that it is still not certain.

Dzhokhar was interrogated in his hospital room Sunday and Monday over a period of 16 hours without being read his rights to remain silent and have an attorney present. He immediately stopped talking after a magistrate judge and a representative from the U.S. Attorney's office entered the room and gave him his Miranda warning, according to a U.S. law enforcement official and others briefed on the interrogation.

Kelly and the mayor said they were briefed on the New York plot on Wednesday night by the task force investigating the Boston bombing.

Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., said in a CNN interview that the city should have been told earlier.

"Even though this may or may not have been spontaneous, for all we know there could be other conspirators out there, and the city should have been alerted so it could go into its defensive mode," he said.

Asked about the delay, Bloomberg said: "There's no reason to think the FBI hides anything. The FBI does what they think is appropriate at the time, and you'll have to ask them what they found and what the actual details of the interrogation were. We were not there."

Kelly, citing the interrogations, said that four days after the Boston bombing, the Tsarnaev brothers "planned to travel to Manhattan to detonate their remaining explosives in Times Square."

"They discussed this while driving around in a Mercedes SUV that they hijacked after they shot and killed the officer at MIT," the police commissioner said. "That plan, however, fell apart when they realized that the vehicle they hijacked was low on gas and ordered the driver to stop at a nearby gas station."

A day earlier, Kelly said that Dzhokhar Tsarnaev had talked about coming to New York "to party" after the attack and that there wasn't evidence of a plot against the city. But Kelly said a later interview with the suspect turned up the information.

"He was a lot more lucid and gave more detail in the second interrogation," Kelly said.

Kelly said there was no evidence New York was still a target. But in a show of force, police cruisers with blinking red lights were lined up in the middle of Times Square on Thursday afternoon, and uniformed officers stood shoulder to shoulder.

"Why are they standing like that? This is supposed to make me feel safer?" asked Elisabeth Bennecib, a tourist and legal consultant from Toulouse, France. "It makes me feel more anxious, like something bad is about to happen."

Above the square, an electronic news ticker announced that the Boston Marathon suspects' next target might have been Times Square.

Outside Penn Station, Wayne Harris, a schoolteacher from Queens, said: "We don't know when a terrorist attack will happen next in New York, but it will happen. It didn't happen this time, by the grace of God. God protected us this time."

In 2010, Times Square was targeted with a car bomb that never went off. Pakistani immigrant Faisal Shahzad had planted a bomb in an SUV, but street vendors noticed smoke and it was disabled. Shahzad was arrested as he tried to leave the country and was sentenced to life in prison.

With tens of millions of dollars in federal homeland security funding at stake, Bloomberg and Kelly have repeatedly sought to remind the public that New York remains at the top of terrorists' wish list. They have said the city has been targeted in more than a dozen plots since 9/11.

Kelly said Dzhokhar was photographed in Times Square with friends in April 2012 and was in the city again in November 2012, but "we don't know if those visits were related in any way to what he described as the brothers' spontaneous decision to hit Times Square."

He said the police intelligence division is trying to establish Dzhokhar's movements in the city and determine who might have been with him.

Stocks edge higher as job market improves

CHRISTINA REXRODE
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK The engines driving the stock market were more tepid than turbocharged Thursday, but they were enough to help stocks rise for a fifth straight day.

The three major U.S. stock indexes all closed higher as good news on the job market and healthy earnings from name-brand companies like Royal Caribbean and Harley-Davidson encouraged investors.

The Standard & Poor's 500 has risen every day since Friday, a record not matched since early March.

The forces driving the gains, however, were tenuous, market watchers said. Hiring remains sluggish, even with the drop in unemployment claims last week. The S&P's five-day winning streak is hardly a blockbuster: on Wednesday it rose just .01 point. And while companies are turning in profits that are beating the estimates of financial analysts, many are missing revenue forecasts.

Some investors think the stock market's most recent gains have more to do with the belief that central banks around the world, including the Federal Reserve, will continue to keep interest rates low and buy bonds to encourage borrowing and spending.

"Some of the earnings were OK, but it's more just stimulus, stimulus, stimulus," said Scott Freeze, president of Street One Financial in Huntingdon Valley, Pa. "As long as the world wants to print (money) ... the fears of a global slowdown are going to be muted."

Joe Heider, principal at Rehmann Group outside Cleveland, thought stocks were up mostly because investors can't think of anywhere else to put their money, given record-low interest rates.

"You can leave it in cash and make nothing on it," Heider said.

Heider said he thought the latest report on jobless claims was consistent with a "plodding" recovery: "Not booming, not exciting, but we just keep marching forward."

Weekly applications for unemployment benefits fell 16,000 to 339,000, the second-lowest level in more than five years, according to the Labor Department.

The good news for the job market comes after a series of setbacks. In March, employers added only 88,000 jobs, down from an average of 220,000 for the previous four months. The unemployment rate fell to 7.6 percent from 7.7 percent, but only because more people stopped looking for jobs.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose as much as 91 points before giving up most of that gain Thursday. Investors were underwhelmed by what turned out to be a mixed bag on earnings. The Dow closed up 24.50 points, or 0.2 percent, to 14,700.80.

The S&P 500 rose 6.37 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,585.16. Nine of the S&P's 10 industry groups rose, led by telecommunications. Verizon Communications, the biggest component in S&P's telecommunications group, rose almost 3 percent to $53.22 following reports that the company could offer $100 billion to buy out Vodafone's interest in their joint venture, Verizon Wireless.

The S&P 500's last streak this long was March 1 to 11, when it rose on seven straight trading days.

The Nasdaq composite index rose 20.33, or 0.6 percent, to 3,289.99.

Thursday's earnings offered a mixed view of the economy, and mixed reactions from investors. Many companies have been reporting better first-quarter results, though the gains have come more from cost-cutting than from a strong economy.

So far, 71 percent of S&P 500 companies have beaten analysts' profit expectations for the first quarter, according to John Butters, senior earnings analyst at FactSet. But only 44 percent have beaten estimates for revenue.

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BID #4060 ZF TRANSMISSION PARTS AS REQUIRED BY THE BIG BLUE BUS.

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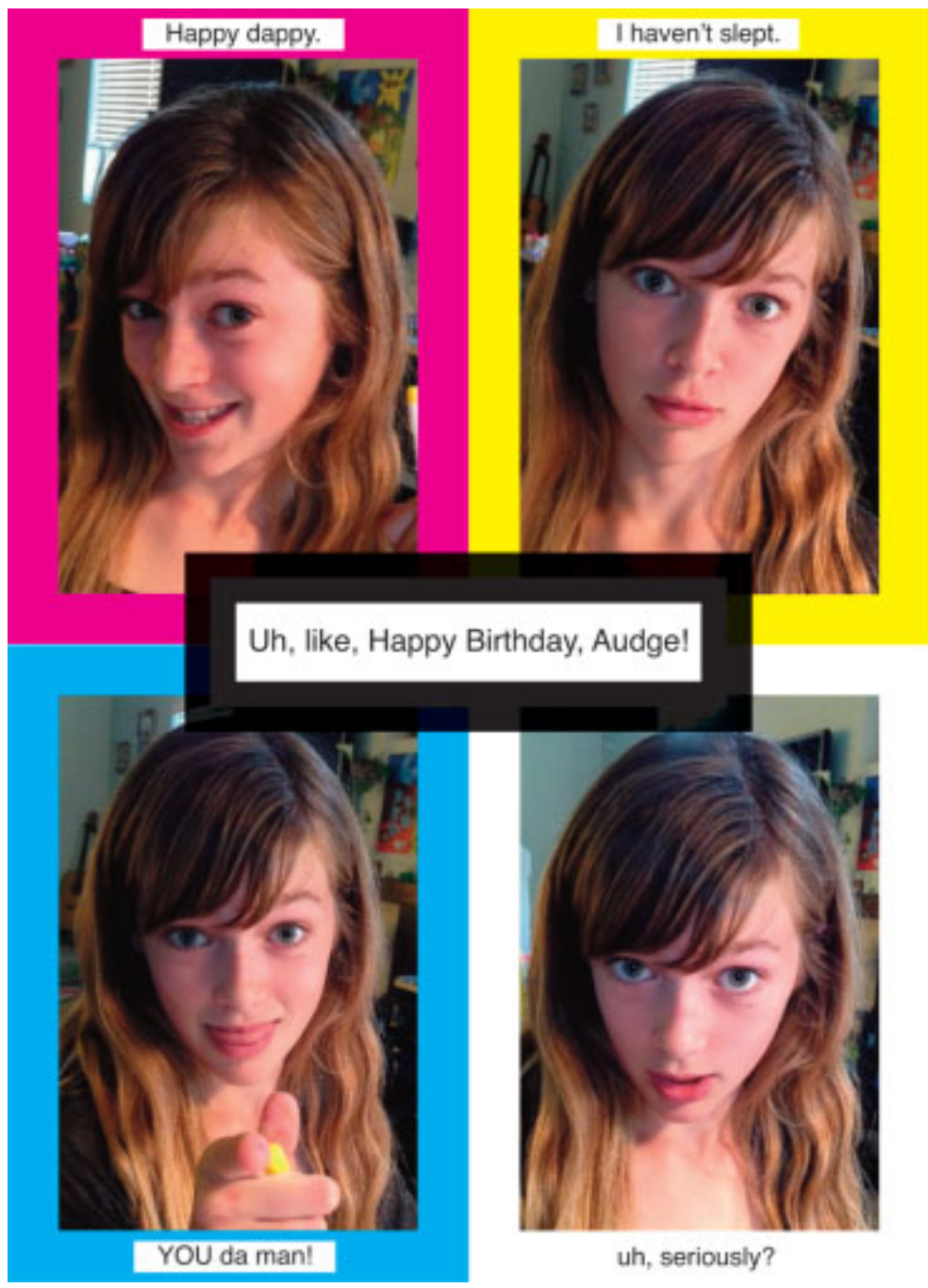
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BID #4078 PROVIDE FILTERS AS REQUIRED BY THE BIG BLUE BUS.
BID #4079 PROVIDE DETROIT DIESEL PARTS AS REQUIRED BY THE BIG BLUE BUS.

- **Submission Deadline Is May 10, 2013 at 3:00 PM Pacific Time.**

Request for bid forms and specifications may be obtained from the City of Santa Monica, 1717 4th St., Suite 250, Santa Monica, California, or by e-mailing your request to Kellee.macdonald@smgov.net. Bids must be submitted on forms furnished by the City of Santa Monica.

Vendors interested in doing business with the City of Santa Monica are encouraged to register online at http://www.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/



SURF REPORT



O'NEILL

O'NEILL CARRIES APPAREL, FOOTWEAR, ACCESSORIES,
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131 BROADWAY SANTA MONICA, CA 90401 | (657) 859-3721
FACEBOOK.COM/ONEILLSANTAMONICA

Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **61.3°**

FRIDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high
S swell leftovers

SATURDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-3 ft** ankle to waist high
Small south swell starts to build

SUNDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high
A few larger chest high sets for standout spots.

MONDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high
Small south swell fades as some new long period SSW swell starts to show

BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **April 17, 2013**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)
Number of sewage spills -- 0
Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
Number of wet days -- 8
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 32 / 16
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: simplehuman, LAcarGUY, SIMA, and Grousbeck Family Foundation

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Los Cerritos Beach, at Arroyo Seguit Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisa creeks.		
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 21672 Malibu Rd..	A	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (beach location) - daily.	A	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	F	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	ns
Los Flores State Beach at Los Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A	ns
Pena Creek at Los Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at 17308 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	ns

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

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

NBA committee deciding Kings' fate to meet Monday

TIM BOOTH
AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE Microsoft Chairman Steve Ballmer, part of the group attempting to purchase the Sacramento Kings and move them to Seattle, said Thursday he believes "there will never be a better opportunity" than now to bring back professional basketball to the Puget Sound.

Ballmer, who has been mostly quiet about his basketball pursuit, spoke briefly Thursday before a fundraising luncheon for the A PLUS youth program in Seattle. His brief comment came hours after an NBA spokesman confirmed that the NBA committee deciding whether the Sacramento Kings should be sold and relocated to Seattle will hold a meeting via conference call Monday

"Today is about A PLUS. I will say that we've got our fingers crossed. Chris Hansen has worked really, really hard, really intelligently," Ballmer said. "Seattle has got a great bid. We've got a great arena plan. I think we've got the better arena plan. We've got a good offer, it's been accepted by current owners. We've got a great market. It seems like there will never be a better opportunity. But it will be up to the NBA owners."

Monday's meeting of the joint relocation and finance committees, consisting of 12 league owners, will convene on a call instead of in person. Whenever the committee issues a recommendation, NBA owners will have at least seven business days to review the report before a vote can take place.

That means the vote by the entire Board of Governors could happen as early as May 8, but Commissioner David Stern told a meeting of Associated Press Sports Editors in New York on Thursday he expected the vote sometime around May 13.

The Maloof family has had an agreement since January to sell a 65 percent controlling interest in the Kings to a Seattle group led by hedge-fund manager Chris Hansen and Ballmer. Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson has helped put together a competing counteroffer complete with a new arena plan and an ownership group headed by software tycoon Vivek Ranadive.

Thursday's fundraising luncheon in Seattle featured a number of NBA players with local connections, including Spencer Hawes, Martell Webster and Brandon Roy, all of which are hopeful of seeing the NBA return to their hometown.

"My biggest thing is I try and keep my fingers crossed that this is going to happen," Roy said. "I learned that a long time ago. Don't think worst case scenario. I try and think best case scenario and with that I think we're going to get the team. It's going to take some time and really we just have to keep that passion up."

The NBA helped broker a deal with the Maloofs and Sacramento to build a new arena in February 2012 after the team had filed to relocate to Anaheim, Calif. the previous year. The Maloofs backed out of the deal not long after to the disappointment of league officials and the anger of the Sacramento community.

The damage caused the Kings by the community's disillusionment with team management was similar in some ways to the struggles once faced by the Charlotte Hornets, another small market with a vibrant fan base that turned away after former owner George Shinn was accused of sexual assault. He later moved the team to New Orleans and the league eventually bought the franchise because of Shinn's financial difficulties.

Stern acknowledged that the league may have to be more proactive to protect both itself and its cities.

"We've dealt with it on a case-by-case basis and Sacramento has been particularly vexing as we've tried to balance the strong sense that we'd like to help our owner-clients out and at the same time have respect for the city, so we now wind up where we are," Stern said. "And presumably after we finish with this, the owners will take a long look at how we got here."

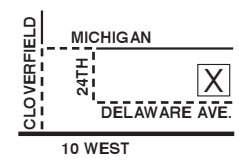


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smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

MOVIE TIMES

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

A letter to Momo (G) 2 hrs
7:30pm

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

Croods (PG) 1hr 38min
11:55am, 5:00pm, 10:25pm

Place Beyond the Pines (R) 2hrs 20min
12:35pm, 4:05pm, 7:30pm, 10:35pm

Croods 3D (PG) 1hr 38min
2:30pm, 7:45pm

Disconnect (R) 1hr 55min
11:30am, 2:20pm, 5:15pm, 8:05pm, 10:45pm

Arthur Newman (R) 1hr 40min
11:45am, 2:10pm, 4:40pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

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

Oblivion (PG-13) 2hrs 05min
11:00am, 2:00pm, 5:05pm, 8:10pm, 10:00pm

Scary Movie V (PG-13) 1hr 25min
11:55am, 2:35pm, 5:10pm, 7:35pm, 11:00pm

Big Wedding (R) 1hr 29min
11:40am, 2:15pm, 3:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:15pm, 8:30pm, 9:45pm

Evil Dead (R) 1hr 31min
10:55pm

Jurassic Park 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 07min
12:45pm, 4:00pm, 7:05pm, 10:10pm

42 (PG-13) 2hrs 08min
11:50am, 1:00pm, 4:10pm, 5:25pm, 7:30pm, 10:40pm

Pain & Gain (R) 2hrs 09min
10:30am, 1:25pm, 4:30pm, 7:40pm, 10:50pm

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

The Company you keep (R) 2hr 2min
1:10pm, 4:10pm, 7:10pm, 10:10pm

Upstream Color (NR) 1hr 5min
4:20pm

Renoir (R) 2hr 6min
1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 10:10pm

Mud (PG13) 2hr 10min
1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

Trance (R) 1hr 56 min
1:30pm, 7:00pm

Upstreamcolor (NR) 1hr 51min
9:40pm

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

Happy Birthday

Rosalind Napoli: Event organizer, restaurant marketing pro

Early night, Sag

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ A serious approach does make a difference in everyone's response, and you are no exception. Anger comes up in a strange situation where it might not be justified. It could be difficult to tell where it is coming from. Tonight: Listen to a partner's feedback.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You might want to let a friend at a distance know how rough a situation has become. This person could have some interesting suggestions. Know what you want to do, and then he or she can give you meaningful options for how to proceed. Tonight: Say "yes" to an offer.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Understand that what is happening is serious. Realize that you might need to change direction. Your ability to state your case makes an impact on others. Listen to suggestions with more care. A boss could be a lot clearer than you are. Tonight: Go with the moment.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Listen to news with an open mind. Be willing to brainstorm in order to find solutions. Honor a change more carefully. You could feel as if someone is pushing hard to get his or her way. If this person goes too far, you could lose your patience. Tonight: Let your hair down.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You might want to move forward and try a different approach. Listen to your sixth sense with a situation involving your personal and/or domestic life. Tonight: Make it easy.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ How you handle a personal matter could change greatly if you are not careful. Listen to news with greater awareness, as you might want to take action. Tonight: Say "yes" to a friend's suggestion.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Your intuition is right on about a money matter; still, check out the investment carefully. Your creativity adds a lot to any situation. Tonight: You might go overboard, especially if you meet up with a friend.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ You are a strong-willed sign. If you feel challenged, you sometimes will become defiant or even quiet. The good news is that, even if you're stressed, you could see an opportunity to be more chipper. Let go of seriousness for now. Tonight: Let the good times happen.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ You'll want to review a situation more carefully. You might need some downtime or distance from a problem. At this point, you could feel somewhat negative. Detach if this is the case. Take a walk to clear your head. Tonight: Consider making it an early night.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You could be very difficult and somewhat testy without intending to be. Emphasize a goal, but do not give your power away. You don't need to be controlling -- you simply need to honor your boundaries. Reach out to someone at a distance. Tonight: You are in the midst of a change.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Listen to news openly before making a final decision. More news is forthcoming. A serious situation demands your full attention. A boss or higher-up could be watching your performance. Listen to feedback. Tonight: A late meeting could turn into a fun happening.

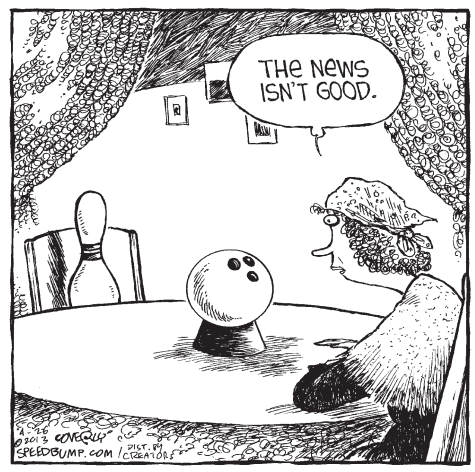
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might want to be more understanding. By holding on to judgments, you will not be able to hear the true story. Imagine what it would be like to be the other person. Tonight: Break past barriers.

Friday, April 26, 2013

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

This year you have the opportunity to make an impression on others. Your very presence exudes a sense of compassion. You know what you need to do. Keep reaching out for new information and new experiences. If you are single, you could encounter a foreigner who opens you up to an entirely different lifestyle. If you are attached, the two of you will want to meet new people and make new friends. You also might want to revise your goals. SCORPIO is stubborn like you, but he or she can be more mysterious.

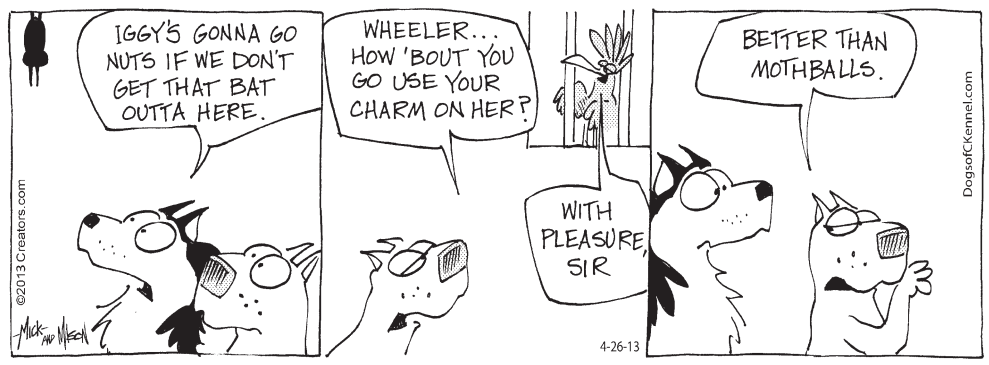
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



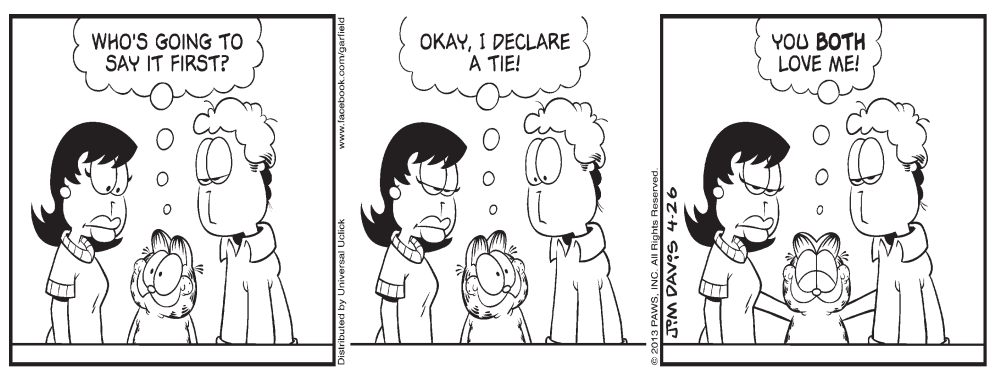
Strange Brew
By John Deering



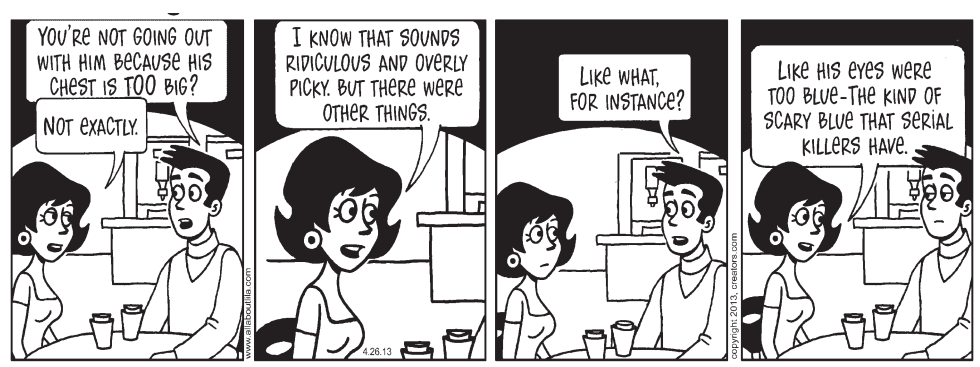
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



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 ★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

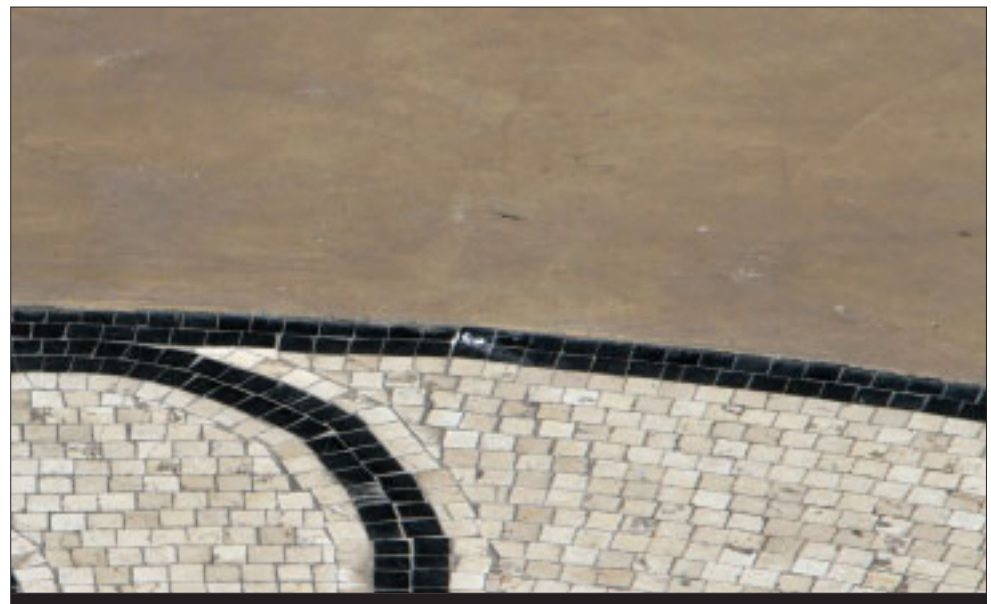
SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

The first person who can correctly identify where this image was captured wins a prize from the Santa Monica Daily Press. Send answers to *editor@smdp.com*. Send your mystery photos to *editor@smdp.com* to be used in future issues.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

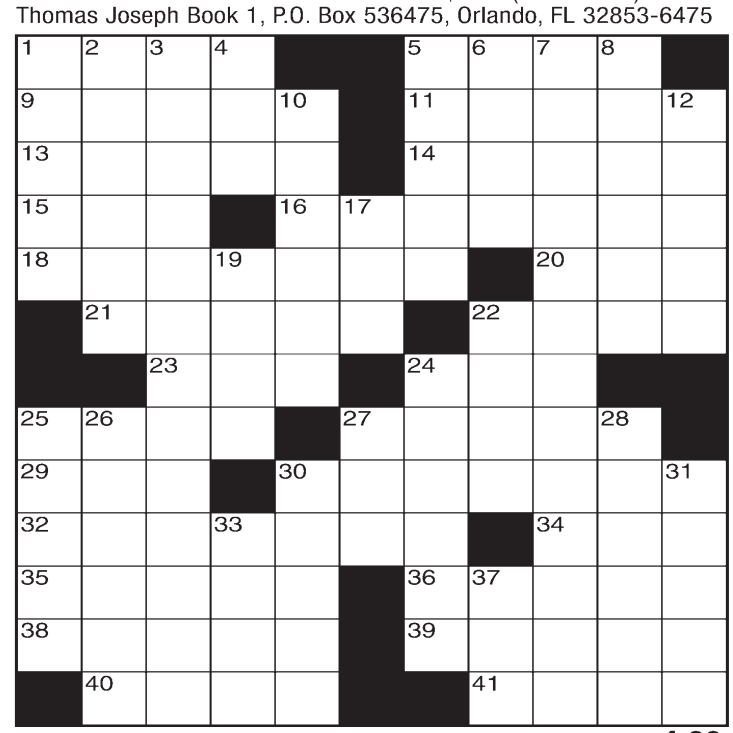
ACROSS
1 Shop tools
5 "Dragnet" org.
9 Group of top players
11 African lilies
13 Nobel, for one
14 Washer cycle
15 Bunny move
16 Comfortable
18 Nevada neighbor
20 Hosp. sections
21 Shoelace problems
22 Arbor Day planting
23 Procured
24 Dove cry
25 Congress creations
27 — macabre
29 Quarterback Manning
30 Pistol, e.g.
32 Past and present
34 Old hand
35 Antithetical
36 Ordeal
38 Took an oath
39 Annual visitor
40 Graceful bird
41 Watch part

DOWN
1 Malia's sister
2 Busy
3 Deciduous 22-Down
4 Blue
5 Caterpillar, for one
6 "I cannot tell —"
7 Coniferous 22-Down
8 Longing
10 Giant legend
12 Intuit
17 Powerful bunch
19 Menageries
22 Musical sound
24 Academy attendees
25 Bounds
26 Permits
27 Slow-witted
28 Book blunders
30 Temptress
31 Back biter?
33 Scarlett's home
37 Cloth scrap

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

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



4-26

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 4/24
9 19 31 56 59
Power#: 2
Jackpot: $140M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 4/23
9 21 22 32 50
Mega#: 10
Jackpot: $103M

SUPER LOTTO
Draw Date: 4/24
5 25 32 33 46
Mega#: 26
Jackpot: $7M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 4/25
16 19 31 34 38

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 4/25
MIDDAY: 9 6 6
EVENING: 1 2 9

SANTA ANITA PARK
Draw Date: 4/25
1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 04 Big Ben
3rd: 11 Money Bags
RACE TIME: 1:44.72

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

■ Ferris Bueller caused lots of mischief on his cinematic "Day Off" in the 1986 movie starring Matthew Broderick, but he never mooned a wedding party from an adjacent hotel window by pressing his nude buttocks, and then his genitals, against the glass in full view of astonished guests. In March, though, a young Matthew Broderick-lookalike (http://huff.to/14XOEJ6), Samuel Dengel, 20, was arrested in Charleston, S.C., and charged with the crime. (Another Bueller-like touch was Dengel's tattoo reading, in Latin, "By the Power of Truth, I, while living, have Conquered the Universe.")

■ Transportation Security Administration rules protect passengers against previously employed terrorist strategies, such as shoe bombs, but as Congressional testimony has noted over the past several years, the perimeter security at airports is shockingly weak. "For all the money and attention that in-airport screening gets," wrote Slate.com in February, "the back doors to airports are, comparatively, wide open -- and people go through them all the time." Perimeter breaches in recent years astonished officials at major airports in Charlotte, N.C.; Philadelphia; Atlanta; and New York City (mentioned in News of the Weird last year, recounting how a dripping-wet jet-skiier who broke down next to JFK airport climbed the perimeter fence and made his way past its brand-new "detection" system, and was inside the Delta terminal before he was finally noticed).

TODAY IN HISTORY

1989 - People's Daily publishes the People's Daily editorial of April 26 which inflames the nascent Tiananmen Square protests

WORD UP!

flounder
\ FLOUN-der \ , verb;
1. to struggle clumsily or helplessly: He floundered helplessly on the first day of his new job.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Employment

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Social Enterprise Party to Celebrate

CROWDIMPACT
World's Largest Social Enterprise Presentation Forum

Tuesday, April 23, 2013 from 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM

CalXCrowdfundConnect, Demand Media, Christie Communications, CalXStars.com and Cooley LLP invite you to a Social Enterprise Party to celebrate CROWDIMPACT.

It'll be a casual and fun evening to bring together the social enterprise community that was built during CROWDIMPACT's online phase, and a great opportunity to connect with smart people who are all about doing well while doing good!

Where: 3rd Floor, ROC Santa Monica - 604 Arizona Ave, Santa Monica, CA 90401 (corner of Arizona Ave & 6th St)
When: April 23rd, 2013 - 6:30pm - 9:30pm
Parking: Parking available on the street meters, Santa Monica Public Library (info here), and various public parking structures (info here).
Light snacks and beverages will be served.

Come early to catch our speakers:
6:30 - 6:50 CROWDFUNDx & The Future of Crowdfunding: Chance Barnett, Co-Founder & CEO of Crowdfunder
6:50 - 7:05 Keynote Speaker: Ben Goldhirsh, Co-Founder & CEO of GOOD
7:05 - 7:15 Announcement of CROWDIMPACT Winners

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- Cal-Xelerator 12 week startup launch accelerator - www.calxelerator.com
- Cal-X Stars 5 year business accelerator- www.calxstars.com
- Leonhardt Ventures* - www.leonhardtventures.com - venture fund and angel network funding and mentoring life science and social good enterprises.

>> *Leonhardt Ventures provided $20,000 in prize money sponsorship for this event.

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Please register to attend. socialenterprisepartyla.eventbrite.com

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