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WEDNESDAY, MAY 2, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 147

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

DONE DEAL
SEE PAGE 16

THE TAKING IT TO THE STREETS ISSUE

May Day comes to the Westside

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

PALISADES PARK Dozens of Westside activists gathered here Tuesday morning with homemade signs, bullhorns and red balloons to take part in the May Day protests going on across the globe, calling for an end to income inequality and housing foreclosures.

Members of Occupy Venice and the Santa Monica Peace Club helped organize the gathering, which was one of four "winds" that spread across the greater Los Angeles area.

While the activists were busy in Palisades Park decorating cars, bicycles and buses with signs that read "Occupy the World," "Death to Capitalism," "Power to the Workers" and "Unhoused People Have Rights," others were doing the same in Carson, the San Fernando Valley and Monterey Park. The plan was for the "winds" to converge on Downtown L.A. for a massive rally.

"It's a huge movement with lots of demands, but we're all united," said William Floyd, founder of the Santa Monica Peace Club who was accusing Congress of being in the pocket of big banks.

"We're here to make sure people finally figure out that capitalism isn't working for us," said Sabrina Gonzales, a social worker who was inflating red balloons that demonstrators later tied to their bicycles and cars as

SEE MAY DAY PAGE 10



Kevin Herrera *kevinh@smdp.com*

READY TO MARCH: **Demonstrators gather in Palisades Park on Tuesday to begin a May Day rally. The rally left Santa Monica and traveled to downtown Los Angeles for a larger gathering.**

Rent control tenants sue landlord to stop alleged harassment

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

MID CITY Four Santa Monica tenants have filed suit against landlord Jerome Nash alleging that Nash harassed them and refused to make repairs in an attempt to force them out of their homes.

The lawsuit alleges that the tenants — Judy Lorden, Louis Levine, David Dondick and Dondick's 14-year-old daughter — lived in apartments in a building on the 1000 block of 12th Street that were infested with mold and termites, had leaking gas lines and broken plumbing.

Furthermore, the tenants allege that Nash, who has significant property holdings in the Los Angeles area, berated them, calling them names and even threatening Levine's livelihood.

The lawsuit also names Nash's longtime property manager Daniel Bleiberg, who was in charge of the property between 2000 and 2010.

The goal of the mistreatment, according to the complaint, was to force the residents out of their homes which, under rent control laws, could then be rented out at market rate.

Since at least one of the tenants has lived at the building for 17 years, the rents could be substantially more if a new tenant moved in.

Nash has denied all charges, and filed a countersuit claiming that the tenants were responsible for the damage to the apartments.

"All of the plaintiffs are longtime residents of the building, and in two of the cases have over the course of time caused a lot of damage in their apartments," said Gary Fidone, Nash's attorney.

According to Fidone, both Dondick and Levine let problems in their apartments go for long stretches of time, problems that eventually caused worse damage than they would have had they been addressed early.

There is also evidence that problems in the apartments have been taken care of within a day or two, Fidone said.

The lawsuit stretches back two years, although conditions for tenants became sig-

SEE SUIT PAGE 8

Tutoring program in honor of dead Malibu student kicks off

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

MALIBU Ellen and Michel Shane are looking to the future even as they're dragged into the past.

This week will see the soft opening of a new tutoring service the couple began in memory of their daughter Emily Shane, days after her alleged killer goes to trial for the second time.

Emily, a former Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District student, was struck by a car and killed while walking down the 29000 block of Pacific Coast Highway in April 2010.

A judge declared a mistrial in February in the case of Sina Khankhanian, the man who prosecutors say was behind the wheel.

"It won't be an easy process to go through, having gone through it already," Ellen Shane said. "I will be very happy when the legal aspect is done, and I hope justice is served."

Since their daughter's death, Michel and Ellen have looked for ways to honor her memory.

The first turned into the website,

SEE TUTORING PAGE 8


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, May 2, 2012

Hop aboard
Ocean Park Library
2601 Main St., 6 p.m. — 7 p.m.
The Big Blue Bus will hold a pair of community meetings to discuss line changes slated for the summer and to get feedback from riders. This is your chance to get your two cents in when it comes to public transportation in Santa Monica. There will be another meeting on Thursday. For more information, call (310) 458-8683.

Childhood memories
Santa Monica Pier
11 a.m. — 5 p.m.
The historic walls of the Merry-go-round Building at the Santa Monica Pier will be home to a new photography exhibit called "Child's Play" starting April 3. The exhibit will run through May 28 and explore the fun, awkward, whimsical, magical memories and moments of childhood featuring the collaboration of three local photo-artists. The exhibit is open to the public and children are welcome.
Call (310) 458-8901 for details.

Get fresh
Downtown
Arizona Avenue, 8:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.
Check out one of Southern California's best Farmers' Markets, featuring fresh produce, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheeses and other delicious foods. For more information, call (310) 458-8712.

Cut a rug
Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club
1210 Fourth St., 7 p.m.
Dance to today's hits and old standards. Learn the waltz, fox trot, cha cha and more. Light snacks provided. Bottled water for sale. Admission: $10, $8 for students and USA Dance with ID.
For more information, call (310) 487-0911.

Thursday, May 3, 2012

Bow your heads
City Hall
1685 Main St., 7 a.m.
Participate in the 22nd annual public observance of the National Day of Prayer in Santa Monica. People will be gathered on the City Hall lawn to give thanks and pray for community and national leaders, the armed forces, family and for personal renewal. A light breakfast (for a suggested donation of $5) will be provided before the event. For further information, call (310) 365-8219.

Snapping pics
SMC Emeritus College Art Gallery
1227 Second St., 5 p.m. — 6:30 p.m.
Santa Monica College's Emeritus College is pleased to present the 2012 Student Juried Photography Exhibition, Part II, showcasing the exceptional talent of students, that will be held May 3-31. This is the opening reception. Regular gallery hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Comprised of color, black-and-white and digitally manipulated photographs, the exhibit was juried by Emeritus College instructors Ken Buckner and Jerry Schneir. For information, call (310) 434-4306 or visit www.smc.edu/emeritus.

Spring sing
JAMS
2425 16th St., 7 p.m.
MS Theatre Co., in partnership with the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation, is proud to present its spring show — "Grease." Don't miss everybody's favorite 1950s musical, which includes favorite songs: "Summer Nights," "We Go Together," and "Hopelessly Devoted to You." "Grease" features 51 actors, singers, and dancers from John Adams Middle School and Santa Monica Alternative School House, in four performances with two different casts! Show runs through May 5. Friday and Saturday performances feature the JAMS Jazz Band. Tickets available at the door: $10 for adults, $5 for students.

Friday, May 4, 2012

Just move it
The Broad Stage
1310 11th St., 7:30 p.m.
The innovative and widely praised Synapse Dance Theater, the contemporary dance ensemble at Santa Monica College, will present a program of new repertory by professional guest artists, award-winning faculty artists and up-and-coming student choreographers. There will be another presentation of this performance on Saturday. For more information, call (310) 434-3467.

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

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



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY

Cops cracking down on speedsters

For the month of May the Santa Monica Police Department's Traffic Enforcement Unit will be on the lookout for drivers who are speeding on city streets.

Each month, the SMPD is focusing on different driving behaviors that are the primary cause of traffic accidents.

SMPD Capt. Carolin Larson wants to remind drivers that while there may be a posted speed limit, conditions on the road may warrant a lower speed. For example, when it is raining or foggy a driver may need to drive slower than the posted speed limit to make sure they and others on the roadway are safe.

California Vehicle Code – Section 22350 states:

No person shall drive a vehicle upon a highway at a speed greater than is reasonable or prudent having due regard for weather, visibility, the traffic on, and the surface and width of, the highway, and in no event at a speed which endangers the safety of persons or property.

For more information on the enforcement action, call (310) 458-8950.

KEVIN HERRERA

S&P worried about state's possible budget gimmicks

JUDY LIN
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. A credit rating agency on Tuesday warned that California could return to budget gimmicks this summer, in part because a court has removed an incentive for lawmakers to pass a budget that is truly balanced.

The Standard & Poor's memo cautioned that the agency could revise its positive outlook on California's debt if the Legislature fails to pass a balanced budget by its June 15 deadline. S&P cited concerns stemming from two developments last month.

First, the deficit has grown as income tax revenue in April fell nearly $2 billion below expectations. Then a Sacramento judge ruled the state controller doesn't have authority to withhold pay from lawmakers.

That ruling undermines Proposition 25, a 2010 initiative approved by voters banning lawmakers from getting paid if they fail to pass a spending plan. The initiative also lowered the legislative threshold for passing the state budget from a two-thirds vote, which requires support from both parties, to a simple majority.

S&P analyst Gabriel Petek wrote that the recent court decision "coupled with what we see as reluctance among legislators to make additional difficult spending cuts, increases the risk of a less structurally balanced budget."

California has an A- credit rating, the lowest of any state. It received a positive outlook after the state made progress in making deep spending cuts last year.

H.D. Palmer, the governor's finance spokesman, said the state budget gap will be larger than the $9.2 billion estimated in January. But he said the state will be looking at a variety of economic indicators to determine a new revenue forecast, such as housing permits and unemployment, as well as the anticipated public offering for Facebook.

"We're going to have a plan to put forward in the next several weeks," he said of the governor's upcoming budget revision.

Gov. Jerry Brown has proposed a temporary tax hike on the November ballot to fund education and public safety programs by raising income taxes on people who make more than $250,000 a year and increasing the sales tax by a quarter cent.

Democratic leaders have vowed to pass a responsible budget but are relying on the tax increase. Republicans oppose the tax hike.

"The fact remains that we still need a two-thirds vote to generate revenue," said Robin Swanson, a spokeswoman for the Assembly speaker's office. "This only underscores the importance of passing the governor's initiative so that schools, public safety and other critical priorities can be adequately funded."



THROWING DARTS

Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

Santa Monica's Adam Padilla delivers a pitch against Ocean League rival Beverly Hills on Tuesday at La Cienega Park. Samohi won the game, 6-1. Samohi is now 7-0 in league.

College leaders press for more funding

JUDY LIN
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. The leaders of California's three higher education systems warned Tuesday that more budget cuts will hurt the state's economic recovery.

The heads of the University of California, California State University and California Community Colleges spent the day lobbying state lawmakers and the governor's office to make higher education a priority as they prepare to put together a new spending plan for 2012-13.

SEE **FUNDING** PAGE 12

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Good design brings benefits

Editor:

City Hall and the Dell family need to understand that good design is good economics – that good design benefits both the developer and the community ("Fairmont hotel redevelopment gets past council," April 26).

A full city block offers the designer a lot of freedom, but the current Miramar design is a massive, dreadfully designed project reminiscent of New York's Rockefeller Center or a Russian government/apartment block. It is a wall, a fortress – not the character of a beachfront community that says welcome, come in and have a good time!

The developer should spend his time and money submitting a more developed world-class design rather than full page ads promoting a Russian gulag! Otherwise City Hall's development agreement process becomes a huge waste of the city's and public's time and confidence!

Ron Goldman
Santa Monica

Anchor around the neck

Editor:

This letter is in response to George Kaplan's letter ("Protecting property rights," Letters to the Editor, April 26). Mr. Kaplan, you have written about the fundamental core protection of our freedoms we enjoy as Americans. As my cousin Lenny would say, "With our private property rights, we would be slaves of the state."

This great American principle has created more wealth and upward mobility than any nation in the history of man. Sir, you are correct that Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights' (SMRR) power base plans to expand their power and regulatory influence into every single-family home and every condo in Santa Monica. They make no secret of the their disgust and desire to destroy all private property ownership in favor of the state dolling out who lives where and who gets what. SMRR believes that "From each according to his ability, to each according to his need (or needs)." It's a slogan popularized by Karl Marx in his 1875 critique of the Gotha Program.

The remarkable thing is that the SMRR voter block chooses to be regulated, chooses to surrender their personal freedoms and aspirations in exchange to been seen as doing noble deeds. In nearly every way SMRR policies have crippled our pre Costa-Hawkins tenants from moving up in our society. Year in and year out these tenants hang on to their rentals as if they were in a lifeboat. The fact is, these below market units are an anchor around many of our residents' necks. These tenants enjoy reduced rents at a very high cost. I know many folks who have turned down jobs, did not marry, and failed to advance their careers, or simply gave up on their goals in order to hold on to their rent-controlled units. This distortion of decision-making by renters is harmful to them and all our residents. Mr. Kaplan, we have a citywide election Nov. 6, 2012, perhaps it's time to run for office. Sir, you will not be alone. I will stand with you.

Robert Kronovet
Commissioner, Santa Monica Rent Control Board





Meredith Pro Tem

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

All dressed up but no prom to get excited about

IF MY BIRTHDAY LAST WEEK WASN'T a sound indication that I'm getting old (older?) (oldish?), then all of the talk about proms in the news lately has made me feel practically ancient.

When I was in high school (back when dinosaurs roamed the Earth), the prom was a relatively big deal. Girls paid to have fake nails glued on in beauty salons, and bought dresses in department stores that, astonishingly, no one predicted would be made fun of in the not-so-distant future on countless websites with the word "Awkward" or "Fail" in the URL.

Boys rented ill-fitting tuxedoes that were almost always paired with colored high-top sneakers, and tiptoed uncomfortably into floral shops in an attempt to select corsages using whatever information they could recall about their dates' electric colored, sequined or ruffle-y dresses (although no matter the color or style of the girls' dresses, they essentially all ended up with uniform wrist arrangements that included wan carnations, anemic roses and baby's breath).

Most middle class suburban kids pooled their (or their parents') money for limousines or party vans to avoid any drinking and driving hassles. Many parents not only knew but tacitly condoned kids drinking at the prom — a few even threw booze-filled pre-prom parties for their kids' friends and families so group shots could be conveniently snapped for posterity — and slept soundly on those prom nights knowing an early morning call from the police or morgue had been averted thanks to the sober middle-aged men in cheap, mismatched black suits who were paid to transport all of their tipsy kids from here to there.

The biggest drama of the evening was either when school administrators patted down kids in an attempt to confiscate flasks before they could be smuggled inside the actual dance, or when that one, too-drunk girl started sobbing inexplicably and/or puking understandably halfway through the evening.

Those were the good old days. Today's prom-goers should have such problems.

The prom is still a big deal, but alcohol no longer seems to be what's plaguing the big dances around the country. These days it's the dresses of choice — less awkward and more slutty — that are keeping chaperones on their toes. Any frock that gives a hint of sideboob, or includes a plunging neckline or too-short hemline, or styles that dare to bare too much back or butt, or reveal exposed midriffs, or dresses with cutouts of any kind have been expressly declared indecent this prom season by principals at high schools everywhere.

One girl in western Tennessee was recently turned away at the door of her prom because of her inappropriate attire. However, it wasn't because she resembled a Kardashian or a Snooki. It was because she resembled a racist. Yes, Texanna Edwards (I wish I were making up her name) wore a knee-length red dress with two blue and white ribbons crisscrossing at her hip. A Confederate flag dress. The only thing missing from her ensemble was a white hood, and maybe a noose pinned to her bosom in lieu of a corsage.

"I didn't ask for approval [from school administrators] because I didn't think I needed to. I had one teacher tell me it was a bad idea," Texanna told the Jackson Sun. "But I asked a bunch of [black and white] people before I had the dress made, and they all loved the idea."

Having spent $500 on her dress, hair and makeup, Texanna was less than thrilled to be deemed "inappropriate and offensive" and sent away before she had the opportunity to sway to Eric Clapton's "Wonderful Tonight," or whatever the go-to slow song the kids are grinding to these days (which may or may not be different for Klan members, although to that I cannot speak).

ONE GIRL IN WESTERN TENNESSEE WAS RECENTLY TURNED AWAY AT THE DOOR OF HER PROM BECAUSE OF HER INAPPROPRIATE ATTIRE. HOWEVER, IT WASN'T BECAUSE SHE RESEMBLED A KARDASHIAN OR A SNOOKI. IT WAS BECAUSE SHE RESEMBLED A RACIST.

At many schools this year, even some wearing perfectly modest or non-white supremacist dresses aren't allowed entry. Like, there have been stories in the news of boys prohibited from wearing dresses instead of tuxes and girls banned from wearing tuxes instead of dresses.

Then there's Amanda Dougherty from Glendale, Penn., who won't be going to the prom, but not due to a risqué dress or otherwise distasteful attire. It's because her date canceled on her last week. If she had her way she would still go alone, especially since she already spent more than $1,000 on her ticket, dress, shoes and flowers. But her school, the progressive Archbishop John Carroll High School, prohibits kids who are not coupled from attending.

"For them to say that we're not good enough to go unless we have a guy standing next to us, it's just kind of sickening," Amanda said.

The school argues they have other social events throughout the year in which kids are welcome to attend alone, but the prom is special in that a date is required for attendance.

I'm not well-versed in the New Testament, but I'm pretty sure there's a passage in the Bible in which Jesus says he supports all girls who want to attend the prom with a date, alone or in big groups, and that if he were Amanda's age, he would even ask her to dance.

Of course, with those sandals and that long frock, Jesus probably wouldn't be permitted to attend any prom held in 2012 anyway. Those crazy kids today. Am I right?

More at MeredithCarroll.com.

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The Santa Monica Daily Press is published six days a week, Monday through Saturday.

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2012. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West LA.
Members of CNPA, AFCP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

Published by Newlon Rouge, LLC

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The Taxman

Jon Coupal
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

California pols add to uncertainty for retirees

RETIREES AND AGING BABY BOOMERS hoping to join them are facing a reality check after Social Security trustees announced last week the fund will run dry in 2033, three years earlier than previously predicted.

As those planning for retirement know, budgeting for life on a reduced or fixed income is a challenge. Those who prepared for the future by setting aside money and making investments are seeing their security threatened by a dismal economy, declining home values and a roller coaster stock market. Now it appears that Social Security payments into old age are no longer guaranteed.

With Social Security on the ropes, Congress and the president may feel compelled to rouse themselves from their lethargy and intervene but, ironically, another program on which many California retirees depend is being actively threatened by the political class.

Proposition 13, which benefits all homeowners by limiting property taxes and making them predictable, can, for those on a fixed income, mean the difference between being able to keep a home or losing it to the tax collector. However, this is a point that seems lost on much of the Sacramento political establishment who constantly grasp for additional revenue to support the maintenance and welfare of those who work in government, not the citizens that government was designed to serve.

Those who would dismantle Proposition 13 take three basic approaches.

First are those who advocate jettisoning the entire measure and returning to a current value based tax system for all property. Few politicians, outside the San Francisco Bay area, have the courage to say so directly, so they leave these attacks to tenured professors at taxpayer supported universities, left-wing columnists in major newspapers and a few loopy economists promoting "tax efficiency" or "social justice." These folks seem to feel that if someone commits 30 years of their life to buy a home and it appreciates, they should be taxed on unrealized paper profits. Of course, these critics — who often maintain they are smarter than the voters who passed and still strongly support Proposition 13 — show little concern that the first victims of such a tax system change would be retirees on fixed incomes.

The second form of attack on Proposition 13 uses the strategy of "divide and conquer." While claiming they want to protect homeowners, promoters of this approach want to force businesses to pay higher property tax rates. While homeowners might be spared initially, they would ultimately pay through higher prices and the economy would be negatively impacted by a loss of jobs, as has been confirmed by recent studies. Obviously, older Californians seeking employment to make ends meet could be adversely affected.

PROPOSITION 13, WHICH BENEFITS ALL HOMEOWNERS BY LIMITING PROPERTY TAXES AND MAKING THEM PREDICTABLE, CAN, FOR THOSE ON A FIXED INCOME, MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BEING ABLE TO KEEP A HOME OR LOSING IT TO THE TAX COLLECTOR.

The third and most common attack on Proposition 13 takes the stealth approach. The perpetrators, many of them members of the Legislature, pay lip-service to Proposition 13 protections while promoting legislation that would make it easier to raise taxes on homeowners by eliminating the two-thirds vote requirement. They hope to nibble away at Proposition 13 while being able to claim they never intended to jeopardize home ownership, especially for older folks.

Highly regarded demographer Joel Kotkin has observed that California is devolving into two and a half classes. The very rich, the poor and a shrunken middle class made up of public employees. The poor, who receive some of the most generous benefits in the nation, and the government employees who are the highest paid in all 50 states, are unlikely to object to these efforts to squeeze more from property owners. And the rich? Well, if they don't like paying higher taxes, they can afford to move to another state, unlike the retired homeowners who are now under pressure on all fronts.

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

Making the grade pay

The Pico Youth & Family Center plans to launch a new program that will offer 20 students who enroll $100 if they finish the school year with an A in their math and English classes. The goal is to motivate kids to access free tutors and be more engaged in their classes.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
What are your thoughts on paying students who get good grades? Is this a practice you endorse or do you think it is a bad move?

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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City of Santa Monica

Community Meeting for 1318 2nd Street Mixed-Use Project Development Agreement 12-001



Thursday, May 10, 2012
6:30 PM

Ken Edwards Center
1527 4th Street, Santa Monica, CA. 90401

You are invited to attend a community meeting to review a newly proposed mixed-use (residential/commercial) project located at 1318 2nd Street.

The project consists of a 4-story building (45 feet in height) with 56 residential units and 6,840 square feet of ground floor commercial space over a two-level subterranean garage with 66 parking spaces. The 15,000 square foot property is located in the downtown area, mid-block on the west side of Second Street between Arizona Avenue and Santa Monica Boulevard.

This meeting will assist City Planning in obtaining input from the public, prior to the project being reviewed by the Planning Commission. You will have an opportunity to provide direct feedback to staff and the developer with regards to the project. For further information, please contact Steve Mizokami, Associate Planner at (310) 458-8341.

Ken Edwards Center Parking: Parking is available at the Ken Edwards Center after 6pm in designated and metered parking spaces for community meeting participants.

RSVP appreciated to (310) 458-8341.

ESPANOL
Esto es una noticia de una reunión de la comunidad para revisar el diseño de la applicaciónes proponiendo desarrollo en Santa Monica. Si deseas más información, favor de llamar a Carmen Gutierrez en la División de Planificación al número (310) 458-8341.



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STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES
Japanese firm gets $890M train deal

Los Angele County's commuter light-rail system has awarded an $890 million contract to a Japanese firm despite opposition from local labor unions.

The Los Angeles Times says Kinkisharyo International was chosen Monday to build 235 rail cars for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

The contract will provide cars for new light-rail lines and replacements for aging equipment on existing lines.

Labor unions had argued that choosing a Japanese company would send jobs overseas. However, Kinkisharyo has said it will build a local factory and will comply with federal requirement for hiring American workers.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES
Shipments of meth-making chemicals seized at LAX

Customs officials in Los Angeles have seized tons of a chemical that can be used to make methamphetamine.

Authorities announced Tuesday that they seized 5,700 pounds of methylamine chloride that arrived at Los Angeles International Airport in two shipments last month.

No arrests were made.

Authorities say the shipments from China were headed to central Mexico, where they could have been turned into meth with an estimated street value of $40 million.

The chemical has legal uses such as making pesticides but its distribution is controlled because it can be used to make meth and the party drug Ecstasy.

Last October, federal agents at LAX seized 1 1/2 tons of methylamine hydrochloride and another chemical from China.

AP

VERNON
Pension officials find retirement problems

State public pension officials say employees in the troubled city of Vernon could see benefit cuts.

California Public Employees' Retirement System auditors have found the tiny industrial city south of downtown Los Angeles improperly boosted benefits for nearly two dozen employees.

The Los Angeles Times says those workers include lawyers who were given generous public safety retirement packages usually reserved for police officers and firefighters.

Former city administrator Bruce Malkenhorst, who pleaded guilty to misappropriation of public funds, gets the state's highest public pension — more than $500,000 a year.

Vernon has been under scrutiny since three ex-officials were convicted of misusing public funds.

The city of just over 100 residents managed to fend off a state legislative effort to disincorporate it last year by agreeing to reforms.

AP

MALIBU
Authorities say no crime in death of woman

Authorities investigating the death of a 25-year-old woman who was found in her Malibu garage say it appears that there wasn't any foul play in her death.

Results of a Monday autopsy will not be released until toxicology tests are performed, but a Los Angeles County sheriff's statement says it appears the death of Katherine Wilkins did not involve any crime.

Relatives say Wilkins's brother found her Saturday evening at her home on Malibu's Moon Shadows drive and her BMW was missing.

Homicide detectives are investigating but there's no word on what killed the graphic designer.

AP

SANTA ANA
OC mom pleads guilty to killing newborn daughter

Orange County authorities say a woman who stabbed to death her newborn daughter and hid the body in a closet has pleaded guilty to murder on the second day of her trial.

The district attorney's office says 20-year-old Yoselin Tovar of Fullerton entered the plea Tuesday to second-degree murder with a sentencing enhancement. She'll be sentenced next month to 16 years to life in prison.

Tovar was 18 when she gave birth in her family's bathroom two years ago. Prosecutors say she stabbed the girl several times, then wrapped the body and hid it in her bedroom closet.

Authorities say relatives didn't know she was pregnant but noticed she was bleeding and took her to a hospital, where her condition was disclosed.

Police found the child's body that night.

AP

SACRAMENTO
Psychiatric facility settles Medicare fraud case

Federal officials say a company that owns and operates a Sacramento psychiatric facility has agreed to pay $3.45 million to the government to settle charges that it defrauded the Medicare program.

U.S. Attorney Benjamin Wagner on Tuesday said facility owner BHC Sierra Vista Hospital Inc. billed Medicare's Partial Hospitalization Program for unqualified patient visits between January 2003 and September 2009.

Sierra Vista is owned by Psychiatric Solutions Inc. and Universal Health Services Inc.

The U.S. Attorney's office says the company billed for outpatient treatment for patients who rarely attended, failed to get proper approvals for treatment and did not get physician orders for some tests.

The settlement also resolves a whistleblower lawsuit by a former Sierra Vista employee, who will receive $587,000 of the recovered amount.

AP

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State's population nears 37.7M, but growth is slow

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO, Calif. California added about 250,000 residents last year, bringing the total population to just under 37.7 million as the state continues with modest growth amid a weak economy, according to a report released Tuesday by the state Department of Finance.

California's population grew less than 1 percent in 2011, as it did the year before, but the growth rate still was equivalent to adding a city roughly the size of Irvine.

The nation's second most populous state, Texas, grew at a rate of 2.1 percent, to nearly 25.7 million, according to U.S. Census figures.

The slow growth in California is reflected in the housing industry, which has been in a slump since the recession began in late 2007. Finance department demographers say the state added 35,500 residential units in 2011, compared to 198,000 units during the peak year of 2005.

In 2011, less than 17,000 were single-family homes, a decline of 5,700 from the year before.

Some of the steepest population drops were in Central Valley towns that are home to prisons where the number of inmates is declining. The state has begun implementing Gov. Jerry Brown's plan to send more lower-level convicts to county jails, which saves the state money and conforms to a federal court order to reduce the prison population.

Among the prison towns losing population from the previous year were Coalinga (-6.6 percent), Chowchilla (-5.1 percent), Wasco (-2.2 percent) and Delano (-2.1 percent).

By contrast, an expanding inmate population at the prison in Calipatria made the Imperial County city the fastest-growing in the state, at 4.2 percent over the previous year.

All the state's most populous cities posted gains, including Los Angeles, up half a percent to more than 3.8 million; San Diego up 0.9 percent to more than 1.3 million; San Jose up 1.5 percent to 971,372; San Francisco up half a percent to 812,538; and Fresno, up 1.5 percent to 505,000.

Feds cite issues behind massive Southwest blackout

JULIE WATSON
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO Federal energy regulators on Tuesday blamed inadequate planning and lack of grid coordination for a blackout last year that affected millions of people in Southern California, Arizona and Mexico's Baja California.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and North American Electric Reliability Corp. said in a statement that the Sept. 8 outage "stemmed from operating in an unsecured state due to inadequate planning and a lack of observability and awareness of system operating conditions on the day of the event."

Details were being released in a teleconference from Washington, D.C.

"This report highlights the growing need for more coordination of grid operations in the West," FERC Chairman Jon Wellinghoff said in a statement.

Gerry Cauley, president and CEO of NERC, said the outage underscores the complexity and interdependence of the North American electric system and the importance of information sharing and system studies.

Utility officials previously said an employee's work on a transmission line at an Arizona substation was the first action in the chain of events, but it should not have triggered such a massive blackout because the system is built to quickly compensate for such glitches.

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

Public Beach Restrooms – Conduit Installation for Future Phone Lines
SP2066

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, 90401, not later than 2:30 p.m. on Monday, June 4, 2012, to be publicly opened and read aloud after 3:00 p.m. on said date in the City Hall Council Chambers. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Bids.

PRE-BID JOB WALK:

As Restroom Facilities are accessible to the Public daily from sunrise to sunset, no pre-bid job walk is planned.

PROJECT ESTIMATE: $28,000.00
CONTRACT DAYS: 60
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COMPENSABLE DELAY: $300.00 Per Day

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's Finance website at: http://www01.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/. The Contractor is required to have a **B** or **C10** license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

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

TUTORING
FROM PAGE 1

www.emilyshane.org, home of a "pay it forward" campaign the parents launched with a goal of getting 100 million people to document their good deeds on the site.

Now the couple will launch their second endeavor called Successful Educational Achievement (SEA), which pairs children who have difficulty in the classroom with mentors that can help them grasp material and get organized.

As with the website, Emily inspired the SEA initiative.

When she was in the second grade, her parents and teachers realized that she was having difficulty processing the information she was learning in school.

Eventually, Emily was put on a 504 plan, which gave her more time on tests and larger fonts on written portions.

She was even allowed to type her responses because her handwriting was poor.

Ellen Shane knew that Emily was not alone, and that many parents either don't know their children have a problem or don't have the money to pay for tutors to help them.

"I saw it like a safety net," she said. "Identify these kids, get someone to work with them to help with the subject matter and whatever might be part of their particular issue so they can learn how to work with it and overcome it, as well as get the subject matter down so they can perform better."

The only cost of tutoring: A good deed, documented on their website.

The SMMUSD Board of Education gave its blessing to the proposal in October, and Shane reached out to the district staff and to the Boys & Girls Clubs in Malibu and Santa Monica for help.

Both groups have committed to finding students who need extra academic help, and the Emily Shane Foundation, through its SEA initiative, will provide the tutors.

The program begins officially after the school year begins so that tutors from Pepperdine University can get paid through their work-study programs, but a small pilot project of between five and 10 kids will get rolling at the Boys & Girls Club in Malibu this week.

The club was excited to partner with the foundation on the tutoring project, said Kasey Earnest, executive director of the Boys & Girls Club of Malibu.

"It's something we do already, so it's a perfect partnership," Earnest said.

The foundation helps offset the cost of tutoring, and the club offers its expertise in helping to select tutors and provide space for the students and their new mentors to meet.

The Shanes are also working with the Santa Monica Boys & Girls Club to open up tutoring spaces at their center at John Adams Middle School when the school year begins.

Boys & Girls clubs make great partners because they have the flexibility to take on new projects, unlike school districts which have more restrictions, Earnest said.

The partnership is a good entry point to the Shanes' ultimate goal of spreading the SEA initiative nationwide, something all involved acknowledge is many years in the future.

"I would love to get it into other school districts," Ellen Shane said. "Most middle schools have a Boys & Girls Club affiliation. It makes it a great way to expand."

ashley@smdp.com

SUIT
FROM PAGE 1

nificantly worse in the last year, said William Litvak, attorney with Dapeer, Rosenblit & Litvak LLP.

In that time, the tenants have suffered emotional distress, he said.

"People don't understand how devastating it is when you don't have peace in your own house," Litvak said. "It's very disconcerting."

The complaint asserts that Nash had conducted a "reign of terror" against his tenants.

In addition to letting the units decline and verbally abusing the tenants, the lawsuit further details allegations that people were allowed to park in Levine's driveway, cause damage to Lorden's car and others were let into the various apartments without permission.

The tenants hope that the lawsuit will allow them to live in peace and have their units maintained, Litvak said. They also want to be compensated for the stress and other damages.

"We also ask for the court to make an example out of this landlord," Litvak said.

Nash has not escaped headlines in his time as a real estate owner in Los Angeles.

In 1984, he sued City Hall for the right to take his rental properties off of the market, a request he was denied until the Legislature passed the Ellis Act in 1985.

The Ellis Act specified that landlords had the right to kick tenants out of their apartments and close the building down.

Most recently, he got in a public disagreement with West Hollywood officials when he used the Ellis Act to shut down the landmarked El Mirador apartment building.

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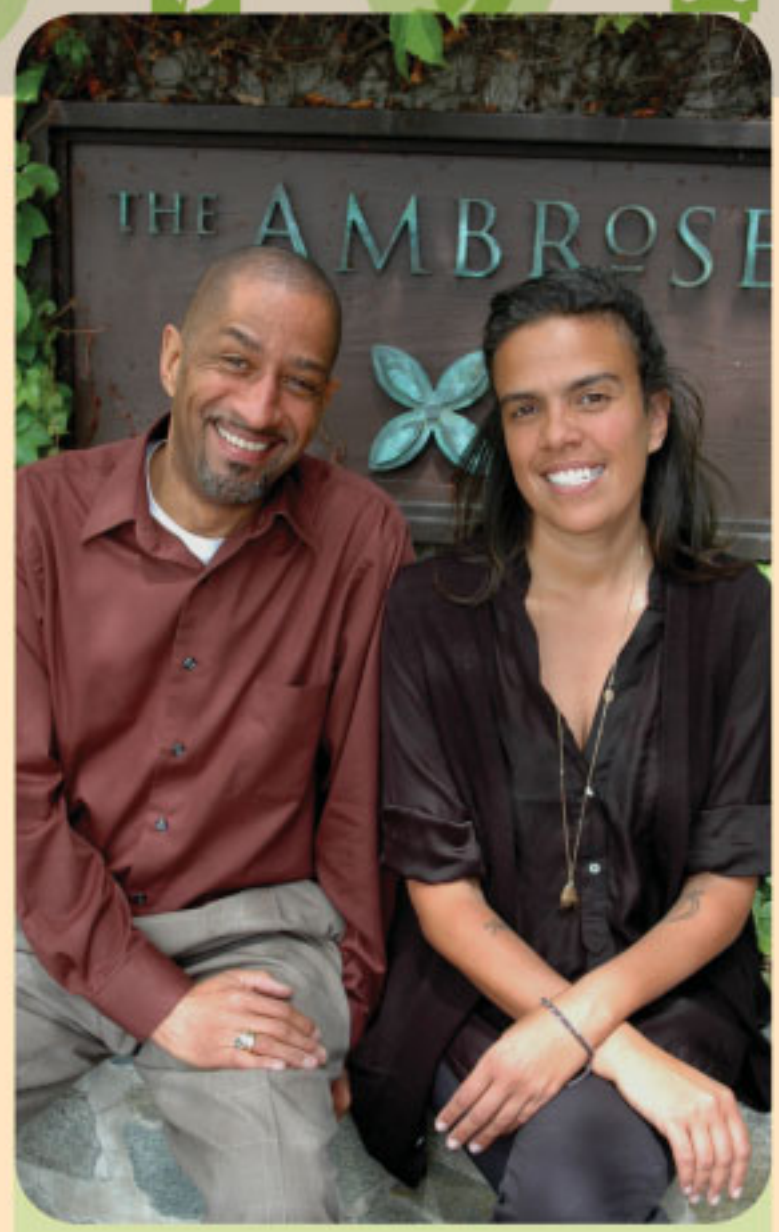
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Ray Solano *news@smdp.com*

SLEEPING FOR THEIR RIGHTS: **Students at Santa Monica College staged a sleep-in at the main campus Monday evening as part of a May Day demonstration.**

MAY DAY

FROM PAGE 1

they left Palisades Park around 11 a.m.

The gathering in Santa Monica was rather tame, police said. However, that couldn't be said for other parts of the country, where some protesters clashed with police.

Police in Los Angeles arrested 10 demonstrators who blocked an intersection near LAX. Police said four men and six women who volunteered to stage civil disobedience and be arrested were handcuffed and taken away. Hundreds of employees picketed the airport and marched during a one-day strike to protest the use of non-union labor for some jobs. The airport reported no major disruptions.

The melees were far less violent than ones that erupted last fall when the movement was at its peak. Marches and strikes led to a handful of arrests but no major disruptions.

Many of the rallies, which drew activists pushing a variety of causes, also did not have the same drawing power that gatherings had last year for the Occupy movement or a half-dozen years ago for May Day rallies for immigration reform.

In recent years, activists in the U.S. used May Day to hold rallies for immigrant rights, but the day has been associated for more than a century with workers' rights and the labor movement both in the U.S. and elsewhere.

Across the world on Tuesday, protests drew tens of thousands of demonstrators into the streets from the Philippines to Spain. They demanded everything from wage increases to an end to cuts in education, health care and other austerity measures.

The U.S. protests were the most visible organizing effort by anti-Wall Street groups since the movement's encampments were dismantled last fall.

The major developments include:

• In Oakland, the scene of several violent clashes between activists and police in recent months, the situation threatened to boil over again when police fired tear gas, sending hundreds of demonstrators scrambling.

Officers also fired "flash-bang" grenades to disperse protesters converging on police as they tried to make arrests, police said. Four people were taken into custody.

Earlier, some protesters tried to force businesses to shut down for not observing calls for a "general strike."

• In Seattle, black-clad protesters used sticks to smash small downtown windows and ran through the streets disrupting traffic. Police have made at least two arrests.

While much smaller in scale, the mayhem was reminiscent of the 1999 World Trade Organization protests in the city that caused widespread damage to stores and forced the cancellation of some WTO events.

Authorities said many of the most violent protesters were trying to hide in the larger crowd by shedding their all-black clothes after they had caused damage with things like rocks, hammers and tire irons.

• In New York, hundreds of Occupy Wall Street protesters and their supporters spilled out onto Fifth Avenue in a confrontation with police amid citywide May Day protests, while thousands later gathered peacefully in Union Square.

The group had promised the day would mark a spring revival of their movement.

Occupy organizer Mark Bray said the mood had changed since the group's first organized events late last year. "There was a sense of novelty to Occupy in October," he said. "Today is more celebratory, and nostalgic."

Marchers briefly flooded the avenue and blocked traffic before police in riot gear pushed them back onto the sidewalks. The group chanted: "We are the people. We are united!"

• In Chicago, about 2,000 activists marched through the city to demand immigration reform and greater protections for workers. The demonstration was largely peaceful. Half a million people rallied in Chicago in 2006 to demand immigration reform. But numbers since have plummeted to just a few thousand.

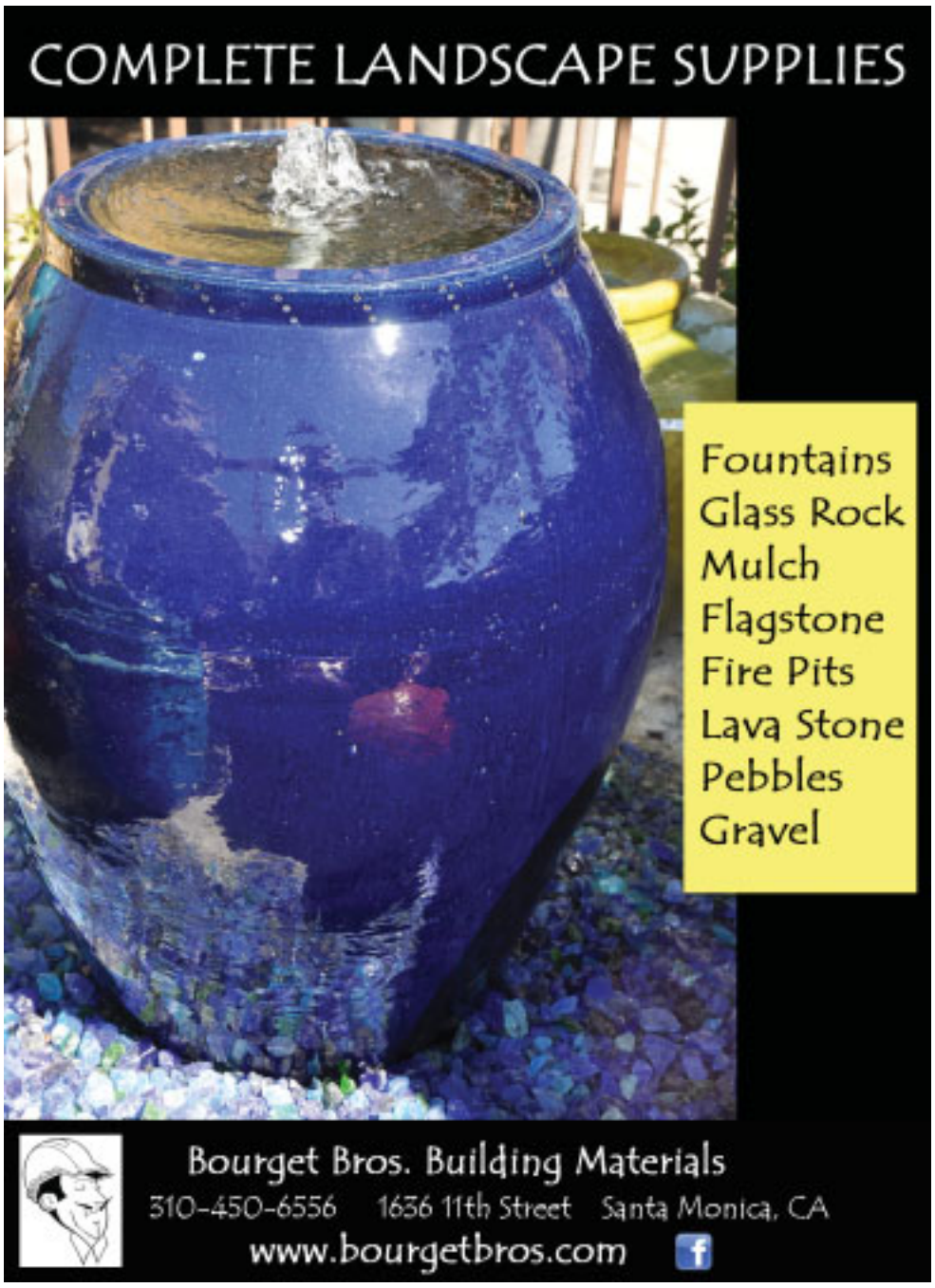
• In Atlanta, about 100 people rallied outside the state Capitol, where a law targeting illegal immigration was passed last year. They called for equal rights for all workers and an end to local-federal partnerships to enforce immigration law.

The rally was significantly smaller than last year's, which drew about 1,000 people. Organizers said turnout last year was greater, in part, because the protest was on a Sunday, rather than during the work week.

"I'm a bit disappointed, but I think this is something to be expected," said Adelina Nicholls, executive director of the Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights, one of the main organizers of the rally.

"It's very difficult to keep a high level of excitement going," Nicholls said. "But it's not only about mobilization. It's also about organization, and we have people working every day to promote immigrant rights."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.



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FUNDING
FROM PAGE 3

Frustration over rising tuition and fewer courses have been playing out across California's college campuses. At the same time, administrators have been criticized for handing out handsome compensation packages.

CSU Chancellor Charles Reed said he hears the students but noted that higher education funding is at 40-year lows. The UC and CSU systems have been cut about $1 billion over the past two years, which has resulted in double-digit tuition hikes, he said.

"For the California State University, our dollars are the same as we had in 1996, but we have 90,000 more students today," Reed said. "California's economic recovery is based upon funding higher education, and it has been neglected for the past several years. And if the governor and the Legislature don't start funding higher education, California is not going to recover from this slump in the economy."

Gov. Jerry Brown, a Democrat, is promoting a tax hike on the November ballot. If voters reject his initiative, Brown has said the UC and CSU systems each would face another $200 million reduction. Community colleges would be cut another $298 million, forcing colleges to slash course offerings, lay off staff and take on additional borrowing.

A message left for the governor's office was not immediately returned Tuesday.

California community colleges have experienced more than $800 million in cuts over the past three years, causing them to turn away about 200,000 students and drastically cut course offerings. The system has 2.6 million students.

Tuition at the four-year campuses has nearly doubled in the past five years, to $13,000 for resident undergraduates at UC campuses and to $6,400 at CSU schools. Community college fees are set to rise to $46 per unit by this summer, up from $20 per unit in 2007.

Brown's initiative would fund education and public safety programs by temporarily raising income taxes on people who make more than $250,000 a year and temporarily increasing the sales tax by a quarter cent.

Kevin Feliciano, 23, a public administration major at Ohlone College in Fremont, said budget cuts have reduced course offerings to the point where students can get only one or two classes they need instead of four or five.

"The culture has changed," Feliciano said. "Students are afraid to drop classes."

Sen. Leland Yee, D-San Francisco, on Tuesday criticized a proposed executive compensation policy by the CSU's Board of Trustees, which would allow the use of university foundation money to give raises to administrators. Yee had proposed a bill to ban executive pay hikes during bad budget years or when student fees increase, but it failed to pass a committee.

"Once again, the CSU administration has put lining the pockets of their six-figure executives before the needs of students," Yee said in a statement.

In March, CSU trustees approved 10 percent pay hikes for two campus presidents just as administrators outlined a plan for sweeping cuts that will deny admission to thousands of students.

The trustees approved a base salary of $303,660 for CSU East Bay President Leroy Morishita and $324,500 for CSU Fullerton President Mildred Garcia, as well as $12,000 car allowances and $60,000 housing allowances for each.

CSU plans to hold off on admitting students for fall 2013 until after the November election. If the tax measure fails, fall enrollment would be cut another 20,000 students and 3,000 employees would be laid off.

UC President Mark Yudof told a crowd of college representatives at the Capitol on Tuesday that compensation is not out of control. He said tuition remains relatively affordable at the system's 10 campuses compared to private colleges.

Yudof said the average student carries a debt of $17,000. "It would be better if it was closer to zero, but it's not the $100,000 you see in the newspapers," he said.



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Romney: Obama shouldn't use bin Laden in campaign

BETH FOUHY
Associated Press

NEW YORK Republican Mitt Romney said Tuesday that it was "totally appropriate" for President Barack Obama to claim credit for taking out Osama bin Laden a year ago but that his decision to politicize a unifying event for the country was not.

Obama's re-election campaign has used his decision to order the U.S. military raid that ended with the 9/11 mastermind's death to suggest that Romney would not have made the same call. Romney, the president's all-but-certain Republican challenger in the fall election, says he would have made the same decision.

Marking the anniversary at a New York City fire house that lost 11 men on Sept. 11, 2001, Romney said he understood the president's desire to take credit for killing one of the world's most-wanted men.

"It's totally appropriate for the president to express to the American people the view that he has that he had an important role in taking out Osama bin Laden," Romney said after visiting the lower Manhattan fire station with Rudy Giuliani, who was mayor when terrorists flew planes into the World Trade Center's twin towers and killed nearly 3,000 people.

"I think politicizing it and trying to draw a distinction between himself and myself was an inappropriate use of the very important event that brought America together," Romney said.

He and Giuliani had just eaten pizza with several fire fighters.

For his part, Obama marked the occasion by putting the power of incumbency on display. He flew unannounced to Afghanistan to sign an agreement cementing the U.S. commitment to that country after the unpopular war there ends. His predecessor, Republican George W. Bush, sent in troops shortly after 9/11 to eradicate Taliban and al-Qaida forces.

Romney insisted that he, too, would have ordered the strike on bin Laden's hideout in Pakistan.

"Of course I would have ordered taking out Osama bin Laden," Romney said outside the fire house, echoing comments from a day earlier. "This is a person who had done terrible harm to America and who represented a continuing threat to civilized people throughout the world. Had I been president of the United States I would have made the same decision."

Democrats have pointed to Romney's suggestion, during his failed 2008 presidential bid, that he would have taken a different course of action. He said in 2007 that it was "not worth moving heaven and earth" to catch one person.

Obama was asked about the matter on Monday at a White House news conference and, without saying Romney's name, suggested that people should be held accountable for past statements about the pursuit of bin Laden.

Giuliani, a former Romney rival and critic who since has endorsed the former Massachusetts governor's bid, also said Obama shouldn't use the anniversary to attack Romney.

"If he wants to take credit for it I have no problem with that at all. I wish he wouldn't use it as a source of negative campaigning. I think that's a big mistake," he said. The former mayor had staked his failed 2008 bid for the Republican presidential nomination on his post-9/11 leadership of the city.

Romney also tried to clarify another comment from 2007, when then-candidate Obama was being criticized for saying he would conduct unannounced raids inside Pakistan if high-level terror targets were determined to be hiding there. Romney criticized Obama at the time, saying: "I do not concur in the words of Barack Obama in a plan to enter an ally of ours."

Romney sought to soften that Tuesday by suggesting he had simply criticized Obama for signaling his intentions about what he would do as president.

"We always reserve the right to go anywhere to get Osama bin Laden," Romney said. "I said that very clearly in the response that I made, but that I thought — and many people believed as I did — that it was naive on the part of the president at that time, the candidate, to say he would go into Pakistan."

Before visiting the fire station, Romney ate breakfast with the current mayor, Michael Bloomberg, who has avoided endorsing anyone in the presidential race so far. Bloomberg was elected as a Republican but is now an independent. He flirted with the idea of running for president in 2008 as an independent.

Asked Tuesday whether he would make an endorsement, Bloomberg didn't shut the door.

"I'll see down the road," he said after Romney had departed. He said Obama and Romney are "both very smart, very formidable candidates. They're very different and they give the public a real choice."





Ohio wild animal stampede ignites vast law review

SUE MANNING
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Of all the beasts set free by the suicidal owner of an exotic animal farm in Ohio last year, few were as scary or as lethal as the big cats.

Tigers, leopards and lions — more than two dozen — were loose before being hunted by sheriff's deputies.

While the slaughter was chilling, it was truly panic-inducing that an unstable owner had accumulated such a collection of dangerous animals.

Yet, by some estimates, there are thousands of tigers in captivity in American backyards — more than there are in the wild on the planet.

No one knows the number for certain because there's only scattered regulation for such pets. In fact, it's easier in some states to buy a tiger or lion from a breeder than it is to adopt a kitten from a shelter.

That's likely to change after the Zanesville stampede drew the attention of lawmakers around the country.

Legislation has been proposed in Congress that would ban private ownership of exotic cats. Ohio and other states are also looking to outlaw the animals or to keep them more tightly controlled.

One leader of the cat fight is actress and animal activist Tippi Hedren, best known for being terrorized by crows in Alfred Hitchcock's "The Birds."

Hedren has devoted much of her life to rescuing big cats at her Shambala Preserve north of Los Angeles, home to 53 seized or abandoned exotic cats, and she doesn't think they make good pets.

"It is the job of the predator to take out any old, sick or lame animal. What quality there makes for a good pet?" she asked.

The Zanesville animals may have forced the issue into the open, but it certainly isn't the first tragedy involving private cats.

Since 1990, 21 people, including five children, have been killed and 246 mauled, according to Big Cat Rescue in Tampa, Fla. Over that period, 254 cats have escaped and 143 have been killed.

There have been other federal laws proposed over the years, but most have failed.

Deputies shot nearly 50 wild animals freed on Oct. 18 at Muskingum County Animal Farm near Zanesville. Owner Terry Thompson opened their cages before committing suicide. Some believe it was one last act of retaliation against neighbors and authorities.

Reps. Howard "Buck" McKeon, R-Calif., and Loretta Sanchez, D-Calif., introduced the Big Cats and Public Safety Protection Act in February to require owners of tigers, lions, leopards, jaguars, cheetahs, panthers and other cats to register with the Department of Agriculture. Breeding would be banned except at accredited zoos and research and educational institutions. Penalties would include seizures, fines and jail.

In Ohio, the state Senate recently passed a bill that would ban new ownership of lions, monkeys and other exotic animals, but allows current owners to keep their animals by obtaining a new state-issued permit by 2014 and meeting other strict conditions. It now goes to the House for consideration. Meanwhile, the Ohio Department of Agriculture announced Monday that it will return five surviving exotic animals, including two leopards, to Terry Thompson's widow, Marian Thompson.

Virginia, Arizona, Missouri, West Virginia, Tennessee, Indiana and Oklahoma are also considering exotic animal bans, according to Uappeal, an exotic animal lobbying group.

Currently, no single agency oversees how big cats are kept or treated. The Association of Zoos and Aquariums and USDA have some regulations. Some states, counties and cities have laws but many don't.

The federal bill has the backing of the International Fund for Animal Welfare, Born Free USA and other groups. But fans of the majestic beasts are in an uproar.

"All a ban law will do is force all these people to go underground and it will not help the animals at all," said Joseph Schreibvogel, president of the United States Zoological Association, which advocates on behalf of wild animal owners.

Lynn Culver, executive director of the Feline Conservation Federation, thinks the number of people who keep exotic cats as pets has been hugely inflated by proponents of the House bill. She says the bill will interfere with captive conservation and bring an end to circus and stage acts and cats in movies and on television.

"Independent zoos will be allowed to keep their existing animals but when the cats die, there will be zoos without big cats and that's tragic," Culver said. "Big cats are charismatic species, key to the success of any zoo or wildlife exhibit."

There are as many as 20,000 privately owned cats in the U.S. and about half are tigers, according to groups like the World Wildlife Fund and the AZA. The WWF says there are only 3,200 tigers left in the wild in Asia.

How the backyard population swelled while dwindling in nature is partly attributed to an unregulated industry, where a tiger cub can be bought for as little as $300 without any permit or registration.

Yet someone trying to adopt a kitten from a shelter might have to undergo a home inspection and have the pet sterilized, vaccinated, microchipped and licensed, said WWF senior policy adviser Leigh Henry.

In just months, a cub can weigh 400 pounds, cost $5,500 a year to feed and need room to roam. Defanging and declawing them doesn't make them safe, said AZA spokesman Steve Feldman.

Backyard breeders sell the big cats for pets, parts, game ranches, canned hunts, sideshows, photo booths and roadside attractions.

Overwhelmed pet owners often turn to sanctuaries to rescue them from mounting bills and potential danger.

Bobbi Brink, owner of Lions Tigers and Bears outside San Diego, started her sanctuary in 2002 after rescuing tigers Raja and Natasha from a Texas man who was ordered to upgrade their 6-foot-by-12-foot cages or find new homes for them.

She spent $250,000 on a tiger habitat with a pool and plenty of running room on 94 acres.

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Workers express anger, gloom, elation on May Day

DANIEL WOOLLS
Associated Press

MADRID On the front lines of the world's May Day protests this year, along with the traditional chants, banners and marches, a gamut of emotions flowed through the crowds: Anger. Fear. Elation. Despair.

With Europe's unemployed denouncing austerity measures, Asia's laborers demanding higher salaries and U.S. protesters condemning Wall Street, Tuesday's demonstrations by hundreds of thousands were less a celebration of workers' rights than a furious venting over spending cuts, tax hikes and soaring unemployment.

The protests came just days ahead of key elections in Greece and France, whose leaders have acutely felt popular anger over policies many feel are strangling any hopes of economic recovery. The rallies reflected deep pessimism in Spain, dealing with a fragile economy is in the cross-hairs of the European debt crisis.

Yet optimism and national pride emerged too. Over 100,000 turned out in Russia for May Day rallies that celebrated Vladimir Putin's government. And tens of thousands of workers rallied with joy in France, hoping this would be the last week of President Nicolas Sarkozy's conservative leadership.

In the U.S., protesters lined major financial institutions in the country's most high-profile Occupy Wall Street rallies since the encampments protesting the gap between the superrich and poor came down in the fall. Crowds blocked intersections in Oakland, Calif., trying to force businesses to shut down for not observing calls for a "general strike." Police in riot gear faced dozens of Occupy activists marching in front of a Bank of America in New York City, chanting "Bank of America. Bad for America."

Under a gray Madrid sky that reflected the dark national mood, 25-year Adriana Jaime turned out to march. Jaime speaks three languages and has a masters degree as a translator, but works for what she derided as peanuts in a university research project that has been cut from three years to three months due to a lack of funds.

"I am here because there is no future for the young people of this country," Jaime said as many marchers carried black-and-white placards with the word NO and a pair of red scissors.

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy is trying desperately to cut a bloated deficit, restore investor confidence in Spain's public finances, lower its 24.4 percent jobless rate, and fend off fears the country will soon need a bailout like Greece, Ireland and Portugal.

But Ana Lopez, a 44-year-old civil servant, argued the government is doing nothing to help workers and that the economic crisis is only benefiting banks.

"Money does not just disappear. It does not fly away. It just changes hands, and now it is with the banks," Lopez said. "And the politicians are puppets of the banks."

In France, tens of thousands of workers, leftists and union leaders marked May Day with glee, hoping that a presidential runoff vote Sunday will put a Socialist — Francois Hollande — at the helm for the first time since 1988. Many voters fear Sarkozy will erode France's welfare and worker protections, and see him as too friendly with the rich.

"Sarkozy has allowed himself for too long to manhandle the lower classes," said Dante Leonardi, a 24-year-old in Paris. "Today we must show ... that we want him to leave."

Hollande has promised high taxes on the rich.

"We are going to choose Hollande because we want something else for France. We want to keep our jobs, we want to keep our industrial jobs, we want a new economy," said protester Serge Tanguy.

Even in Germany, where the economy is churning and unemployment is at a record low, unions estimated that 400,000 people showed up at over 400 May Day rallies. The DGB union group sharply criticized Europe's treaty enshrining fiscal discipline and the austerity measures across the continent, calling instead for a stimulus program to revive the 17-nation eurozone's depressed economies.

In debt-crippled Greece, more than 2,000 people marched through central Athens in subdued May Day protests centered on the country's harsh austerity program.

"(We need) new policies that will satisfy the needs of workers and not of bosses and banks," said Ilias Vrettakos of the ADEDY union.

In Moscow, the mood was resolutely pro-government, as 100,000 people — including President Dmitry Medvedev and President-elect Putin — took part in the main May Day march.

The two leaders happily chatted with participants as many banners criticized the Russian opposition movement. One read "Spring has come, the swamp has dried up," referring to Bolotnaya (Swampy) Square, the site of some of the largest opposition demonstrations.

Communists and leftists held a separate May Day rally in Moscow that attracted about 3,000. Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov decried international economic troubles, saying that "without socialism, without respect for the working people who create all the main value in this land, it is not possible to get out of this crisis."

Police arrested 22 people at the rally, and violence was largely contained at the protests.

After a workers' day march in Santiago, Chile, some protesters threw objects at closed businesses, breaking the windows of several banks and pulling out furniture to build a bonfire in the street. Police responded with tear gas and water cannons, and arrested an undetermined number of people. In Argentina, small explosion went off outside the EU headquarters in Buenos Aires before dawn, breaking a few windows, but there were no injuries and no one was arrested.

Earlier, thousands of workers protested in the Philippines, Indonesia, Taiwan and other Asian nations, demanding wage hikes. They said their take-home pay could not keep up with rising food, energy and housing prices and school fees.

An unemployed father of six set himself on fire in southern Pakistan in an apparent attempt to kill himself because he was mired in poverty, according to police officer Nek Mohammed. Abdul Razzaq Ansari, 45, suffered burns on 40 percent of his body but survived.

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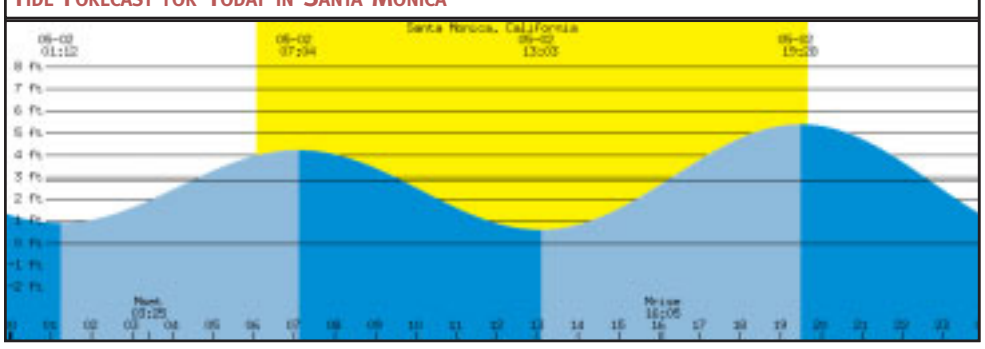
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BEACH REPORT CARD

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 25, 2012**

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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 -- 15
- 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: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Goodbrook Family Foundation, simplehuman, LazerGUY, SBMA

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+	B
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	B
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	F	F
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A	B
Solstice Canyon at Ben Blocker County Beach.	A+	C
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	B	B
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 21672 Malibu Rd.	D	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location) - daily.	C	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	F	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	B
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	D
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	F	A+
Pena Creek at Los Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	C	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	D
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+	B
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	B
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	A
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	B
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	C
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	D
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	A+
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A+	B
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	A+
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	B
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	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	A
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	A+
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of 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+	B

LEGEND

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

MLB

Dodgers sale finalized

GREG RISLING
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES The $2 billion sale of the Los Angeles Dodgers was finalized Tuesday, ending the tumultuous era under former owner Frank McCourt, who took the team into bankruptcy and made his private life public through a nasty divorce battle with his ex-wife.

The closure of the deal was announced in a terse statement. The Dodgers were sold to Guggenheim Baseball Management, a group that includes former Los Angeles Lakers star Magic Johnson.

Mark Walter, chief executive officer of the financial services firm Guggenheim Partners, will become the controlling owner, and the team will be run by former Atlanta Braves President Stan Kasten.

McCourt met with Dodgers employees Tuesday, expressing his appreciation and introduced Walter, said Howard Sunkin, a spokesman for McCourt.

"The Dodgers move forward with confidence in a strong financial position as a premier Major League Baseball franchise and as an integral part of and representative of the Los Angeles community," the new ownership group's statement said.

The timing couldn't have come at a better time for Dodgers fans, who are excited about having their team leading the National League. The Dodgers had a 16-7 record going into Tuesday night's game in Colorado. The Dodgers have won six World Series titles but none since 1988, when they were still owned by the O'Malley family that moved the team from Brooklyn to California after the 1957 season.

Fox bought the team in 1998, then sold it to McCourt.

The sale was part of a reorganization plan after McCourt took the team into bankruptcy last June. A federal judge approved the deal last month.

The sale was supposed to close Monday, the day McCourt was to make a $131 million payment to former wife Jamie McCourt as part of their divorce settlement. The team's statement said all claims will be paid. Jamie McCourt did receive her payment on Monday.

McCourt paid $430 million in 2004 to buy the team, Dodger Stadium and 250 acres of land that include the parking lots from the Fox division of Rupert Murdoch's News Corp.

Despite the Dodgers making the playoffs the first four out of six seasons under McCourt's ownership, the off-the-field saga took attention away from the team as he and his ex-wife were in a protracted divorce battle during which their lavish spending habits were revealed in court documents and testimony.

Major League Baseball assumed control of the club's day-to-day operations in April 2011 amid concerns by MLB executives that McCourt couldn't make payroll.

The team filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection after baseball Commissioner Bud Selig rejected a proposed broadcast rights deal with Fox Sports that McCourt said would have alleviated worries about covering payroll.

The team's debt stood at $579 million as of January, according to a court filing, but McCourt stands to make hundreds of millions of dollars.

The sale price set a record; Stephen Ross forked out $1.1 billion for the NFL's Miami Dolphins in 2009, and Malcolm Glazer and his family took over England's Manchester United soccer club seven years ago in a deal then valued at $1.47 billion.

The previous record for a baseball franchise was the $845 million paid by the Ricketts family for the Chicago Cubs in 2009.

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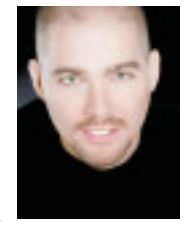
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AMC Loews Broadway 4
1441 Third Street Promenade
(888) 262-4386

Three Stooges (PG) 1hr 32min
1:20pm, 3:45pm, 6:00pm, 8:20pm, 10:30pm

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

American Reunion (R) 1hr 53min
1:30pm, 5:05pm, 7:40pm, 10:20pm

Titanic 3D (PG-13) 3hrs 14min
1:10pm, 4:05pm, 8:10pm

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

Chimpanzee (G) 1hr 18min
11:30am, 1:30pm, 3:30pm, 5:30pm, 7:30pm, 9:30pm

Cabin in the Woods (R) 1hr 35min
11:40am, 2:00pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm

Pirates! Band of Misfits (PG) 1hr 28min
1:30pm, 6:00pm, 9:30pm

21 Jump Street (R) 1hr 49min
11:10am, 2:00pm, 10:30pm

Pirates! Band of Misfits 3D (PG) 1hr 28min
11:00am, 3:50pm, 8:20pm

Hunger Games (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
11:45am, 3:05pm

Think Like a Man (PG-13) 2hrs 02min
11:10am, 2:00pm, 4:50pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Metropolitan Opera: La Traviata (Encore) (NR) 3hrs 15min
6:30pm

Five-Year Engagement (R) 2hrs 04min
11:00am, 1:50pm, 4:40pm, 7:35pm, 10:20pm

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

Restless City (R) 1hr 20min
1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:10pm, 9:45pm

Kid With a Bike (Le Gamin au Velo) (PG-13) 1hr 27min
3:30pm, 5:40pm, 7:50pm

Damsels in Distress (PG-13) 1hr 38min
1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

Deep Blue Sea (R) 1hr 38min
1:10pm, 9:55pm

Highest Pass (NR) 1hr 30min
1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:30pm, 7:45pm, 10:15pm

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

Hunger Games (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
12:45pm, 4:05pm, 7:15pm, 10:40pm

Bully (R) 1hr 34min
11:30am, 1:55pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Safe (R) 1hr 35min
11:50am, 2:30pm, 5:30pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

Raven (R) 1hr 43min
11:45am, 2:20pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:20pm

Lucky One (PG-13) 1hr 41min
11:15am, 12:15pm, 1:45pm, 3:00pm, 4:10pm, 5:45pm, 8:15pm, 10:10pm, 10:50pm

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

You call the shots, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

★★★★★ A slower pace with fewer responsibilities is nice once in a while. Network and do some research. Many of you will be eyeing an important financial decision. Tonight: Which invitation would you like to accept?

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

★★★ You could be taken aback by a demanding situation. Fortunately, you can focus and direct your energy on this issue, and still be good to go. Fill part of your time with a project or person you enjoy. Tonight: Pitch in when someone needs help.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

★★★★★ No one doubts your immense resilience and abilities. Your resourcefulness might save a project or give new life to a dying issue. More and more, you look at the possibilities. Tonight: You are a source of wonderful, fun suggestions. Follow one of them.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)

★★★ Sometimes you -- more than other signs -- think about home. You are just that way. Take a serious look at a home-based business. Once an adjustment is made, you might really love it. Tonight: Buy a favorite dessert on the way home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

★★★★ Continue to eye an issue that could impact funds. Someone you look up to might be extremely benevolent. Still, you might not want to go along with this person's offer. Curb a tendency to go to extremes, especially in a discussion. Tonight: Hang out. Visit with a pal or loved one.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

★★★★★ Use the daylight hours to the max. Your upbeat attitude, kindness and unusual detachment mix together well to accomplish the desired result. A conversation you have now might have to be repeated later. It will not be understood as it is intended. Tonight: Your treat.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

★★★ You dislike being laid-back, if it means not being involved. Consciously or not, you are a natural leader and need to express that quality. Toward late afternoon, you could discover that you have new energy. Tonight: Finally, you call the shots.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

★★★★ Complete a project or communication of importance before sunset. You will be able to accomplish more than you initially anticipated. Others seem willing to digest and "OK" your ideas. Tonight: You might want to do something special, but would prefer not to let everyone know.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

★★★★★ Fortunately, you can handle pressure, demands and problems. You will do just that today. Certainly an associate or cohort means well, even if he or she keeps tripping you up. Indulge this person a little. Tonight: Flock toward your buddies, wherever they might be.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

★★★★★ Do not push so hard to achieve certain results. Detach and see how necessary it is to proceed as you want. You might gain a lot of insight. Nevertheless, you will position yourself as an authority figure. Tonight: Burning the candle at both ends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

★★★★ Keep reaching out for someone who can help illuminate a situation. This person has a way of anchoring you as well. Consider dealing with demanding people individually. Tonight: Let your mind wander. You might want to call a friend at a distance.

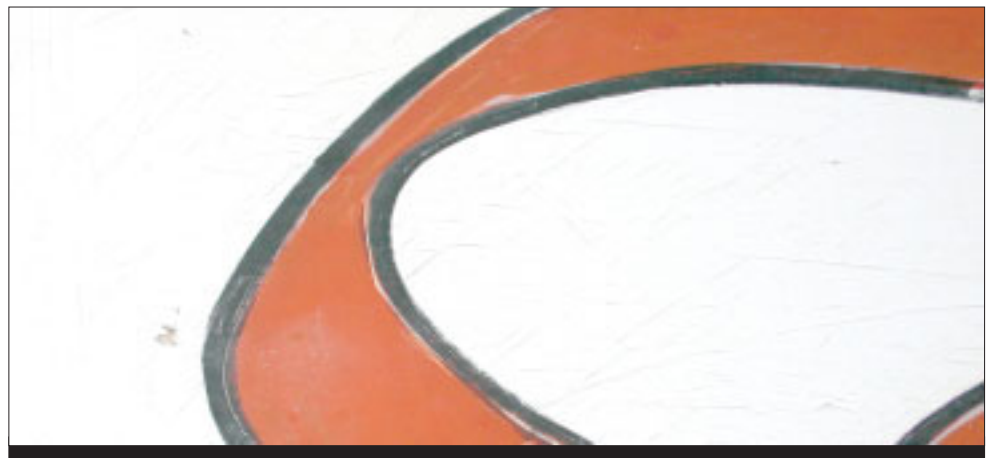
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

★★★★ Others see you much differently than you see yourself. It might boost your confidence a little if you listen to what they are saying. You have a unique ability to put others at ease and let them know that you care. Tonight: Be with a favorite person.

Happy birthday

This year you focus on your creativity and eliminating the unnecessary. Value your time more, and others will value you more. If you are single, bathe in your popularity, which certainly will aid in drawing a special significant other into your life. If you are attached, your sweetie sees a new approach you're taking and likes it. VIRGO can handle the details, whereas you work with the concepts.

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



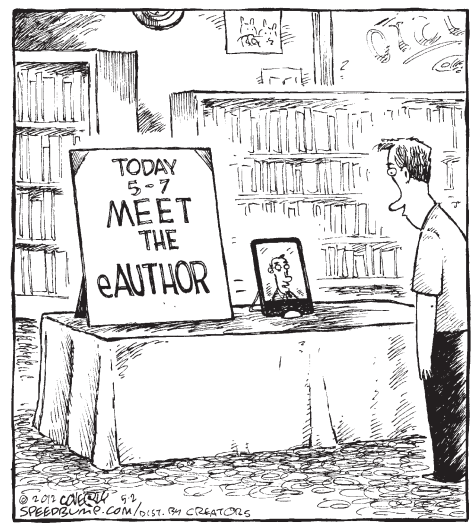
MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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

Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



Strange Brew

By John Deering



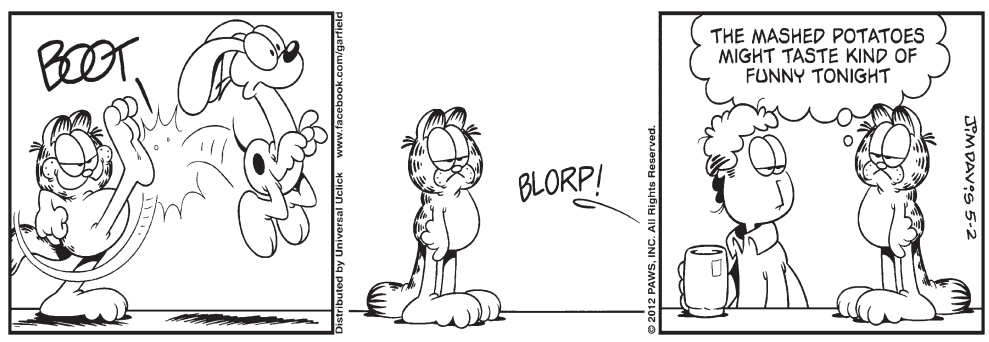
Dogs of C-Kennel

By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



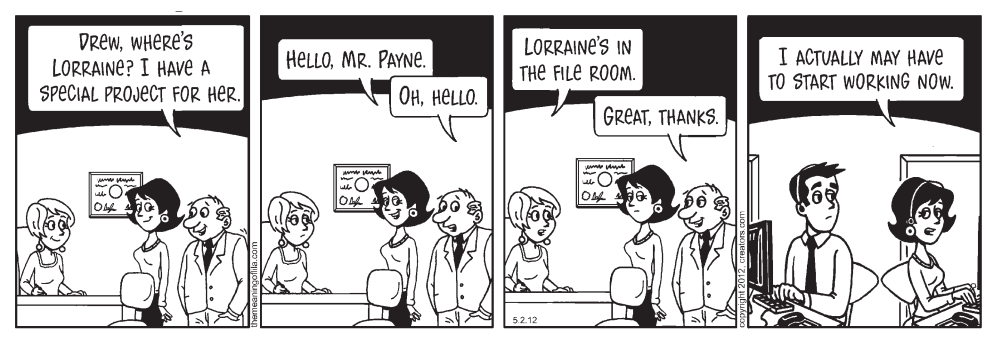
Garfield

By Jim Davis



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

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



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 "Superman" star
6 Fury
10 Comic Kovacs
11 Oasis find
12 Travel stop
13 Glowing cinder
14 Tag sale label
15 Rio Grande city
16 Use a sofa
17 Lass
18 Bus. card no.
19 They're resistant
22 Must have
23 Stable diet
26 Magazine features
29 Young seal
32 Rock's — Fighters
33 Bonbon center
34 Acquired relatives
36 Make over
37 Orchestra instrument
38 Lent a hand
39 Playful mammal
40 Cake cover
41 Hardy heroine
42 "The Full —"

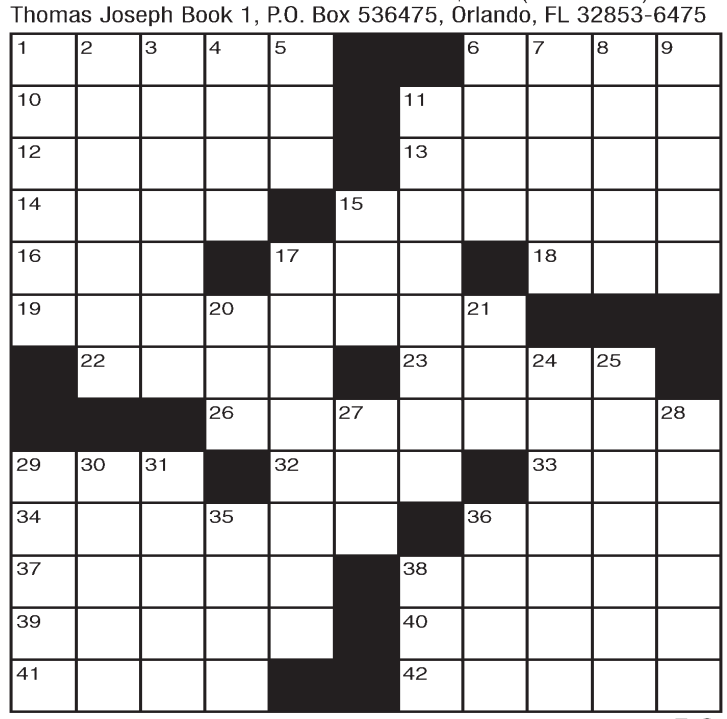
DOWN

1 Go over
2 Beach problem
3 Qualify
4 Competes
5 Twisty fish
6 Freeway exit
7 Ready to swing
8 Gaggle members
9 Flynn of film
11 Prosperous
15 Seine water
17 Mars, e.g.
20 Excellent, in slang
21 — Paulo
24 Found on the dial
25 School attendee
27 — Alamos
28 Primly pompous
29 Turning point
30 Merge
31 Novel ideas
35 Brighton brews
36 "Little Caesar" character
38 Prepare to fire

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

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



5-2

ARITHMO™

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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.

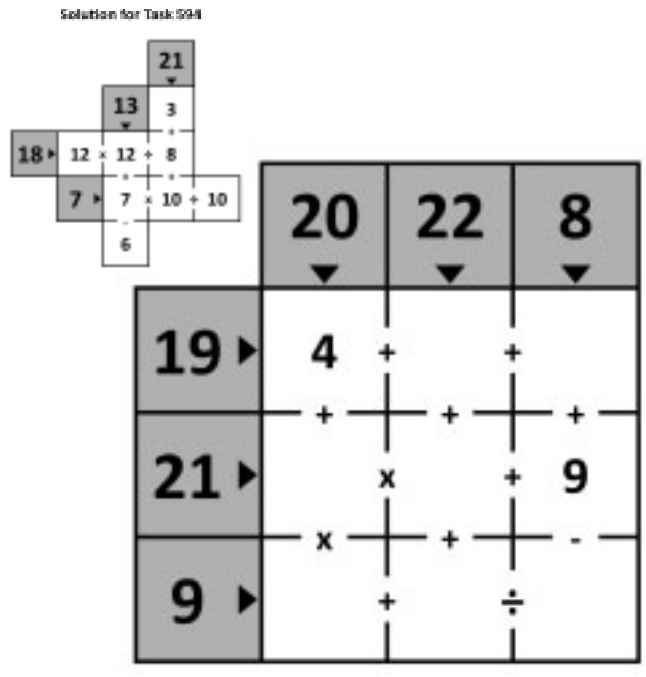
• Remember to multiply or divide before you add or subtract.

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:

2, 6, 6, 8, 9, 10, 10

Solution for Task 594



DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 4/27
2 5 45 46 47
Meganumber: 37
Jackpot: $102M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 4/28
7 12 20 21 40
Meganumber: 11
Jackpot: $13M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 5/1
6 9 11 16 22

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 5/1
MIDDAY: 9 3 1
EVENING: 0 8 2

SANTA ANITA PARK
Draw Date: 5/1
1st: 09 Winning Spirit
2nd: 12 Lucky Charms
3rd: 04 Big Ben
RACE TIME: 1:47.98

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

■ Two lawsuits filed in Los Angeles recently against the founding family of the religious Trinity Broadcasting Network allege that televangelists Paul and Jan Crouch have spent well over $50 million of worshippers' donations on "personal" expenses, including 13 "mansions," his-and-hers private jets, and a $100,000 mobile home for Mrs. Crouch's dogs. The jets are necessary, the Crouches' lawyer told the Los Angeles Times, because the Crouches receive more death threats than even the president of the United States. Allegedly, the Crouches keep millions of dollars in cash on hand, but according to their lawyer, that is merely out of obedience to the biblical principle of "ow(ing) no man anything."

■ High-ranking Vatican administrator Cardinal Domenico Calcagno, 68, fired back at critics in April after an Italian website reported his extensive collection of guns and love of shooting. He told reporters that he owns only 13 weapons and that, "above all," he enjoys "repairing" them rather than shooting them (although, he admitted, "I used to go to shooting ranges").

TODAY IN HISTORY

1998 – The European Central Bank is founded in Brussels in order to define and execute the European Union's monetary policy.

1999 – Panamanian election, 1999: Mireya Moscoso becomes the first woman to be elected President of Panama.

2000 – President Bill Clinton announces that accurate GPS access would no longer be restricted to the United States military.

2008 – Cyclone Nargis makes landfall in Burma killing over 138,000 people and leaving millions of people homeless.

WORD UP!

ort
\ awrt \ , noun;
1. A scrap or morsel of food left at a meal.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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If you or a neighbor are contemplating selling,

please contact me

Average Price of **ALL** Santa Monica Single Family Homes From **ALL** agents in **ALL** companies Listed for Sale As of Early April 2012		
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North of Montana	=	$4,249,591
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$2,080,429
South of Wilshire	=	$956,625
Sunset Park	=	$1,242,444
Ocean Park	=	$2,164,000
Statistics updated every Monday		

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