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THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 148

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

SAMOHI ON HOT STREAK
SEE PAGE 3

THE IN BLOOM ISSUE

Mayday on May Day at SMC

Students, workers rally against self-funded class program

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMC May Day came to the Main Stage of Santa Monica College Tuesday evening as labor leaders, teacher representatives and students continued their protest against a proposal for self-funded summer classes that the Board of Trustees and administration refuse to take off the table.

Students — many tired, disheveled and a little smelly from a night spent huddled on campus in protest next to grass fertilized with manure — marched through the campus joined by hotel workers union Unite Here! Local 11 to tell board members exactly how they felt about paying more for certain classes at the community college.

Which is to say, not great.

"How can they say that the future is education, but they don't want us to have it?" said Monica Marquez, a psychology student in her second year at SMC wearing a bright red Unite Here! shirt.

She stood next to her father, similarly dressed.

The proposal, which would have students bear the full cost of some classes that were no longer funded by the state because of budget cuts, has been the source of protest and anger amongst some vocal members of the student body since protests began in earnest in April.

Students say that the program would create a two-tier system, where wealthier students get access to classes that poor students cannot afford, effectively privatizing a public education.

College officials, including all members of the Board of Trustees except Chair Margaret Quiñones-Perez, maintain that charging more for classes in the winter and summer is the best possible solution in a worst-case situation where class offerings are being cut because of a lack of funding.

In 2012, it would have opened up 50 more sections in a summer where six of 15 community colleges in the area have had to shut their doors altogether, SMC officials said.

Quiñones--Perez enthusiastically sup-

SEE SMC PAGE 11



GROWING TREND

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

Resident Donald Sutherland works on the wood border of his plot Wednesday at the Santa Monica Community Garden on Main Street. He has tended the plot for two months.

Local entrepreneur takes the reins at Santa Anita Park

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

DOWNTOWN Santa Monican Mark Verge can remember the exact day he fell in love with horse racing.



VERGE

It was March 22, 1981. His coach at St. Monica Catholic High School, Mike Amodei, took Verge and his best friend Doug O'Neill on a field trip to Santa Anita Park in Arcadia, Calif. to watch the thoroughbreds race — and place a few bets.

Despite being too young to legally wager, the teens took home some cash (a little over $100 each), and on the weekends following they would board a bus and venture back to the track on their own to gamble and soak in the scenery and pageantry at what some consider to be the most beautiful race track in the land.

They were hooked, so much so that O'Neill went on to become a successful trainer and has a horse named I'll Have Another scheduled to run in this weekend's Kentucky Derby, also known as the most exciting two minutes in sports.

Verge, 44, took a different path, but one that would eventually lead him back to Santa Anita.

After graduating from Santa Monica College and UCLA, Verge used his entrepreneurial spirit to create WestsideRentals.com, which helps landlords and tenants list apartments for rent online. That business boomed, affording Verge the opportunity to invest in restaurants and bars, a hotel — and in horses.

It was that involvement with horse racing — and a little luck — that helped him in February land his dream job as chief executive officer of Santa Anita.

Now he finds himself with the challenging task of breathing new life into the historic race track at a time when competition for entertainment dollars is high in Southern

SEE VERGE PAGE 10

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

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, telephone (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.
JAMS 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" and "We Go Together." "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

Browsing for beginners
Second Floor Computer Classroom, Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
10:30 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.
In this workshop, attendees will learn how to navigate a web browser, locate information, evaluate the veracity of online sources and print webpages. Seating is first come, first served. For more information, call (310) 434-2608

Calming exercise
Senior Center
1450 Ocean Ave., 1 p.m. — 2 p.m.
Learn the Chinese art of Tai Chi and Chi Gong, which dates back 4,000 years. These exercise systems help train the body to move with gentle, flowing movements while also calming the mind. The class will be taught in both English and Farsi. Must be a Senior Center member to participate — membership is free. For more information, call (310) 458-8644.

Just move
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.

Jazz hands
The Edye Second Space, SMC Performing Arts Center
1310 11th St., 7 p.m. — 10:30 p.m.
The SMC Spring Jazz Concert will feature the Jacques Voymont Septet, an acclaimed modern acoustic jazz group with an adventurous compositional style. The group boasts outstanding musical artistry form some of L.A.'s top jazz artists. Seating is on a first-arrival basis. Tickets are $10. For more information, contact the SMC Theatre Arts Box Office at (310) 434-3005.

To create your own listing, log on to smdp.com/submitevent

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

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



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CITYWIDE

Leading the pack

The Santa Monica Conservancy is looking for docents to lead a tour of restored historical architecture in five homes June 3.

Tours will be held from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m., and guides are expected to work for two and a half hours. Docents will be given free admission to the tour during the shift that they are not working.

The program is called "Living in a Landmark" and chronicles the transition from historical structure to habitable home. Some of the stops on the tour will include a former 1875 church that has been converted into a residence, and a renovated airplane bungalow. No experience is necessary, and guides will be given information ahead of time, in addition to completing a walk-through with the owner an hour prior to the start of the tour.

For more information, e-mail info@smconservancy.org.

SAMANTHA MASUNAGA

MID-CITY

Santa Monica-UCLA receives donation

As a breast cancer survivor, Barbara Kort knows first hand about the importance of a calm and peaceful treatment center.

With her recent donation to the Santa Monica- UCLA Medical Center and Orthopaedic Hospital, she said she hopes to give that gift to other women battling the disease.

The Women's Imaging Center at the hospital was renamed after Kort on Monday in recognition of a seven-figure gift made by the Barbara and Fred Kort Foundation. The foundation supports breast cancer research as one of its main focuses.

"We are very thankful for The Kort Foundation's generous gift, which will allow our center to accommodate more patients with excellent care well into the future," said Dr. Anne Hoyt, director of the Barbara Kort Women's Imaging Center.

The center is known for its all-digital mammography and breast ultrasound studies in a spa-like environment. Kort's gift will improve and expand current breast cancer services and technologies, such as a digital, three-dimensional mammography called tomosynthesis, which allows doctors to peer through breast tissue one layer at a time. This increases the number of cancers detected and lessens the need for women to get additional testing after the initial screening.

The Kort Foundation also gave a donation to Dr. Helena Chang's breast cancer research. Chang has been Kort's doctor for the past 10 years.

"Not only is Dr. Chang an extraordinarily talented physician and researcher, she also is an extremely caring individual," Kort said. "I am very proud to be one of her patients."

Officials with the hospital would not disclose the exact amount of the donations made.

SM

SMC

Green team wins gold

The grounds crew and recycling team at Santa Monica College were named the winners of the school's 2012 EcoHero Awards April 26.

Presented in the college's Organic Learning Garden, the grounds crew and their supervisor, Tom Corpus, received the award for their work, which includes the incorporation of "Green Zones" on campus, where only man-powered or battery-powered equipment and organic integrated pest management is used.

The recycling program, headed by specialist Madeline Brodie and composed of student workers, was recognized for their efforts in starting the college's Zero Waste program and maintaining the recycling system.

Lisa Lewis Burns, an administrative assistant in SMC's Center for Environmental and Urban Studies, was also honored for her work with the Eco Club on campus.

"Sometimes it isn't easy being green, but these guys do it every day," said Genevieve Bertone, SMC sustainability director.

SM

No repeal of foie gras ban

HANNAH DREIER
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. California's legislative leaders said Wednesday they will not help a group of chefs who want to overturn an impending foie gras ban.

About 100 California chefs signed a petition Monday asking to keep the duck- and goose-liver delicacy legal with additional regulations. But no

SEE **BAN** PAGE 11



Photo courtesy Wendy Perl

HEAT: **Samohi's Sara Garcia delivers a pitch during the El Segundo Tournament last weekend.**

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ROUNDUP

Samohi continues late-season surge

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

SAMOHI A second-half awakening continues for Santa Monica in softball.

After beginning the season 2-8, it seems that the Samohi Vikings have found their form.

In Head Coach Debbie Skaggs' first year back after taking a season off in 2011, Samohi has swung and thrown their way to 6-0 in the Ocean League (11-11 overall) as the Vikings try to capture a 12th straight title. The Vikings are also in the midst of 10-consecutive seasons of going undefeated in league.

Samohi's resurgent Vikings have even impressed in non-league play, capturing a pair of

SEE **ROUNDUP** PAGE 11

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Questioning progress

Editor:

City staff may be right that a number of efficiencies may be achieved by transitioning the lunchtime meal program at the Senior Recreation Center at Palisades Park to the Ken Edwards Center Downtown. But it still doesn't feel right to me. For decades, seniors have been able to share a meal while staring out at the sweeping Santa Monica Bay, filled with a sense of wonder, hope and possibility. Now they are losing their views, sunshine and open space as part of a nebulous plan to repurpose the facility into an "adult recreation center." The camel's nose is in the tent now, so who knows what ultimate fate awaits a space that has grown into an important source of fellowship for our city's elderly.

Bit by bit, it seems like we are at risk of losing small but important parts of our city's cultural identity in the name of redevelopment – the Senior Center, Chez Jay, Norms, Swartz Glass.

Sometimes progress is anything but. Leave the lunch program alone.

Matthew King
Santa Monica

Supporting redevelopment

Editor:

I am writing to express my strong support of the efforts to revitalize Santa Monica's beautiful Miramar Hotel. We have all admired the hotel that sits on the corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Ocean Avenue for so many years. Many of us have been fortunate to have been on the grounds to appreciate the majestic and historical Moreton Bay fig tree that is currently hidden behind walls that surround the perimeter of the property.

The plans that I have reviewed will make the tree the primary focal point of the hotel and open up its splendor to residents and visitors alike. It has always saddened me to realize that over the years many more Santa Monica visitors than residents are probably aware of this landmark. I have seen the design plans and this will all be different once the revitalization is complete – the tree will be easily visible and our residents will now have ample opportunity to stroll leisurely past the tree, linger with a cup of coffee or simply admire the organic gift of this amazing tree.

In addition to all of this, as principal of Santa Monica's Olympic High, I am so gratified that Fig restaurant in the Miramar Hotel has worked in partnership with us to teach our students about health and nutrition by growing and cooking fresh vegetables. This is a hands-on project that our students look forward to with great enthusiasm and one that gives them important life skills for the future.

For these and so many more reasons, I wish the Miramar success in the effort to revitalize this precious community resource.

Janie Yuguchi Gates, Ed.D.,
Principal, Olympic High School

Don't get involved

Editor:

A few years ago, I warned the citizens of Santa Monica that the Big Blue Bus had a "look, but do not get involved" policy in regards to crime on a bus. Now a man is dead because of this policy ("L.A. police hope video leads to ID of BBB attacker," April 27). I do not know for sure if he may have been saved if the driver had intervened. The fact remains as a driver, you are not, I repeat, not to get involved or try to stop the crime in any way, shape or form. You are to sit and observe so that you can report what happened – even though we have several cameras on board.

Chalk up another crime thanks to the "let's not get involved" policy of the BBB and the city of Santa Monica.

Brian Gray
Venice, Calif.

✉WHAT DO YOU THINK?

■ Send letters to **editor@smdp.com**



Life Matters

JoAnne Barge & Katrina Davy Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Whether or not to abort

DEAR NEW SHRINK,

I am going through the worst time of my life trying to decide what to do.

I cannot even believe it, but I am pregnant. The situation is far from ideal for having a baby, but I really am wondering what it all means to have an abortion, what the risks are and whether or not I will be sorry afterwards. I would understand it if I were more religious, but I really am not. I just feel really scared and overwhelmed.

This is the last thing I expected because I really believed our method of protecting ourselves from this was a good one. My boyfriend supports me either way, or so he says.

Can you please just shed some light on the issue? I am hoping that it will help me decide while I am still early in the pregnancy.

Signed,
Sorry and worried

DEAR SORRY AND WORRIED,

I am really glad you wrote in regarding this issue of abortion and I know it must be difficult to discuss. Many women who have them tell very few, some none at all. Perhaps it is largely due to the sociopolitical climate these days, but my experience is that is goes way back to the days when it was theoretically accepted.

Over the years, I have worked with a number of women who have had abortions. Sometimes I am the only one to know. Not even the father is told; other times he is the only one to know.

The reactions to abortion vary and are often surprising to the women who have them. Sometimes it is actually the women who say that they are religious (not suggesting that they are not) who are the most relieved and move on quickly following an abortion. But more often than not, it is the women who say that they are OK with it, who are thinking mostly about the practical aspects of it and choose to do it because they think that it will bring relief, who suffer the most.

The statistics show that there are over 1 million abortions performed every year in the United States and that one in three women have an abortion before the age of 45.

Physically, if done by a doctor and in the first trimester, you should be absolutely fine. Very few women have complications or are injured in any way.

Some women, however, cannot afford an abortion so they try unorthodox methods to achieve it. This can be extremely dangerous.

But as a psychologist, it is the emotional consequences that I am concerned with. Few women really consider this before doing it. They tend to make the decision because they feel the pressure to do so and are considering only what they believe to be the practical aspects. The practical aspects can be very important and I would be the last to discount that piece of it. But it is very important to balance it out by thinking of the emotional aftermath. I have seen so many women who were very sad and often feeling very guilty after the fact. I have heard everything from "what if I never can have another child?" to "I can't believe I killed my baby."

I think it speaks for itself, but I have to say that it is extremely important that you consider who you are, what you are likely to feel afterwards and what coping mechanisms you have.

Are you prone to depression or substance abuse? Do you tend to be hard on yourself? Are you prone to feeling guilty or regretting some of your decisions because you made them in haste or under pressure?

I HAVE ALSO SEEN WOMEN WHO CAME TO ME FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE THAT STARTED WITH AN ABORTION THAT THEY REALLY WERE NOT PREPARED TO HAVE. BUT AS I SAID, SOME WOMEN MOVE THROUGH IT WITH BARELY A BREEZE.

I have seen women go into serious depression. I have seen others who feel spiritually guilty and it eats at their souls for months, or often years. I have also seen women who came to me for substance abuse that started with an abortion that they really were not prepared to have.

But as I said, some women move through it with barely a breeze.

I am not taking a position here other than to say you really need to think it through before making a decision. Think about who you are and how you are likely to feel afterwards. If you can't sort it out from the pressure you feel, you should seek some brief counseling to make sure you are doing what is truly best for you.

Lastly, you say you thought you had a good method of birth control. I cannot tell you how many women have said this to me over the years.

To avoid this terrible dilemma, perhaps it is time to make sure we are either on birth control or have the morning after pill or know our boundaries and limits. As women we need to be more aware of this, what it all really means and to understand what we are up against.

DR. JOANNE BARGE is a licensed psychologist and licensed marriage and family therapist with offices in Brentwood. Visit her at www.drbarge.com or e-mail your inquires and responses to newshrink@gmail.com. Got something on your mind? Let use help you with your life matters.

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Your column here

Dr. E. Kirsten Peters

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Ancient plants make a comeback

THE ICE AGE IS MY FAVORITE BIT OF Earth history, a time when mammoths, giant beavers and saber tooth tigers roamed the world.

I was so impressed by the Ice Age when I was a child, reading about it in the school library, that I recognized the book I had studied decades later when I stumbled across it as an adult. Being devoted to books, I happily bought a copy and perused it immediately. Imagine my pleasure, then, about the recent news that an Ice Age flowering plant some 32,000 years old has been regenerated by scientists and brought back to life.

The tale revolves around an industrious Pleistocene rodent in Siberia that took fruit from a plant botanists call Silene stenophylla and buried it deeply underground. The rodent's burrow was sealed shut by windblown dirt. The animal's treasure trove was frozen into the permafrost and remained frozen as the millennia unfolded.

Recently, scientists from the Russian Academy of Science research institute in Pushchino took a scraping of the fruit and nurtured it in a bath of nutrients. Their efforts were rewarded when the plant not only grew, but produced healthy seeds that sprouted.

Coming back to life is not a small feat for an organism that was frozen for 32 millennia!

"It is remarkable that under deep freeze, fruit tissues … can remain viable for such a long time," said Jane Shen-Miller, a biologist at UCLA. Quoted in Science News she went on to say: "This is like regenerating a dinosaur from tissues of an ancient egg."

Well, it's not exactly like that, but it's understandable scientists are excited by the result coaxed from the frozen fruit of Silene stenophylla.

When the little Siberian plant grew up, by the way, it showed signs it is mildly different from modern Silene stenophylla. Its petals are narrower and closer together than today's examples of the plant. So either the species has changed a bit in the past 32,000 years or, perhaps, what the ancient rodent buried might have been a related, but different species of a plant that has since gone extinct.

The Siberian plant isn't the only botanical specimen that's been impressively reborn. A few years ago, Israeli researchers interested in alternative medicine helped coax a 2,000-year-old date palm into sprouting.

The Judean date palm was used in ancient times for food, shelter and more. There are references to the plant in the Bible and the Koran. But the plant disappeared from the region around the year 500 AD.

The ancient date palm seed came from an excavation of Masada. You might remember that locality as the ancient fortress where Jews held off Romans in a long siege and finally killed themselves rather than surrender. The fortress fell in the year 73 AD, and the radiocarbon date of the palm seed dates the material to about 2,000 years ago.

As National Geographic reported, a Hebrew University archeologist took the samples of the date palm seeds from the ruins of Masada. For years they sat in the desk drawer of a botanical archeologist at Bar-Ilan University in Tel Aviv. Then the seeds were transferred to a center for natural medicine — because date palms were once used for medicinal purposes.

From there the increasingly well-traveled seeds went to desert agricultural expert Elaine Solowey. She soaked the seeds in warm water, bathed them in nutrients and planted them in soil. One of the seeds sprouted and a plant nicknamed "Methuselah" came into the world.

To me, the resurrection of ancient botanical material is good news for the work of the Svalbard Global Seed Vault in Norway. That's the institution in which scientists try to preserve seeds from species of plants from all around the world. The idea is to keep botanical species going, come what may in terms of variables like climate change that could wipe out a plant. Both the Methuselah date palm and the plant buried long ago by the Siberian rodent give me hope that the Svalbard effort will keep viable materials preserved for a very long time, indeed.

DR. E. KIRSTEN PETERS, a native of the rural Northwest, was trained as a geologist at Princeton and Harvard. "Planet Rock Doc," a collection of Peters' columns, is available at bookstores or from the publisher at wsupress.wsu.edu or (800) 354-7360. This column is a service of the College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences at Washington State University.

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?

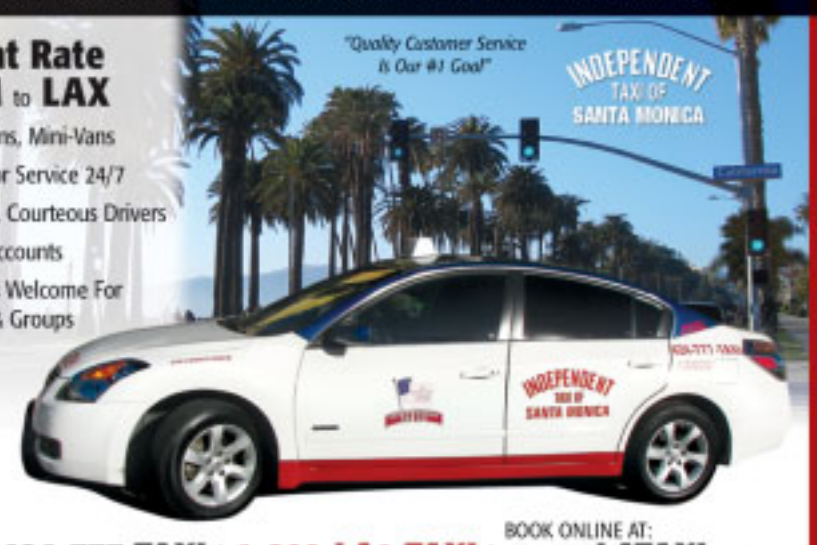
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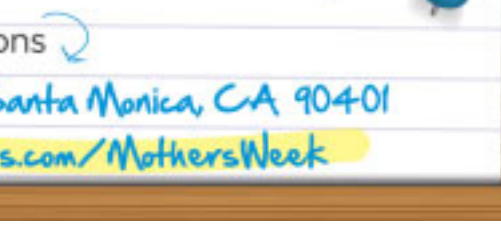
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Culture Watch

Sarah Spitz
Send comments to editor@smdp.com



Sara Spitz *news@smdp.com*

RIDING INTO THE FUTURE: **The Exposition Light Rail Line will one day be able to take Santa Monicans to cultural destinations in downtown Los Angeles.**

No strangers on the train

I USE PUBLIC TRANSIT IN EVERY CITY I'VE ever visited but seriously never expected to ride the rails around Los Angeles. I was incredibly excited to hop aboard the Expo Line on Sunday (free!) as it opened to the public, at the Jefferson/La Cienega boulevards station.

Except for the rude person who left garbage tucked between my seat and the window, the strangers near me on the train were kind enough to tell me that the sights I was gushing about were West Angeles Church (stunning stained glass), St. John's Cathedral, and the rose garden at the Natural History Museum — places I've never encountered in my drives through our sprawling metropolis.

Former New York Times columnist Frank Rich told me he always took the New York subway with his kids, both for the convenience and the communal cultural experience. Although various Metro lines have been up and running for a while, they were always too far away to use. I like that much of the Expo line runs above ground and I enjoyed hearing people talk about their communities.

Now I'll take Expo to the theatre and restaurant district in downtown L.A., to Boyle Heights to see Mariachi Plaza and my pal David Kipen's nonprofit lending library/bookstore, Libros Schmibros (maybe even Caine's Arcade — thanks YouTube!) and much more. A whole new world of L.A. culture has just opened up for me; I'll be first in line when Expo reaches Santa Monica in a few years.

Speaking of transit, The Huntington Library focuses on railroads this month. On Monday at 7 p.m., Richard Orsi, author of "Sunset Limited," lectures about the legacy of western railroads. Curator Peter Blodgett offers a three-part series, talking and taking you through the exhibition, "Visions of Empire: The Quest for A Railroad Across America, 1840-1880," on May 10, 17 and 24 at 10 a.m.

A pre-school series "Ticket to Travel" — May 9, 16, 23 and 30 from 10 a.m. to noon — brings the young'uns into the collections and gardens for art projects and more. And after school on May 23, from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., "All Aboard" invites students ages 5 to 7 to journey back to the days of steam engines and railroad travel with stories, art activities, and a visit to "Visions of Empire." Tickets and details at www.huntington.org.

MUSIC AND MEMORIES

Last week, "The Pianist of Willesden Lane" opened at The Audrey Skirball Kenis Theatre inside the Geffen Playhouse. Based on a book written by concert pianist and radio host Mona Golabek, it's about her mother's experience as a "Kindertransport" child, sent from Europe to England for safekeeping by willing British strangers until World War II ended.

Lisa Jura was a Viennese teenager when her parents made a "Sophie's Choice" decision about which of their daughters to send away. Lisa was a promising musician whose dream was to be a concert pianist and whose mother taught her to play, just as she went on to teach her own daughter, Mona. Since she had the likeliest chance of succeeding with her talent, she was chosen.

This one-woman show is quite moving. Golabek plays a Steinway grand piano throughout the performance, giant ornate frames become screens for projections of family portraits and images of horrors committed by the Nazis. Though she was in England, there was still the London Blitzkrieg to get through. Despite the hardships, it's a triumphant tale.

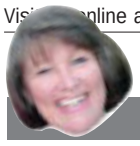
Golabek is a better pianist than actress but her story is real, personal, touching (I readily admit to shedding tears) and the music is beautiful. Directed by Hershey Felder, who has portrayed some of the greatest American composers in staged shows of his own, "The Pianist of Willesden Lane" had to be extended before it opened. You have until June 24 to see it — www.geffenplayhouse.com.

TEACHING THE YOUNGER GENERATION

Introduce children to classical music at a young age and they'll appreciate it for a lifetime. Demystify and make it relate and you may even inspire a young composer like Mozart, who was writing music by age 5.

Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra delivers a play date not to be missed. On Sunday, May 6, "Mozart and Me" features music by 5-year-old Mozart with performances by 10-year-old Colburn School piano prodigy Ray Ushikubo. An "instrument petting zoo" will let kids handle and play brass, woodwind

SEE **WATCH** PAGE 7



Play Time

Cynthia Citron

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Chicago, but not the musical

THEY WEREN'T PROJECTING, THEY WERE SHOUTING!

And even if they were better actors, the play would still be a lot of frivolous twaddle.

It's "Early and Often," a play by Barbara Wallace and Thomas R. Wolfe, and directed by Ron West, that explores political morality in 1960s Chicago. And if that isn't an oxymoron, I don't know what is.

As I entered the auditorium I received a bear hug and a shout from Marty Collins (Mat Lageman), who introduced me to the audience as Norma, owner of the best bakery in town, and asked me to vote for him for State Assemblyman.

A promising start, but, unfortunately, Marty is murdered 10 seconds later by The Mob and spends the rest of the play being schlepped from one cold storage locker to another or bundled up in the trunks of various cars.

It's the night before the election, you see, and the Ward Boss of Cook County's Democratic Party, John Flannery, (Bjorn Johnson) decides that it's best to keep Collins' death a secret until after he is elected the following day. Then Flannery would release the news of Collins' "suicide" and appoint an interim assemblyman to hold the fort until he can set up his idiot brother-in-law (Ehrin Marlow) to win the seat in the follow-up election.

"Early and often," by the way, is the cynical advice on how to vote offered, in addition to a couple of bucks "for drinks," by district captains to voters in their precincts.

There's also a silly romantic subplot between Flannery's man Art Ruck (Bryan Bertone), a flashy, college-educated former idealist whose scruples got trampled in the political jungle, and a cheesy chanteuse (Catherine Urbanek) who won't marry him because he took another woman to see "Butterfield Eight" — "and that's not the kind of movie you would take your mother to," she rebukes him.

Art, who is identified as "half-Jewish" for some indefinable reason, has a couple of confessional sessions with a priest, whom he shakes down to get a more favorable liquor license for the proprietor of his favorite bar.

Art also delivers a soliloquy about the efficacy of turning out the vote, even if the voters are dead. Should the fact that an apartment building full of Democrats burned down deprive the dead victims of their vote? he wonders.

"We are not cheaters," he asserts. "We are manipulators!"

And so it goes. Who eventually wins the election we don't find out. It isn't exactly a Kennedy-Nixon cliffhanger. More like the manipulated election of George W. Bush.

"Early and Often" will continue at the Open Fist Theatre, 6209 Santa Monica Blvd. in Hollywood, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through May 26. For tickets and information, visit www.openfist.org.

CYNTHIA CITRON can be reached at ccitron@socal.rr.com.

WATCH

FROM PAGE 6

and string instrument with help from students at the Pasadena Conservatory of Music, plus members of the L.A. Children's Chorus will demonstrate basic vocal techniques and invite children to participate in exercises from LACC's "First Experiences in Singing" classes for the youngest singers.

The hands-on experience starts at 1 p.m., and the concert of Mozart's music, interspersed with lively letters from the wunderkind (enacted by actor Dan Selon) to his father, begins at 2 p.m. Tickets range from $12 to $20, prices well worth the trip to The Alex Theatre in Glendale, Calif., especially for such a fun music immersion — laco.org.

Lastly, photographer Inga Ornelas has been documenting The Westside Produce Exchange's monthly sharing of home grown produce and homemade baked and preserved goods, which takes place at The Learning Garden. On Sunday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Santa Monica College's Food Justice Project and Café Bolívar & Gallery (1741 Ocean Park Blvd.) present "Abundancia! A Vision of Plenitude," honoring SMC's Dana Morgan (Organic Learning Garden), David King (Seed Library of Los Angeles) and Naomi Curland, who created the Westside Produce Exchange. There'll be live music, organic tapas, beautiful photos and good vibes all around. Find Westside Produce Exchange on Facebook or go to www.cafebolivar.com/

SARAH SPITZ is a former freelance arts producer for NPR and former staff producer at public radio station KCRW-Santa Monica. She reviews theatre for LAOpeningNights.com.

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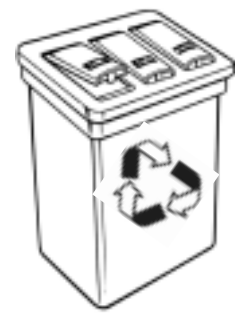
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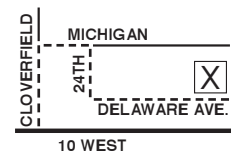


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Cal State employees authorize strike if talks fail

CHRISTINA HOAG
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES California State University employees voted overwhelmingly to authorize their union to declare a two-day strike if a new contract cannot be reached with the administration, labor leaders announced Wednesday.

Lillian Taiz, president of the California Faculty Association, said 95 percent of those who participated in a two-week vote on 23 campuses approved of the strike authorization. About 70 percent of 12,501 members voted. Not all faculty are members of the association, which represents 24,000 professors, librarians, coaches and counselors.

The union has proposed "rolling" strikes, in which groups of campuses would go on strike for two days each, one group following another.

No date has been specified, but a strike likely would not occur before the fall semester as bargaining sessions continue to be held, association vice president Andy Merrifield said.

If those talks do not result in a contract, a fact-finder would be assigned by the Public Employees Relations Commission to investigate both sides and propose a resolution. If that resolution is not accepted, Chancellor Charles Reed can impose the last contract offer, and the union could issue a strike call.

California State University spokesman Michael Uhlenkamp said talk of a strike is premature. Negotiations are scheduled for Thursday and Friday.

"We plan on going to the table and reaching a negotiated settlement," Uhlenkamp said.

The strike authorization vote will not affect the process, he said.

Merrifield said the association is not aiming at striking. "Our hope has always been to resolve this at the bargaining table and talk of a strike will go away," he said.

The previous three-year contract expired in June 2010. Negotiations resulted in the formal declaration of an impasse last month.

Among the key issues is an administration demand for a salary freeze. Employees want a 1 percent raise and a guarantee of academic freedom.

The 400,000-student system is grappling with a $970 million loss in state funding since 2008 with further cuts expected. Administrators have raised tuition and slashed staff, and are freezing enrollment for next spring and discussing cutting programs.

But employees note that the university hired expensive consultants to conduct negotiations and is awarding 10 percent pay increases to campus presidents.

A study completed last year showed the average tenured professor earns $85,083 a year, plus $29,491 in health and welfare benefits and $25,805 in retirement benefits. Faculty receive 24 vacation days a year.

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STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Coliseum Commission to give up free tickets

Officials who oversee the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum have agreed to give up free USC football tickets and tickets to any NFL games played there.

The Los Angeles Times says the nine-member Coliseum Commission has removed the ticket provision from the draft of a proposed lease that would give control of the Coliseum to USC. Commissioners originally wanted the right to 90 tickets for every Trojan game at the taxpayer-owned arena.

The commission also has relinquished access to a VIP area.

The 88-year-old Coliseum has been embroiled in scandal. A recent audit said it lost millions in the past decade. A former general manager pleaded guilty to conflict of interest in an alleged kickback scheme. Two former managers, a contractor and two rave promoters also have been charged.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Man charged with ID theft from shredded documents

Authorities say a man charged with stealing identities in Southern California made use of shredded documents.

The Los Angeles Times says 49-year-old Grant Lind is accused of piecing together 2-inch-long strips of shredded documents from trash bins to get the bank account numbers.

Prosecutors say he stole the information from about 20 different victims in the Santa Clarita area, including a church, and used it to print $16,000 worth of counterfeit checks.

His girlfriend, 46-year-old Tammy Combe, faces a single charge.

Lind was arrested for ID theft and check fraud in Ventura County in February.

The Times says Lind and his girlfriend both remain jailed.

AP

SAN BERNARDINO

Man shot to death in car-to-car shooting

A man has been shot to death during a Southern California car-to-car shooting.

San Bernardino police were called just after 6 a.m. Wednesday about a gunman firing from a white car at people in another vehicle in a west city neighborhood 60 miles east of Los Angeles.

Lt. Paul Williams tells the San Bernardino County Sun that the body of a shooting victim was found in the front yard of a home. The victim appeared to have a head wound.

There are no other details.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Fed judge dismisses police excessive force lawsuit

A federal judge has dismissed an excessive force lawsuit filed by the family of a naked man who was shot to death during a confrontation with Los Angeles police officers.

Police Cmdr. Andrew Smith says the officers were acting in defense of their lives during the January 2011 struggle with 25-year-old Reginald Doucet Jr.

Doucet, a trainer who stood 6-feet-tall and weighed nearly 200 pounds, was nude when he confronted officers outside his Playa Vista condominium.

The Los Angeles Times says a federal judge on Tuesday dismissed the excessive force lawsuit, saying police are shielded in certain circumstances from being held responsible for their official actions.

The Los Angeles Police Commission ruled earlier that an officer was justified in shooting Doucet.

AP

SAN FRANCISCO

Transit worker fired for giving needy teen tickets

A San Francisco transit worker has been fired for giving a needy teenager free train tickets to get to school.

Daly City station agent Jim Stanek tells the San Francisco Chronicle that he got a termination letter on Tuesday, his 66th birthday. Stanek says he plans to appeal the decision.

Stanek gave the 16-year-old boy $300 worth of paid but unused tickets left behind by Bay Area Rapid Transit commuters. Those tickets are usually thrown away.

BART officials say the balance left on those unused tickets goes into the agency's general fund.

Stanek is friends with the boy's grandfather, who takes care of the teen. The grandparents had trouble affording the fares to get the boy from their home in Oakley to his school in San Francisco.

AP

SAN RAFAEL

Teen charged in celeb car theft had weapons cache

Authorities say a California teen charged in a drive-by shooting and the theft of a celebrity chef's Lamborghini kept an arsenal that included assault rifles, phone-jamming equipment and a police uniform.

Court documents show that the items were stashed at a storage locker rented by 17-year-old Max Wade. That's where authorities found a motorcycle linked to the April 13 shooting and the yellow Lamborghini Gallardo Spyder owned by chef Guy Fieri.

Investigators say Wade fired five shots at two teens sitting in a pickup truck in Marin County. Neither was seriously hurt.

Wade is being held on $2 million bail after being charged as an adult Tuesday with attempted murder, vehicle theft and other counts.

Investigators are still looking into how Wade obtained the weapons and whether he had accomplices.

AP

SANTA BARBARA

Burned couple settles wildfire suit for $6M

A badly burned Santa Barbara couple has settled their wildfire lawsuit against a property owner for $6 million.

Lance and Carla Hoffman were overtaken by flames and nearly killed in the November 2008 Tea Fire, which was started when partying college students left a campfire unattended in the Montecito hills above their rented home.

AP

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Photo courtesy Santa Anita Park

AND THEY'RE OFF: **Horses take to the track at Santa Anita Park.**

VERGE
FROM PAGE 1

California and more scrutiny is being paid to the sport following fatalities.

Verge believes he is up to the challenge, and if he's stressed at all, he isn't showing it. He talks about the park, which hosted its first race on Christmas Day in 1934, as if it were a child's favorite toy, not a dreaded homework assignment. His voice picks up when telling a reporter about the marketing plans he has and the buzz he wants to build by bringing in more celebrities (Dame Helen Mirren has already visited) and special events like concerts and festivals. (The track also hosts plenty of weddings, proms and other social functions.)

He's brought in partners in the bar business to revamp the track's drink menu and he's excited about Santa Anita hosting The Breeder's Cup — horse racing's equivalent to the Super Bowl — this November, the sixth time the track has been home to the event.

"It's a lot of fun," Verge said Wednesday before boarding a flight to Kentucky to watch the derby and hang out with his old friend O'Neill. "I would do it for free, even though I shouldn't say it."

While the race season at Santa Anita may have ended last month, Verge shows no signs of slowing down. He's turned over the keys to WestsideRentals.com to his brother and a longtime manager so that he can focus on the race track. He's already getting some press.

As part of the Lakers Foundation fundraiser Tuesday night, Verge offered a 25 percent stake in a 4-year-old gelding named Siempre Mio — Always Mine — that Lakers' stars Kobe Bryant and Pau Gasol were enamored with. The two ended up in a bidding war for the horse that Bryant, the ultimate competitor, won. Knowing how much Gasol wanted the horse, Verge offered him another 25 percent stake, as long as he made a separate donation to the foundation. Now all three are partners.

ESPN jumped on the story, as did other media outlets. It's that kind of publicity that Verge believes he can bring with his contacts in Hollywood. That, coupled with his business acumen and willingness to think outside of the box, are the keys to success, said Chris Quinn, a longtime friend of Verge and vice president of sales and marketing at Santa Anita. (Quinn also shares ownership of Siempre Mio.)

"What Mark brings is just that passion to come to work every day," Quinn said. "Mark is always selling Santa Anita, always selling horse racing and what a great game this is, whether you're invested in it or not. He is the face of Santa Anita."

That was one of his major selling points to owner Frank Stronach when the two met for lunch in February. Verge was surprised that Stronach wanted to meet with him in the first place. Feeling like he had nothing to lose, he gambled big, telling the eccentric billionaire everything he was doing wrong and how he could fix it. Verge essentially told Stronach that he was an absentee owner and needed someone on site to oversee operations and to schmooze. Verge, with all of his contacts, fit the bill.

Look for Santa Anita to increase its presence in SoCal. The goal is to bring people to the track for other events and then expose them to the sport of horse racing. Verge believes once they experience it first-hand, they'll fall in love with it just like he did all those years ago.

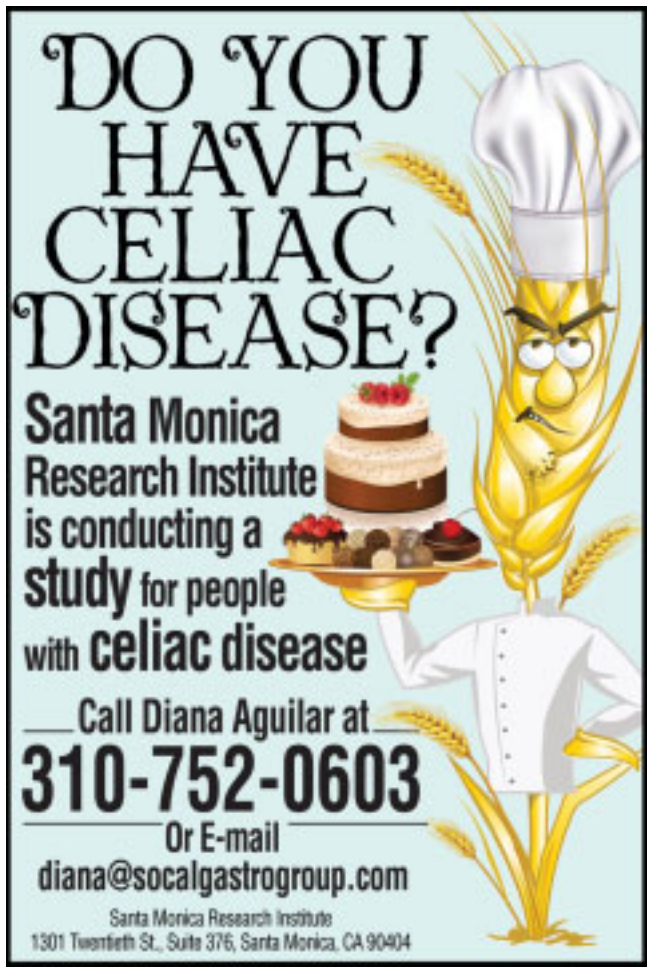
"We're going to bring some of that Westside flavor to the San Gabriel Valley," Verge said with confidence.

"It's a phenomenal place," he said of Santa Anita. "It's a jewel that just needs to be rediscovered."

For more information about Santa Anita, visit www.santaanita.com, or call (626) 574-RACE.

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SMC
FROM PAGE 1

ported the protesters' position, calling her fellow board members stubborn in their adherence to the self-funded classes.

"Why am I so stubborn?" asked Trustee Louise Jaffe. "The reason I am so stubborn is that I have had such a hard time of wrapping my head around doing nothing because I believe you need an education. I don't think it's optional."

Forcing students out of SMC classes pushes them into the arms of private, for-profit universities which charge considerably more, sucking up federal money in the form of Pell grants that could just as easily be going to public schools, she said.

"I don't understand how in good conscience we can leave a pile of $700 million on the table and not try to access it to serve our students in our colleges and keep our employees working," Jaffe said.

This is where working class families can afford to get their children educated, and it shouldn't be taken from them, said Francis Engler, director of organizing at the union.

"We already live in a two-tier system," Engler said. "You're right, you may not be able to fix the two-tier world, but what you can't do is put a stamp of approval on it by creating two-tier tuition that shows you have bought into that."

At the meeting, students handed out flyers detailing five demands for the college administration.

They wanted a full rejection of the self-funded classes, restoration of the winter and summer session, scholarships for undocumented students, a direct vote on decisions like the self-funded classes and an independent investigation of an incident that left 30 students and protesters suffering the effects of pepper spray after the April 3 Board of Trustees meeting.

To show their resolve, protesters spent the night wrapped in blankets huddled on concrete. The original plan, to camp with tents on the grass, was foiled when police removed pitched tents and students found the ground covered with manure and the sprinklers on.

"Manure us, sprinkle us but please fund us as well," students wrote on a raised planter area in chalk.

Campus officials say that the presence of the manure on the night of the camp-in was a coincidence. They also said that camping is illegal under Santa Monica's Municipal Code.

ashley@smdp.com

BAN
FROM PAGE 3

lawmaker has offered to take up their cause and sponsor a bill to overturn the 2004 law establishing the ban, which is scheduled to take effect July 1.

"I'm not going to allow an issue like that to preoccupy the legislature," Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento, told a gathering of reporters.

John Vigna, a spokesman for Assembly Speaker John Perez, said lawmakers need to focus on the governor's revised budget plan in the coming weeks.

Foie gras is created by the funnel-forced ingestion of large amounts of feed into the duck's esophagus. Eventually the liver grows to more than 10 times its normal size.

Nate Ballard, a spokesman for the coalition of chefs, acknowledged that repealing the ban in the coming weeks would be a heavy lift.

"Even if the ban does go into effect, we will keep moving forward," he said. "Prohibition has never worked in this country."

Earlier this week, John Burton, the former president pro tem of the state Senate who sponsored the bill banning what was termed an "inhumane practice," expressed disbelief that chefs and foie gras producers had waited so long to take up the fight. He now is chairman of the California Democratic Party.

On Wednesday, Ballard responded by saying chefs typically are not political people and have been more focused on keeping their restaurants afloat than watching the legislative calendar.

The Sacramento-based California Restaurant Association, which lobbies on behalf of restaurant owners, did not return telephone calls and e-mails requesting comment.

The Legislature is poised to address the state budget deficit, public pension reforms and bills addressing home foreclosures in the coming months.

ROUNDUP
FROM PAGE 3

wins over the weekend in the El Segundo Tournament.

Samohi slugged their way to a 15-13 win over Narbonne and followed that with a 10-2 rout of Village Christian.

The Vikings carried that success into this week with a 11-1 win over Ocean League rival Beverly Hills on the road on Tuesday. They took on Inglewood on the road on Wednesday, but the results of that game were not available at presstime.

MATHEWS TURNING HEADS

Samohi basketball's Jordan Mathews impressed during the Nike Elite Youth Basketball League in Hampton, Va., last weekend.

The junior guard, playing with his club team California Supreme, averaged more than 19 points at the prestigious tournament.

His play caught the eye of Indiana head coach Tom Crean. Though no offer has been made, he did make an official call to Mathews, according to InsideTheHall.com, a blog for Indiana fans.

Indiana adds itself to a list of suitors that includes Gonzaga, Kansas, Long Beach State and San Diego State.

The play-making guard has said that he doesn't intend to make a college choice this early in the recruiting process.

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May Day protests show weak immigration movement

KATE BRUMBACK &
PETER PRENGAMAN
Associated Press

ATLANTA While a black preacher told about 100 immigration protesters that incarcerated blacks and detained immigrants faced similar challenges, Jesse Morgan stood to one side of the May Day demonstrators, holding a large sign that read "Radical Queers Resist."

Although the rally was geared toward illegal immigrants, the 24-year-old Georgia State sociology major said gays can relate, too, because they often face discrimination.

"And besides," he said. "There are queers who are undocumented."

Over the last several years, May Day rallies in the United States have been dominated by activists pushing for a path to citizenship for the estimated 11 million people in the country illegally. But since 2006, when hundreds of thousands took to the streets in cities across America, the rallies have gotten smaller, less focused and increasingly splintered by any number of groups with a cause.

In New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Oakland, Calif., May Day protests were dominated by Occupy Wall Street activists, a sign of how far the immigration reform movement has fallen off the radar, unable to compete with the weak economy.

Immigration activists say they are not worried about decreasing numbers at rallies because their focus the last few years has been more on getting eligible immigrants to become U.S. citizens and vote.

And yet activists acknowledge the threat to illegal immigrants may be stronger than ever with the U.S. Supreme Court considering Arizona's tough, controversial crackdown. In 2010, Arizona passed a law that, among other things, required police to ask for immigration papers from anyone they stop or arrest and suspect is in the country illegally. The Obama administration has challenged the law.

The court's ruling could have a far-reaching effect on a handful of states, including Georgia, that have similar laws.

Gustavo Madrigal, a 20-year-old illegal immigrant who attended the Atlanta May Day rally, said he keeps attending the rallies because he has "always been taught that an American doesn't give up."

Madrigal, who came from Mexico with his parents when he was 9, is applying for scholarships and doing fundraisers in an attempt to raise $59,000 to go to Hampshire College in Massachusetts.

"I'm not asking for a handout, free housing or health care. I just want a chance," he said.

Since the last major immigration reform in 1986, which extended amnesty to millions here illegally, activism has ebbed and flowed.

Proposition 187, passed by California voters in 1994, prohibited illegal immigrants from using social services, including health care and education. The law was eventually thrown out, but it angered many Latinos and helped make California a solidly Democratic state.

In 2005, a bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives that would have criminalized anyone who helped illegal immigrants also had a galvanizing effect. For several months in 2006, hundreds of thousands rallied across the country. The U.S. Senate responded, passing a reform bill that would have given a path to citizenship for millions here illegally.

As is often the norm with immigration, however, the result was paralysis.

As years have turned to decades, immigration activists have had to accept the reality that it could be a long time before Congress deals with the issue.

President Barack Obama's election win in 2008 represented arguably the best hope in a generation for so-called comprehensive reform: combining better border security and a crackdown on illegal immigrant workers with a way for millions here illegally to come out of the shadows and stay.

However, even with Democrats controlling both the House and Senate, they couldn't pass immigration reform as health care reform and the economy took center stage. After Democrats took a beating in the 2010 elections, immigration reform had become all but taboo.

"We have been given so much lip service that our lips are sore," said Jorge-Mario Cabrera, a spokesman for the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights in Los Angeles.

Cabrera acknowledged that the immigration reform movement was at a low point, with few prospects for change in the near future. Many believe that for major reform to happen, millions more Latinos needed to become U.S. citizens and vote.

Meanwhile, for illegal immigrants, daily life has gotten harder. Deportations under Obama have gone up sharply. The annual average since 2009 is around 400,000, about 30 percent higher than under President George W. Bush, according to the Pew Hispanic Center.

There are also strong indications that fewer immigrants are trying to come to America, and others have gone home.

"Sometimes it feels like every day is like a risk," said Eduardo Villegas, a 38-year-old illegal immigrant who came to Georgia in the mid-90s, drawn by the construction boom that preceded the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

People pushing for tougher immigration laws and enforcement say the heightened fear in immigrant communities is proof that the tide is turning.

"Every day without a repeat of the 1986 amnesty is a victory for the majority of Americans," said D.A. King, a proponent of Georgia's enforcement-focused immigration law passed in 2011. "The pro-enforcement side is winning, but it isn't pretty."

States have increasingly taken matters into their own hands. After Arizona passed its law, several states followed with similar laws.

Tamar Jacoby, president of ImmigrationWorks USA, a national federation of small business owners working for immigration reform, said that might be a good thing. While most state-initiated laws focus on enforcement, eventually there may be more progressive experiments on other facets of immigration such as temporary workers programs.

Meanwhile, Jacoby says some in Congress are starting to approach immigration in a piecemeal fashion instead of trying to create an all-encompassing reform.



Analysis: President Obama as a modern war candidate

DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON As slogans go, President Barack Obama's promise of the "light of a new day" in Afghanistan isn't nearly as catchy as the "Mission Accomplished" banner on the USS Abraham Lincoln the day President George W. Bush announced the end of major combat operations in Iraq in 2003.

One was jubilant, conveying triumph — prematurely so, as more than 4,000 U.S. combat deaths over the next several years demonstrated. The other, more restrained, optimistically cites progress toward an ultimate victory over the terrorists who attacked the United States more than a decade ago.

Yet the take-away messages fit the political circumstances of the president in office at the time. Then it was Bush prosecuting an Iraq war that was intensely controversial from the outset.

Now it's Obama seeking re-election in a campaign against Mitt Romney that is anything but certain, polishing his credentials as commander in chief.

The polls all say the economy will be the overarching issue this fall, but Obama can hardly be blamed for wanting the singular triumph of his term — Osama bin Laden's death at the hands of U.S. special operations forces — to gain plenty of attention.

After all, the death of the terrorist leader got equal billing with the slowly recovering economy in Vice President Joe Biden's own suggested campaign slogan: "Osama bin Laden is dead and General Motors is alive."

As a political strategy after three years in office, blaming Bush for the war in Afghanistan is probably not any better than trying to saddle him with responsibility for the economy.

Still, Obama chose to reprise his 2008 campaign criticism of Bush's war policy in his brief 10-minute address from Bagram Air Field on Tuesday night.

"Despite initial success, for a number of reasons, this war has taken longer than most anticipated," he said, beginning his account neutrally before pivoting.

"In 2002, (Osama) bin Laden and his lieutenants escaped across the border and established safe haven in Pakistan," this president said, referring to the battle at Tora Bora. "America spent nearly eight years fighting a different war in Iraq."

But over the past three years, he said, referring to his own time in office: "The tide has turned. We broke the Taliban's momentum. We've built a strong Afghan security force. We devastated al-Qaida's leadership, taking out 20 of their top 30 leaders. And one year ago, from a base here in Afghanistan, our troops launched the operation that killed Osama bin Laden."

Romney decided he wanted no part of it.

In a written statement issued as Air Force One carried Obama homeward, he said he was pleased the president had returned to Afghanistan, and that the troops and the American people deserved to hear from him what is at stake in the war. "Success in Afghanistan is vital to our nation's security," he said.

It was a different Romney earlier in the week, struggling to outmaneuver Obama in the run-up to the anniversary of the bin Laden's death.

In fact, Obama and Biden had set him up over the course of a week.

"We know what President Obama did," Biden said in New York last week, referring to the decision to send Navy SEALs to bin Laden's lair in Pakistan. "We can't say for certain what Gov. Romney would have done."

An Obama campaign web video soon followed, including a quote from a 2007 Romney interview in which he said it was not worth "moving heaven and earth spending billions of dollars just trying to catch one person."

Answering on NBC's "Meet the Press" on Sunday, Romney senior adviser Ed Gillespie said the president's team had gone a step too far. "I think if President Obama had said — even though he said we wouldn't spike the football at the time of this momentous occasion regarding Osama bin Laden — had said, 'I'm proud of this,' I think people would have said he should be proud of this. ...

"It's the extra iteration. It's the attack that Gov. Romney wouldn't have done it," Gillespie said.

On Monday, Romney himself answered.

"Of course" he would have ordered bin Laden killed, he said. "Even Jimmy Carter would have given that order." Intentionally or not, that resurrected memories of a Democratic president who once ordered a rescue mission for American hostages held in Iran that ended in disaster.

From the East Room of the White House, Obama challenged his rival's truthfulness as well as his national security chops.

"I assume that people meant what they said when they said it," he said, referring to Romney's 2007 interview. "That's been at least my practice. ... I said that I'd go after bin Laden if we had a clear shot at him."

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When You Hear About a Personal Injury or a Personal Injury Lawsuit, What Does It All Mean?

A personal injury is a type of harm that an individual suffers as a result of someone else's wrongful act or omission (failure to act when they should have). The types of injuries suffered vary depending on the circumstances and can include, among others, broken bones, lost sight, severed limbs, and death. Also, the wrongful injury causing event could be something caused without fault or intentionally. An example of an unintentional harm is when somebody accidentally rear ends the car in front of them because they simply were not paying attention. This is commonly referred to as negligence. Negligence, in a nutshell, means that a person either did something or did not do something, which resulted in someone else getting hurt. The actual legal requirements are a little more complex, but this simplified explanation will work for now.

Regarding personal injuries caused by the intentional or reckless acts of others, intentional acts include rape, assault, battery, and other types of physical and emotional abuse. Examples of reckless conduct that can cause harm to innocent people are drunk driving, discharging a firearm in public or detonating explosives in public places.

Whether we are talking about personal injuries caused by negligent, intentional or reckless acts, the law generally provides that victims of such conduct who suffer harm are entitled to compensation. And in some instances, victims are also eligible to receive punitive or exemplary damages to ensure that the person or business that caused the harm in the first place does not repeat its bad conduct. More about punitive damages in a minute. For now, let us talk about injury compensation.

What can the law do for you if you have suffered personal injuries caused by someone else? In a perfect world, the need to bring a lawsuit to receive compensation for your injuries would not be necessary because the person who caused the harm would apologize and then endeavor to pay for the damage they caused. The current Court system requires, and actually prefers, that those responsible for harming someone else accept responsibility and pay to the victim reasonable compensation. Reasonable compensation includes such things as lost wages, lost future wages if the hurt person can no longer do their job, the payment of past and future medical bills, and the costs of future and ongoing care if the person can no longer care for themselves. There are additional items that constitute reasonable compensation but the list can be infinite because each person and each harm is unique.

Regarding punitive damages, the imposition of punitive damages is designed to prevent more people from getting hurt. The prevention aspect of punitive damages is to create a "sting" to the defendant. A proper "sting" is only effective if the defendant feels it financially. Stated differently, generally, punitive damages are determined on an ability to pay basis. So do not be surprised when you hear or read about a jury that made a big punitive damage finding because it likely means that someone got hurt real bad or died, the defendant did something really bad, and the defendant has the financial wherewithal to pay the damages.

As a public service announcement, be leery of the argument and those promoting it that customers pay when there are big punitive damages awards. This is not really accurate because safe business practices actually save money in the short and long terms. And do not forget, we live in a civilized society and quick profits should never trump personal safety and well-being. Pass it on.

Why personal injury or victim compensation lawsuits? A lawsuit is necessary because sometimes those responsible for causing harm do not take responsibility for the harm. The Court case is designed to address issues of fairness. If the bad person caused the harm, the jury is empowered by law to tell that bad person to fix it. The concept is simple and injury victims should not be frowned upon because they were forced to file a lawsuit in the first place. After all, they did not ask to get hurt.

One more thing, if you have been hurt be someone else, or you know of someone who has been hurt by someone else, make sure medical attention is the first thing on everyone's mind. Take care of the injuries first. Worry about lawyers and lawsuits as a last resort and trust that the person or business that caused the harm will fix it. If not, then call a lawyer. To ensure that you receive what the law provides for your situation and injuries, be sure to seek the assistance of a lawyer.

THIS COLUMN WAS PREPARED BY LEGAL GRIND'S PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEYS. THEY CAN BE REACHED AT 310-452-8160 OR REFERRAL@LEGALGRIND.COM

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4:00-5:00 pm (1st & 3rd Monday/Month) Criminal Law, DMV & Traffic Law: Felony and Misdemeanor Crimes, with former deputy D.A. Jacob Glucksman

TUESDAY

9:00am-12:00pm Patent, Trademark and Copyright Law with Attorney Marcus Risso (By appointment only)

4:00pm-5:00pm (1st and 3rd Tuesday of the Month). Civil and Criminal Law with former Deputy District Attorney Hart Levin. Hart has expertise in all criminal and traffic issues, and he also has extensive knowledge in many areas of civil law including business disputes, fraud, personal injury and employment law.

5:00 - 7:00 pm Wrongful termination, harassment; discrimination; wage and hour ;denial of unemployment benefits; and general counseling on issues in the workplace w/ attorney Nina Baumler. (Call for Appointment)

WEDNESDAY

11:00am-3:00pm Special Education Law (By appointment only. Also available by appointment on Mondays or Fridays from 11:30 am to 3:00 pm) Attorney Alison Arkin has extensive experience working with parfents of special needs children with a wide range of disabilities, and can help them obtain appropriate services from both school districts and regional centers. She has experience with every level of the process including obtaining appropriate assessements, representation at IEP meeting, mediations, settlement negotiations and hearings.

5:00-6:30pm Divorce and Legal Separation; Domestic Partnerships; Child Custody, Support and Visitation; Spousal Support; Prenuptial Agreements & Mediation with Family Law Specialist Attorney Elizabeth Fields

THURSDAY

12:00-2:00pm Immigration and Family Law with Attorney Galorah Keshavarz (By appointment only)

4:00-5:00pm (By appointment only) Chapter 7 and 13 Bankruptcy, Debt Negotiation and Personal Injuries cases with Attorney and Legal Grind founder Jeffrey J. Hughes

FRIDAY

4:00-5:00pm (2nd & 4th Friday/Month) Criminal, DMV & Traffic Law: Felony and Misdemeanor Crimes with Attorney & former Deputy D.A. Jacob Glucksman. By Appointment only

4:00-5:00pm (1st & 3rd Friday/Month) Small business start-ups, Corporations, Contracts, Non-Profit Organizations, Green Law, Employment Law, Green and Sustainable Business Practices with Attorney Becki Kammerling.

SATURDAY

10am-11:30am (1st, 3rd & 5th Saturday/month) Real Estate, Estate Planning, Wills & Living Trusts, Will Contests, Probate, Elder Law Business Litigation, Formation & Dissolution, Contracts, Construction Contracts Family Law including Divorce, Child/Spousal Support, Prenuptial Agreements, Personal Injury, Accidents, Premises and Product Liability, & Legal Malpractice with Attorney Richard Ruman. (By appointment only-Please call Call Dick at 310.273.7474)

12PM TO 2PM Personal Injury free consultation; Regular consultation on all areas of Estate Planning, Landlord/Tenant rights, Mortgage Litigation, Premises Liability, Construction Accidents, and Products Liability with attorney SandeepAgarwal. (By appointment only-Please call Mr. Agarwal at 866.844.4125)

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107 charged in nationwide Medicare fraud busts

KELLI KENNEDY & PETE YOST
Associated Press

MIAMI Federal authorities charged 107 doctors, nurses and social workers in seven cities with Medicare fraud Wednesday in a nationwide crackdown on unrelated scams that allegedly billed the taxpayer-funded program of $452 million — the highest dollar amount in a single Medicare bust in U.S. history.

It was the latest in a string of major arrests in the past two years as authorities have targeted fraud that's believed to cost the government between $60 billion and $90 billion each year. Stopping Medicare's budget from hemorrhaging that money will be key to paying for President Barack Obama's health care overhaul.

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and Attorney General Eric Holder partnered in 2009 to increase enforcement by allocating more money and staff and creating strike forces in fraud hot spots.

On Wednesday, hundreds of federal agents fanned out around the country, raiding businesses, seizing documents and charging 107 suspects in Miami, Los Angeles, Houston, Detroit, Chicago, Tampa, Fla., and Baton Rouge, La. The government suspended payment to 52 providers as part of the investigations.

"When President Obama took office he asked Attorney General Holder and me to make fraud prevention a cabinet-level priority," Sebelius said in remarks prepared for a news conference in Washington.

Among those arrested Wednesday were the owners of two community mental health centers in Baton Rouge, charged with billing $225 million in their scams. Hoor Naz Jafri and Roslyn Dogan allegedly recruited vulnerable patients, including elderly people, drug addicts and the mentally ill. Patient charts were doctored to show services that were billed to Medicare but often never given, according to an indictment.

Authorities suspended their companies in May 2011, but the pair continued billing Medicare after purchasing another fraudulent company, according to the indictment. When feds shut down that company, the pair tried to sell their "beneficiaries" to other providers in an attempt to keep making money.

During the investigation, federal authorities tried to put a hold on the company's bank account. Dogan asked to visit the U.S. Attorney's Office to review and copy documents that had been seized as part of a search. After the visit, "Dogan and co-conspirators bragged that, while pretending to copy files, they actually stole incriminating documents from the files and later destroyed them." Dogan referred to herself as a "smooth criminal," according to the indictment.

Another co-conspirator bragged to Dogan and others that he had a "bonfire with fabricated notes that law enforcement officers had failed to seize during the search," according to the indictment.

They could face life in prison if convicted. A woman who answered the phone at one of the companies hung up and an email to the company was not immediately returned.

Five others were charged in connection with the Baton Rouge scam, capping a six-year investigation.

"The results we are announcing today are at the heart of an administration-wide commitment to protecting American taxpayers from health care fraud," said Attorney General Eric Holder. "We are determined to bring to justice those who violate our laws and defraud the Medicare program for personal gain.

More than 50 defendants were also arrested in Miami in unrelated scams totaling $136 million involving community mental health centers and home health care agencies. A handful of those arrested also had criminal backgrounds, according to federal agents.

Community mental health centers are the latest trend in Medicare fraud, which has developed more complex schemes over the years, moving from medical equipment and HIV infusion fraud to ambulance scams, as crooks try to stay one step ahead of authorities. The scams have also grown more sophisticated using patient recruiters who are paid kickbacks for recruiting patients, while doctors, nurses and company owners coordinate to make it appear they are delivering medical services which they are not.

"Medicare fraud also exposes some of our most vulnerable citizens to identity theft, and, in some cases, endangers patients' lives," said Gary Cantrell, Deputy Inspector General for Investigations for HHS. "The indictments announced today demonstrate that we're fighting back."

Wednesday's arrests come as top lawmakers appealed to health care professionals in the private sector to help combat Medicare fraud. Six members of the Senate Finance Committee, led by Ranking Member Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) and Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.), announced a bipartisan effort to begin soliciting ideas from interested stakeholders in the health care community looking for a fresh perspective and potentially solutions that may have been overlooked.

"To date, numerous efforts have been made to reduce fraud, yielding a mixed record of successes and failures," according to the letter.

Sebelius said her agency and the Justice Department have more than quadrupled the number of strike teams around the country, charging hundreds of individuals with Medicare fraud.

Medicare fraud has been a hot button issue as federal officials have repeatedly come under fire for seemingly staying one step behind the criminals, using outdated technology and not coordinating efficiently with law enforcement.

But Sebelius touted a new data system that will allow authorities to spot trends in billing patterns more quickly, which will ideally stop payments before they go out the door.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services launched a $77 million computer system last summer to serve that purpose, but the program has yielded few results in the early stages and drawn criticism from the Senate Finance Committee.

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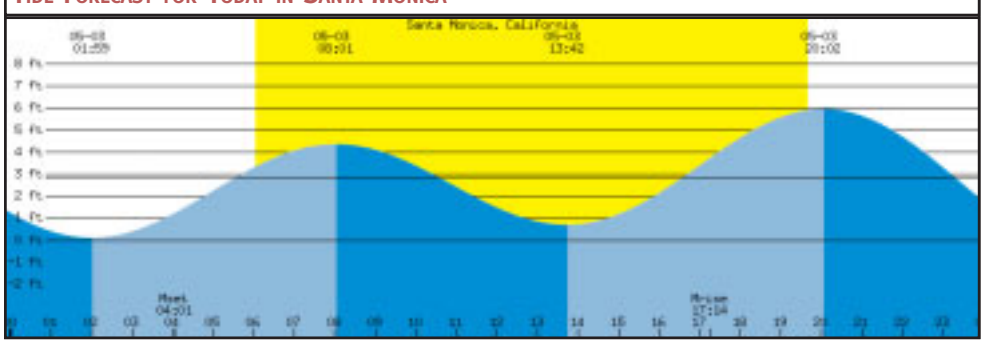
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Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



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QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

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- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 9
- 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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Los Alisos creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	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 19648 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 ONW 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

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

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

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NFL

USC great Seau found dead

BY GILLIAN FLACCUS
Associated Press

OCEANSIDE, Calif. Former NFL star Junior Seau was found shot to death at his home Wednesday morning in what police said appeared to be a suicide. He was 43.

Police Chief Frank McCoy said Seau's girlfriend reported finding him unconscious with a gunshot wound to the chest and lifesaving efforts were unsuccessful. A gun was found near him, McCoy said.

Seau's mother appeared before reporters, weeping uncontrollably.

"I don't understand ... I'm shocked," Luisa Seau cried out.

Her son gave no indication of a problem when she spoke to him by phone earlier this week, she said.

"He's joking to me, he called me a 'homegirl,'" she said.

Seau was a standout linebacker with the University of Southern California before going to the San Diego Chargers — his hometown team — whom he led to the Super Bowl following the 1994 season.

"Everyone at the Chargers is in complete shock and disbelief right now. We ask everyone to stop what they're doing and send their prayers to Junior and his family," the team said in a statement.

Seau's death follows the suicide last year of former Chicago Bears player Dave Duerson, who also shot himself in the chest.

Seau remained with the Chargers until 2003 and went on to play with the Miami Dolphins and New England Patriots before retiring after the 2009 season.

"Junior was a fierce competitor whose passion and work ethic lifted his teammates to greater heights. His enthusiasm for the game was infectious and he passed that on to everyone who was around him. He loved the game so much, and no one played with more sheer joy," Dolphins CEO Mike Dee said in a statement.

"Junior was one-of-a-kind. The league will never see anyone like him again," Dee said.

The Patriots also issued a statement expressing grief over Seau's death. "This is a sad day for the entire Patriots organization, our coaches and his many Patriots teammates," the statement said.

In October 2010, Seau survived a 100-foot plunge down a seaside cliff in his SUV, hours after he was arrested for investigation of domestic violence at the Oceanside home he shared with his girlfriend. The woman had told authorities that Seau assaulted her during an argument.

There was no evidence of drugs or alcohol involved in the crash and Seau told authorities he fell asleep while driving. He sustained minor injuries.

Seau spent parts of 20 seasons in the NFL, including his 1990-2002 stint with his hometown Chargers.

He helped them to their only Super Bowl appearance, was voted to a team-record 12 straight Pro Bowls and was an All-Pro six times.

He amassed 545 tackles, 56 sacks and 18 interceptions in his career.

"Twenty years, to be part of this kind of fraternity, to be able to go out and play the game that you love, and all the lessons and the friends and acquaintances which you meet along the way, you can't be in a better arena," Seau said last August after the Chargers announced he would be inducted into the team's Hall of Fame.

Seau was the fifth pick overall in the 1990 draft out of Southern California, and stayed with the Charges until being traded to the Dolphins. He came out of retirement a few times to play with the Patriots in search of a Super Bowl ring and was with the team when they lost to the New York Giants in the Super Bowl following the 2007 season, which ended New England's quest for a perfect season.

More than 100 people gathered outside of Seau's home, only hours after he was found dead. Families showed up with flowers and fans wearing Chargers jerseys waited to get more news.

Seau was beloved in San Diego, where he created a foundation and had a popular restaurant that bore his name.

NFL

League suspends four players for Saints' bounty program

HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Pro Football Writer

New Orleans Saints linebacker Jonathan Vilma was suspended without pay for the entire 2012 season by the NFL, one of four players punished Wednesday for participating in the team's cash-for-hits bounty system.

Defensive lineman Anthony Hargrove, now with the Green Bay Packers, was suspended for the first half of the 16-game season; Saints defensive end Will Smith was barred for the opening four games; and linebacker Scott Fujita, now with the Cleveland Browns, will miss the first three games. Like Vilma, they were suspended without pay.

All four players have three days to appeal NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell's ruling, and the head of the NFL Players Association said the union would fight the penalties. Fujita is a member of the NFLPA's executive committee.

The league's statement said Vilma, Hargrove, Smith and Fujita were suspended because of "conduct detrimental to the NFL as a result of their leadership roles" with the bounties.

An NFL investigation determined that the Saints ran a bounty system from 2009-11 that offered thousands of dollars to players for big hits that knocked opponents out of games. In March, Goodell suspended Saints head coach Sean Payton for all of next season, and levied other penalties against the club.

But no players were punished until Wednesday. Originally, the league said that 22 to 27 defensive players were involved in the illegal scheme, which was orchestrated by then-Saints defensive coordinator Gregg Williams and started in the season New Orleans won its only Super Bowl championship.

Targeted opponents included quarterbacks Aaron Rodgers, Cam Newton, Brett Favre and Kurt Warner. "Knockouts" were worth $1,500 and "cart-offs" $1,000, with payments doubled or tripled for the playoffs.

MOVIE TIMES

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

Cafe Electric (NR) 1hr 40 min
7:30pm

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

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

21 Jump Street (R) 1hr 49min
11:10am, 1:55pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

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

Hunger Games (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
11:45am, 3:05pm, 6:15pm

Think Like a Man (PG-13) 2hrs 02min
11:10am, 2:00pm, 4:50pm, 7:45pm, 10:35pm

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

Marvel's The Avengers 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
12:01am

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, 2:00pm, 3:00pm, 4:45pm, 5:45pm, 7:30pm, 8:15pm 10:10pm, 10:50pm

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

Let off some steam, Gem

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You might react and simply not care, leaving others wondering what has happened. At this point, you march to the beat of a different drummer. Your actions could surprise even you. Avoid a power play at all costs. Walk away, if need be. Tonight: Be with your favorite person.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Look around at your immediate circle. You might see some strange behavior emerging. Your caring will make a big difference to a child or loved one. A power play might push others away and cause you a problem, or vice versa. Remain sensitive to the cast of players in your life. Tonight: Keep it easy and light.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Go with the unexpected, even if you are not sure where it is going to land you. Pressure builds, as you feel you should go along with someone's suggestion. Your softer side emerges when dealing with a loved one. Tonight: Let off some steam.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Stay close to home, if possible. The unexpected will occur when you are out. Authority figures do exactly what is not expected. Avoid power plays. Tonight: Head home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Listen to news that is forthcoming. You might be wondering about the values of less controlling people. Understand that, although you do not want to, you might have to deal with situations involving power plays. Tonight: Return calls before going out.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ A partner or associate might act in an irresponsible manner. You might not like what is going down. Pressure builds with a new friend, loved one or child. This person makes it clear that he or she wants what he or she wants, and nothing less. Tonight: Your treat.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ What many people would call shocking, you'll handle with comparative ease. Isolate a controlling situation; you might want to stop feeding its dynamics. Express your spirit in a caring way, and you will get responses. Tonight: It is wish-upon-a-star time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Take your time when responding to a surprise. You do not want to act on your first impression. You also easily could misread a situation, making more out of it than initially was intended. Tonight: Cocoon yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Meetings could bring surprising results. If you sit back and give it some thought, the outcome could be most beneficial. Do not force yourself to do what does not feel comfortable, especially with your finances. Give yourself time. Tonight: Where people are.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Take a stand if you must. Others might think you are unusually controlling or overly dominant. What they don't realize is that that is you. Before you continue down this path, make sure it will serve you well. Tonight: A must appearance.

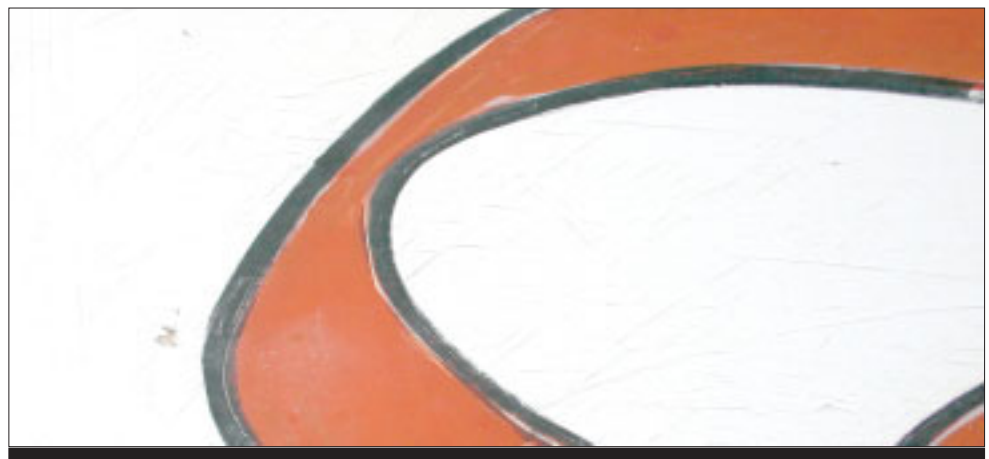
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Listen to a suggestion more openly. Your inner voice could be already judging and making decisions. Push that voice away. With renewed vitality and interest, you'll look at different areas of your life with new eyes. Tonight: Read between the lines with a loved one.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You have a strong sense of direction right now. You might not be able to relate as directly with a key associate at first. Tonight: Make it OK to blur the lines of your personal life and your outside life.

Happy birthday

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

This year people often act in the most unpredictable manner. You'll wonder why. Power plays abound. Learn to detach far more frequently and rise above situations. You will be far happier if you do. If you are single, you could meet an interesting cast of people. Hang in there and wait for the right person. Do not lose focus of your priorities. If you are attached, you discover newfound ground on which to relate to each other, if you pull out of control games. LIBRA understands your underlying gentleness. He or she honors your feelings.

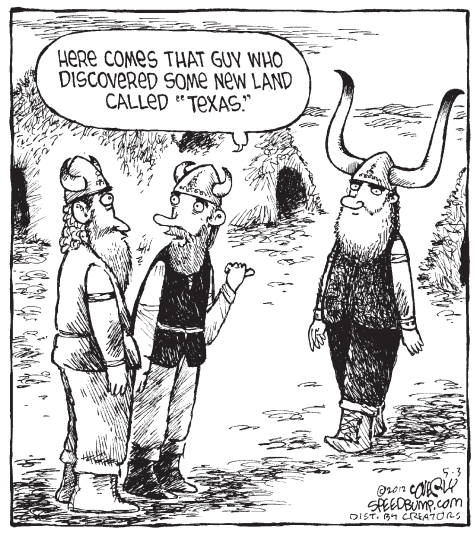


MYSTERY PHOTO

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



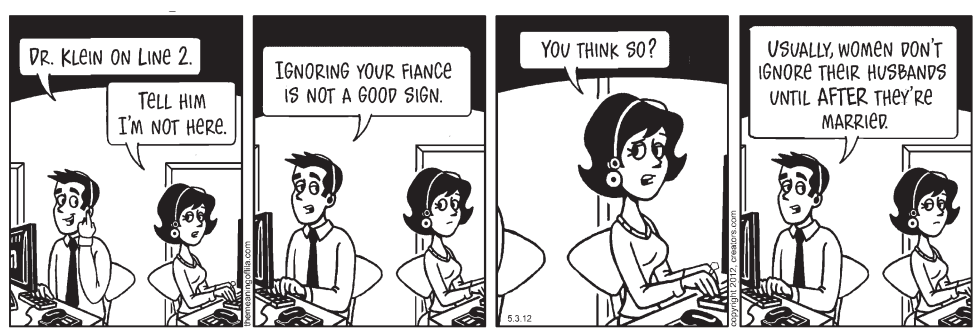
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



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 ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 More original
6 Gold measure
11 Kitchen come-on
12 No longer a minor
13 Vault intersection
14 Manmade fiber
15 Desk part
17 Crunch targets
19 "Case of the Ex" singer
20 Fly catcher
23 Country
25 Writer Morrison
26 Ward off bad luck
28 Valentine trim
29 Brain, slangily
30 Moose's kin
31 Oxlike antelope
32 Outlaw
33 "Under Siege" star
35 Crew member
38 Happened
41 Very thin
42 Support staff
43 Astonish
44 "— alive!"

DOWN

1 Old horse
2 Misstep
3 Noted 1969 event
4 Arabic prince
5 Went wild
6 Asian peninsula
7 Miles off
8 Beam of light
9 Before today
10 Kayo count
16 Daughter of Naomi Judd
17 Sock spot
18 Insipid
20 Percussion instrument
21 — Gay (historic bomber)
22 Obama's veep
24 Glacier makeup
25 Tango quorum
27 Chewy candies
31 Movie category
33 Famous canal
34 Bailiwick
35 Org. with badges
36 Resistance unit
37 Sailing site
39 That girl
40 Twisty turn

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 2, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	10
11					■	12				
13					■	14				
■	■	15			16			■	■	■
17	18		■	19			■	20	21	22
23			24			■	25			
26						27				
28				■	29					
30			■	31			■	32		
■	■	■	33				34		■	■
35	36	37			■	38			39	40
41					■	42				
43					■	44				

5-3

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 5/1
24 27 31 45 52
Meganumber: 38
Jackpot: $118M

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

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 5/2
1 2 34 35 37

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 5/2
MIDDAY: 5 1 0
EVENING: 4 1 6

SANTA ANITA PARK
Draw Date: 5/2
1st: 10 Solid Gold
2nd: 07 Eureka
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit
RACE TIME: 1:47.63

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

■ **Perp's Remorse:** (1) Jason Adkins was charged in March in Cynthiana, Ky., with stealing electronic equipment from the home of a friend. According to police, Adkins admitted the break-in but said he felt guilty the next day and returned the items. However, he then admitted breaking back into the home two days after that and re-stealing them. (2) Ivan Barker was sentenced in March in England's Stoke-on-Trent Magistrates Court for stealing a laptop computer and cigarettes from the home of a wheelchair-bound man of his acquaintance. Barker subsequently visited the man and apologized for the theft, but then, during that visit, Barker stole the man's new replacement laptop computer and more cigarettes. [Cynthiana Democrat, 3-23-2012] [ThisIsStaffordshire.com, 3-22-2012]

■ At a March town meeting in Embden, Maine, residents turned down proposals to rename its most notorious street "Katie Road." Thus, the name will remain, as it has for decades, "Katie Crotch Road." Some residents, in addition to being embarrassed by the name, also noted the cost of constantly replacing the street signs stolen by giggling visitors. (A Kennebec Journal report noted uncertainty about the name's origin. It might refer to how the road splits in two, forming a "Y" shape. On the low side, the name might refer to an early settler who would sit on her front porch without underwear.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1952 – Lieutenant Colonels Joseph O. Fletcher and William P. Benedict of the United States land a plane at the North Pole.

1952 – The Kentucky Derby is televised nationally for the first time on the CBS network.

WORD UP!

kowtow \ KOU-TOU \ , verb;
1. To act in an obsequious manner; show servile deference.

ARITHMO™
CrossMath + × − ÷

– Arithmo Crossmath – Reclaim Your Brain

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

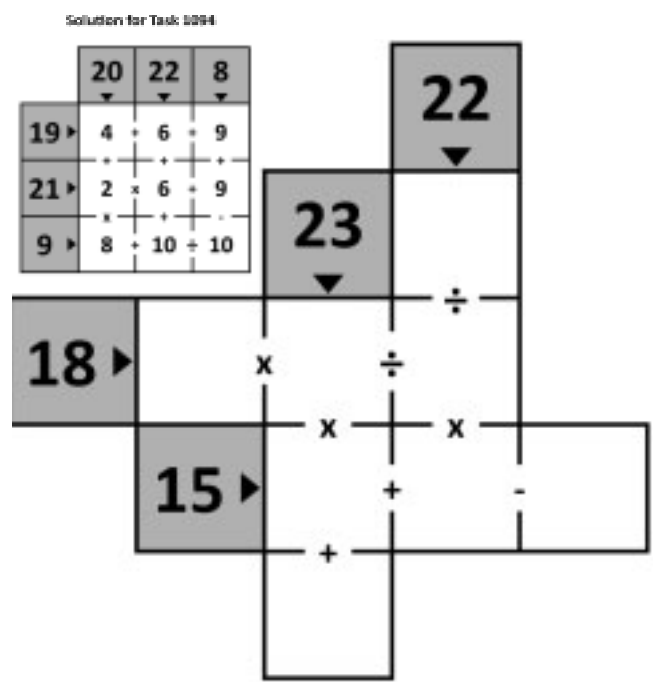
• Each empty square dictates the math operation that must be performed to meet the demands.

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

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

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

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 11, 12



Santa Monica Daily Press

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Auction

(916)288-6019. (Cal-SCAN)

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3485 Sawtelle #17. 2 Bd + 1 Bth. Top floor corner w/ large balcony. Intercom, (1) gated parking, pool. $1675.

1214 Idaho Ave. #2. 1Bd + 1Bth. Pet friendly. N. of Wilshire Blvd. $1695

2436 Louella Ave. 3 Bd + 2 Bth house in Mar Vista. 2,081 sq ft, carpeted floors, 2 car detached garage, LARGE kitchen. $3950.

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DONATE YOUR CAR, truck or boat to Heritage for the Blind. Free 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care Of. 888-902-6851. (Cal-SCAN)

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ADVERTISE Your Truck DRIVER JOBS in 240 California newspapers for one low cost of $600. Your 25 word classified ad reaches over 6 million+ Californians. Free brochure call Elizabeth (916)288-6019. (Cal-SCAN)

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Notices

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF (Name):Lucille Stumbaugh, aka Lucille Brink, deceased. Case Number BP 132536
1.To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of (specify all names by which the decedent was known): Lucille Stumbaugh, aka Lucille Brink, aka Lucille Witherow, aka Lucille Wolf
2.A Petition for Probate has been filed by (name of petitioner): in the Superior Court of California, County of (specify): Jack D. Wolf
3.The Petition for Probate requests that (name): Jack D. Wolf
be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.
4.The petition requests the decedent's will and codicils, if any, be admitted to probate. The will and any codicils are available for examination in the file kept by the court.
5.The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.
6.A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows:
a. Date: May. 29, 2012 Time: 8:30am Dept.:11
b.Address of court: 111 North HIll Stt., Los Angeles, CA 90012
If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections
with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.
8.If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.
9.You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk.
10.Petitioner Attorney for petitioner (name): Jack D. Wolf
(Address):
16511 County Road 7
Wiggins, CO 80654
(Telephone):
(970) 483-6308

YOUR AD COULD RUN HERE!
CALL US **(310) 458-7737**

DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2012040910 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 03/12/2012 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as WEBARCHITECH. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: Candice Hartung 444 15th Street Santa Monica, CA 90402. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)01/01/2012. /s/: Candice Hartung. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 03/12/2012. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 04/11/2012, 04/18/2012, 04/25/2012, 05/02/2012.

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



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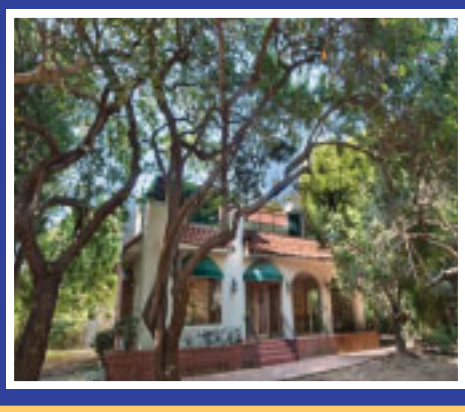
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- Single Family Home *(minimum 3 bedrooms)* North of Montana up to $2,500,000
- Single Family Home North of Montana & West of 17th St *(minimum 4 bedrooms)* up to $5,300,000

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 May 2012		
Santa Monica Canyon	=	$2,575,400
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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This is not intended as a solicitation if you currently have a broker. The information has been retrieved from the Multiple Listing Service. Some of these properties have been sold or listed with other Real Estate Agents.