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MAY 5-6, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 150

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

SHOULD STUDENTS BE PAID FOR GOOD GRADES?
SEE PAGE 5

THE CINCO DE WEEKEND ISSUE

School board calls for further study of Malibu break-up

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

MALIBU CITY HALL The Board of Education will hire consultants to analyze the impact of splitting the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District between its two incorporated cities after preliminary research by staff showed that the two new districts might survive the breakup.

The studies will be done by an independent party and will look at both the finances of the two proposed school districts and polls of the Malibu community to make sure that support for the effort goes beyond a vocal minority.

Advocates for Malibu Public Schools (AMPS), a parent group that's squarely behind the separation effort, has agreed to pay for the studies.

Given the depth of emotion that has come out around the issue, it would pay to see if the idea is feasible and if there's broad support amongst the Malibu community, which would have to find at least a two-thirds majority to make some of the provi-

SEE SCHOOLS PAGE 8



SING IT LOUD

Ray Solano *news@smdp.com*

Children at Will Rogers Elementary School kicked off Cinco de Mayo celebrations on Friday with some singing and dancing. Cinco de Mayo, a celebration of Mexican heritage and pride, commemorates the Mexican Army's unlikely victory over French forces at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. Santa Monica will host its Cinco de Mayo Fiesta Sunday at Virginia Avenue Park.

Union ends referendum campaign

Future hotel will allow workers to join union

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL A hotel workers' union will pull a challenge to a new hotel now that the developer has agreed to allow the union to organize future workers at the site.

The agreement allows Unite Here! Local 11 to sit at the table with the future hotel operator to negotiate benefits, sustainable workloads and a living wage for workers when the hotel is built.

"Without this agreement, the workers could endure years of poverty wages, no benefits, heavy workloads and face termination for speaking out," wrote Rachel Torres, a research analyst with the union, in a statement. "In a few words, the workers have won respect!"

Unite Here! Local 11 filed a petition for a referendum against the City Council's April 10 decision to allow owner Alexander Gorby to move forward with plans to build a hotel at 710 Wilshire Blvd. over objections to the wages promised to workers.

Had the group gotten enough signatures on the petition by May 23, the City Council would have had to either pull their support from the project or put the measure before the voters during the election in November.

Now, negotiations will be held between workers and their employers, not before the

SEE HOTEL PAGE 9

TV's double vision, when 1 screen isn't enough

BY FRAZIER MOORE
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK As a kid, I dreamed of having a telephone that was plugged into my family's TV and would let me ring up whoever I was watching. With this special phone, I could reach my favorite TV stars, introduce myself and talk to them about their shows.

It would've been so great. But I always knew it was an impossible dream.

Flash forward a few decades. On a Thursday night last month, Kerry Washington, the star of such films as "Ray" and "The Last King of Scotland," was live-tweeting answers to questions tweeted from viewers as they watched the premiere of her new ABC series, "Scandal."

Washington was at her mother's New

SEE TV PAGE 14


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, May 5, 2012

Shopping celebration
John Muir Elementary
2526 Sixth St., 9 a.m. — 3 p.m.
The regular flea market gets a kick as it merges with a Cinco de Mayo Celebration. There will be Mexican fare, crafts and face painting.

Candidates speak
SMMUSD Headquarters
1651 16th St., 10 a.m. — 12 p.m.
Residents of the newly-drawn 50th California Assembly District, including the communities of Santa Monica, Malibu, Brentwood, Bel Air, Beverly Hills, Carthay Square, West Hollywood, Hancock Park, Pacific Palisades, Topanga and parts of Hollywood and Agoura Hills, are invited to attend a candidates forum to learn more about important issues. This forum is co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Santa Monica Education Fund, Santa Monica-Malibu PTA Council and Los Angeles Universal Preschool. For more information, call (310) 720-8761.

Building a bed
Santa Monica Museum of Art
Bergamot Station's People Park, 2 p.m. — 5 p.m.
Join SMMoA for this unique public program to create a giant, six-sided rope hammock in the center of Bergamot Station's People Park. Learn the art and engineering of knots from the Know-how Shop's Kagan Taylor and Justin Rice, and structural engineer Josef Taylor. Walk away with an original "weaving shuttle" tool created specifically for this project and instructions on how to build your very own hammock (while supplies last). Admission: $10. Free for SMMoA members. RSVP at education@smmoa.org.

Get vintage
Santa Monica Civic Auditorium
1855 Main St., 10:30 a.m. — 5 p.m.
The Santa Monica Vintage Show gives shoppers the unique opportunity to browse relics from fashion's past. Styles span Edwardian to modern with everything in between. There are also watches, handbags, shoes, hats and other accessories. The show also takes place on Sunday. For more information, call (310) 230-8375.

Sunday, May 6, 2012

Taking a tour
Samohi Architectural Home and Garden Tour
705 San Vicente Blvd., 11 a.m. — 5 p.m.
The self-guided tour represents a rare opportunity for visitors to meet with homeowners, architects and landscape designers, and gain an insider's perspective on unique designs for living and working. The tour is a fundraising event for the award-winning Santa Monica High School Orchestras program. Four homes are featured on the tour. Same-day tickets are $40 (children younger than 12 are free). Will call to pick up pre-ordered tickets or buy same-day tickets will be at 705 San Vicente Blvd. Tickets can be pre-ordered for $30 (by 5 p.m. May 5) at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/239727 For more information, contact Steve Nemzer at (310) 739-3907.

Celebrating Cinco de Mayo
Virginia Avenue Park
2200 Virginia Ave., 12 p.m. — 5 p.m.
The city's annual Cinco de Mayo Festival returns with a healthy dose of Mexican flavor. There will be food, a salsa contest, a traditional fashion contest and live music by Bombachanté and the mariachi band Alta California de Carlos Villalobos. For more information, call (310) 458-8688.

Two on two
First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica
1220 Second St., 3 p.m.
Musica Angelica Baroque Orchestra will present a concert featuring dueling soloists performing concertos for two instruments in the same family. Tickets range from $29 to $49, with seniors receiving a 10 percent discount. Students: $15 with ID. For more information or to order tickets, visit www.musicaangelica.org or call (310) 458-4504.

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



Controversy mounts as lagoon project nears

BY KNOWLES ADKISSON
Special to the Daily Press

MALIBU As the June 1 start date to the Malibu Lagoon Restoration Project gets closer, several new groups have spoken out in opposition to the plan to use bulldozers to reshape the stagnant lagoon's channels in order to stimulate better water flow.

Several of the groups say that new studies done after the project was designed call into question the impact it would have on the local environment, and have asked for it to be temporarily halted and further study done.

One day after the Malibu City Council voted unanimously on April 9 to write a letter opposing the project to Gov. Jerry Brown, the Los Angeles Democratic Party followed suit. The party requested that John Laird, the California Secretary of Resources, place the project on hold and to require a new environmental impact report in light of scientific studies performed after the plan was designed.

On Monday, former State Senator Tom Hayden issued a statement expressing concern over the project.

"I remain concerned that a 'rush to judgment' is in the works in which general obligation [public] bond money is being spent on a project that may be unnecessary, in which transparency is lacking, and worthy environmental monitoring organizations are beneficiaries," Hayden said in a press release. "What is clear is that the Malibu City Council has voted unanimously against the project, which means the state bulldozers will preempt the will of local government and the sentiment of many coastal residents."

The Malibu City Council voted to oppose the project after receiving what councilmembers said were unsatisfactory responses given by California State Parks, which is overseeing the project, to concerns expressed by City Hall.

City Hall had requested an expansion of water quality requirements; advance notice of project scheduling to avoid serious traffic impacts on Pacific Coast Highway during the busy summer tourism season; and to include city staff in any studies conducted in the project area.

Mayor Laura Rosenthal wrote a letter to Gov. Brown dated April 23 expressing the council's opposition to the project because "numerous project management concerns of the Malibu community have been ignored by the lead agencies, leading to mistrust and anger over this project."

The Malibu Times contacted the governor's office last week seeking comment on Rosenthal's letter. The Times received a reply on Monday from Richard Stapler, deputy secretary of communications for the California Natural Resources Agency, which is the umbrella organization for California State Parks. Stapler said Gov. Brown's office had received the letter and requested he respond on its behalf.

"Without significant intervention, the Malibu Lagoon will continue in decline and is doomed to become a stagnant waterway, devoid of the kind life that historically thrived here. The science behind the restoration has lead us to an unbiased conclusion on what is happening in the lagoon and what is the best way to remedy the issues," Stapler wrote. "We are confident in the science, its application, and the host of permits granted from multiple environmental and land use entities to continue with the restoration."

Asked to comment on the state's response on Tuesday, Mayor Laura Rosenthal said she was "disappointed."

"They obviously did not respond to our issues about the program management as well as other issues," Rosenthal said. "But I'm glad that the governor is taking an interest in this, and we're very willing to work with his office and we'll be in touch."

Meanwhile, the city plans to file an amicus brief to add its support to a lawsuit filed by the environmental group Wetlands Defense Fund to halt the project.

City Attorney Christi Hogin said the brief would be filed by May 14 with the First District Court of Appeal in San Francisco.

From a legal perspective, Hogin said it was important city officials be involved in making sure the project would not harm the local water quality further, opening up City Hall to potential litigation. Hogin said one of the problems was that the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, when designing the project, faced a deadline to secure funding for it and rushed the planning. Time was needed, Hogin said, to review the project and make sure it is done right.

"No one's saying walk away and do nothing," Hogin said. "They're saying that in the haste to meet the deadline, corners were cut and certain problems were ignored. And from the city's perspective, we're concerned there's going to be a pretty severe water quality impact."

City Hall has also pressed ahead with plans to spend $25,000 on a firm to review the various scientific evidence cited by supporters and opponents of the lagoon project.

Rosenthal announced Friday last week that City Hall had chosen the U.S. Geological Survey to review the science. John Izbicki, a USGS hydrologist who led a study on the lagoon in 2009-10 that blamed fecal matter from birds for much of the lagoon's pollution, is currently lining up three USGS scientists to perform the work.

City Manager Jim Thorsen said on Friday last week that Izbicki was not involved with the study himself, but he had identified an expert on sediment transport and an expert on hydraulics and water quality to review the science. He was still looking for a biology expert as of last week.

Thorsen said the USGS scientists would review as much of the science as possible by the June 1 starting date, but could not guarantee they would finish their study by then.

news@smdp.com

ADKISSON is the associate editor of the Malibu Times. This article first appeared in that publication.



HELPING HANDS

Ray Solano *news@smdp.com*

Jeffrey Hughes, Jr. (center), who is battling a rare form of cancer, receives a check Thursday for $5,261.39 from Whole Foods on Wilshire Boulevard. The grocery store encouraged customers to donate to help the Hughes family cover medical bills and other expenses for the Franklin Elementary School student.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

On the Verge

Editor:

Thanks for the article on Mark Verge and his latest career with Santa Anita ("Local entrepreneur takes the reins at Santa Anita Park," May 3). The whole family have been an asset to the city of Santa Monica, starting with the father and his great teaching legacy at Santa Monica College, and the mother with her work at St. Monica Church and around town, not to mention all Mark's classy brothers and sisters. They're wonderful people and I'm sure he'll excel in this latest incarnation. In true race track style, I tip my fedora to him.

James Toomey
Santa Monica

Self serve

Editor:

I was very insulted when I read Mr. Kronovet's letter ("Anchor around the neck," Letters to the Editor, May 1). It is unbelievable that he is insinuating, by way of anecdotes of people that he knows, that people "simply gave up on their goals in order to hold on to their rent-controlled units." This statement shows the height of entitlement that some of the more self righteous, wealthy members of this community feel. Fortunately, I think they are in a minority, but unfortunately they are a very vocal minority.

To infer that most people who are in rent-control units are willfully keeping themselves from improving their lives just to screw The Man and keep him from getting what the market will bear for his precious property is just an insane, selfish, superior attitude. Does he not realize what has been happening in the economy recently? In my opinion, this is the same kind of logic that is forcing seniors out of a beautiful structure "for their own good" ("Council gives OK to Senior Center change,"April 26).

I love this community; its humanity and care for causes is laudable in most cases. The only time I'm not proud to be part of it is when there are individuals and groups that feel that they know what is better for everyone else and don't even seem to realize how self serving their motives are.

There is no limit to the human ability to rationalize.

Scott Mossman
Santa Monica

Hold out for greatness

Editor:

If MSD can't afford to build a smaller Miramar, they always have the option to sell it ("Fairmont hotel redevelopment gets past council," April 26).

The high-end hotel business is good right now, even if the condo business isn't. There are other hotel operators out there who could figure out how to make a profit with a modernized Miramar, no condos, and greater sensitivity to community aesthetics.

MSD is not the only player. The city should hang tough with regard to size reduction, architecture and benefits, so that Santa Monica gets the deal it wants. After all, the hotel will be around for the next hundred years. We owe it to ourselves to take the time to get it right.

Like the Eiffel Tower signifies Paris, and the Statue of Liberty is New York, with an architecturally bold design, people around the world would instantly know it was Santa Monica.

Robert Gurfield
Santa Monica



On the Beat

NRO Mike Boyd

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Make a difference by volunteering

Q: I DON'T KNOW IF YOU CAN HELP, but I'd like to help my community and be a volunteer. Are there any volunteer programs in Santa Monica that I could join?

A: Yes. The city of Santa Monica is committed to community participation in the enhancement and expansion of city services. Santa Monica is deeply dependent on its staff and the invaluable support of those who choose to volunteer. Being a volunteer encourages civic pride and provides a personal sense of satisfaction.

There are a wide variety of volunteer opportunities within Santa Monica. Whether you prefer working with children, seniors, or animals, there is a place for you. The Volunteer Program is an excellent resource and can help you find a volunteer position that matches your objectives and skill set. Santa Monica has a Volunteer Directory: Santa Monica/Westside. The directory is a comprehensive listing of non-profit, human services organizations that rely heavily on volunteer efforts.

To find out more information on being a volunteer in Santa Monica, please visit www01.smgov.net/communication/city-forms/Volunteers.htm. You can also e-mail volunteer@smgov.net to help you find a volunteer assignment that matches your interests and scheduling needs. Fingerprint background checks will be required to be placed in any City Hall-sponsored program.

Q: I've heard that some cities have volunteer programs that are specifically designed to assist during a disaster (natural or terrorist related). Other than the American Red Cross, are there any other volunteer programs that would be used for such events?

A: There are a number of volunteer programs that could be activated during a catastrophic incident. Other than the American Red Cross, the one that comes to mind is the Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.).

The C.E.R.T. program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area. C.E.R.T. members are trained in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, C.E.R.T. members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. C.E.R.T. members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

The Community Emergency Response Team concept was developed and implemented by the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) in 1985. Due to the nature of catastrophic incidents, emergency personnel could be delayed in responding to meet the needs of all victims. In 1987, the Whittier Narrows earthquake was an eye opening event that confirmed the need for training civilians to respond to disasters. As a result, the LAFD created the Disaster Preparedness Division with the purpose of training citizens and private and government employees.

The training program that LAFD initiated made good sense. It allowed citizens to understand their responsibility in preparing for a disaster. It also increased their ability to safely help themselves, family members, and neighbors. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recognized the importance of preparing citizens. FEMA adopted and expanded the C.E.R.T. materials, making them applicable to all disasters.

If you think you may be interested in this training, you should know that C.E.R.T. training is composed of seven sessions. The sessions are:

•Session I, disaster preparedness: Addresses hazards to which people are vulnerable to in their community. Materials cover actions that participants and their families take before, during and after a disaster. The C.E.R.T. concept and organization are discussed, as well as applicable laws governing volunteers in that jurisdiction.

•Session II, disaster fire suppression: Briefly covers fire chemistry, hazardous materials, fire hazards, and fire suppression strategies. The majority of this session is the safe use of fire extinguishers, sizing up the situation, controlling utilities and extinguishing a small fire.

•Session III, disaster medical operations part I: Participants practice diagnosing and treating airway obstruction, bleeding, and shock by using simple triage and rapid treatment techniques.

•Session IV, disaster medical operations, part II: Covers evaluating patients by doing a head to toe assessment, establishing a medical treatment area, performing basic first aid, and practicing in a safe and sanitary manner.

•Session V, light search and rescue operations: Participants learn about search and rescue planning, size-up, search techniques, rescue techniques, and most important, rescuer safety.

•Session VI, disaster psychology and team organization: Covers signs and symptoms that might be experienced by the disaster victim and worker. It addresses C.E.R.T. organization and management principles and the need for documentation.

•Session VII, course review and disaster simulation: Participants review their answers from an examination. Finally, they practice the skills that they have learned during the previous six sessions in disaster activity.

During each session participants are required to bring safety equipment (gloves, goggles, mask) and disaster supplies (bandages, flashlight, dressings) which will be used during the session. By doing this for each session, participants are building a disaster response kit of items that they will need during a disaster.

C.E.R.T. is a valuable asset for any city or community. If you're interested in becoming a C.E.R.T. member, please visit www.citizencorps.gov/cert

COMMUNITY EVENT

Would you like to meet your Pico Neighborhood Resource Officer Mike Boyd? The annual Cinco de Mayo Fiesta will be held this Sunday, May 6, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. This year's fiesta at Virginia Avenue Park celebrates "La Familia: Generations of Latino History in Santa Monica." The annual event features some of the best talent in salsa, mariachi and cumbia bands. Home-style cooking and artisan crafts will season the day with culture, while ancestral dances and colorful folklorico showcase Mexican history.

This column was written by **NRO MIKE BOYD** (Beat 8: Pico Neighborhood). He can be reached at (424) 200-0688 or Michael.boyd@smgov.net.

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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.

This past week, Q-line asked:
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?

Here are your responses:

"I FEEL VERY PROBLEMATIC ABOUT paying students. I went to quite a tony private school. If somebody got good grades they could get a gold card, and other ones of us, if we got less good grades we got a white card. So anyway, I don't know. I think it's a good idea. But you know, good students should just do it for the sake of it. But, I suppose in a way, it's a good idea."

"WOW, I WAS WONDERING HOW THIS town could decline any further educationally. Again, another entitlement program to teach our young people to base their self worth on the approval of others. This non-profit, so-called educational prejudice business is getting $300,000 a year of taxpayer money. The director, Mr. [Oscar] de la Torre, a school board member, is going to alleviate the low grade point average by bribing his non-assimilating clients. How Mr. de la Torre can be a school board member and not have a conflict of interest running Pico Youth & Family when controlling millions in taxpayer dollars mystifies me. Like free school lunches, you demean young people and their families by paying for good grades. Mr. de la Torre should be promoting hard work, perseverance and sacrifice for their own benefits, not $100."

"IF WE PAY STUDENTS FOR BETTER grades, isn't that going to lead to more students sleeping with their teachers? And if students are sleeping with their teachers to be paid for higher grades, isn't that leading to teenage prostitution?"

"I BELIEVE THE $100 INCENTIVE FOR the school children to get good grades is an excellent one, however, I would make sure to please not give this incentive to students who are not American citizens. Do not give this to illegal aliens."

"I DON'T THINK THEY SHOULD PAY those kids to get good grades in school. They should be studying hard to get good grades anyway. At the very least, give them $100 if they get all As and Bs."

"I DON'T SEE ANYTHING WRONG WITH paying students for getting As, especially the ones who need the money. But I would definitely not give them cash. I think they should be given a gift card to make sure they are going to spend it on a special place for clothes, food, or books, or anything that is proper, but not cash."

"PAYING KIDS FOR GOOD GRADES IS ridiculous. That is what they are supposed to be doing. Kids who start getting good grades because a reward system has started are just showing they were already capable of getting good grades, but too lazy to do so. Let their parents reward them if they choose to do so. And as for poor grades, a little punishment and shame of being held back will give the lazy troublemakers the attitude adjustment they need."

"NO, TERRIBLE IDEA! FIRST OF ALL, IT NEEDS to be known that PYFC is financed almost entirely by public tax dollars to the tune of more than $300,000 a year, courtesy of the city of Santa Monica. I object to the PYFC trying to bribe kids with our tax dollars, pleading they visit that dysfunctional, underperforming, and underattended youth 'intervention' center. Parents and teachers are the ones to incentivize and encourage their children into performing well in their studies. It's time City Hall and Santa Monicans alike wake up and smell the deception of yet another self-survival scheme being perpetuated by the PYFC, and find a better investment for that $300,000! Again, bad idea for PYFC to be dispensing our tax dollars in this way!"

"IF THE GOAL IS TO 'MOTIVATE KIDS TO access free tutors and be more engaged in their classes,' offer the students $100 if they show good attendance in both their school classes and their tutoring sessions and show completed homework assignments. By offering $100 only for the A, you will disinterest those who may need the tutoring the most."

"THIS IS A TERRIBLE IDEA, AND SENDS the wrong message to kids about the value of education. Provide special tutoring for those who need it, but it should be made clear to the students and their parents that learning math and English is for their own good, and that they are responsible for learning in order to insure their futures, whether they want to go to college, or to get a good job after they graduate. The plan also sets a bad precedent for those kids who do work and learn as they should, while the lazy kids are paid."

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University: Mediation, not police, for future protests

BY JASON DEAREN
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO Administrators should consider deploying mediators instead of law enforcement at future campus demonstrations and better train school police, a University of California report issued Friday recommended after criticism of the force police used during protests last year.

The UC report lists 50 policy recommendations to help guide the 10-campus system's future responses to protests. In general, it calls for a more measured response that relies on more discussion at the beginning of a possible dispute in an effort to avoid the need for police.

"At the University of California we have an important tradition of free speech and protests," one of the report's authors, UC Berkeley Law School dean Christopher Edley Jr., said at a news conference. "We believe that it's a significant component of the process of education and maturation that students go through because we want them to be an active part in political life and civil discourse."

It's the latest in a series of reports spurred by campus police officers' use of pepper spray and batons during Occupy-related demonstrations on UC's Berkeley and Davis campuses.

Santa Monica College is investigating its response to a demonstration April 3 at a Board of Trustees meeting in which roughly 30 students were treated for exposure to pepper spray after some witnesses said they tried to push their way into a board room.

The previous reports investigated the recent incidents and concluded that the use of force could have been avoided. The report released Friday was meant to change the university system's future responses to protests.

Among the 50 recommendations, the report concluded that campus administrators should be trained in de-escalation techniques that can be used instead of sending in police.

The report also recommended the development of internal student disciplinary measures that could be employed instead of having protesters arrested and sent into the criminal justice system.

"Something in between police issuing a misdemeanor citation ... versus doing nothing. There may be circumstances you want consequences for students, but don't want those consequences to be determined by the law enforcement system," Edley said.

Edley conceded that creating UC disciplinary measures comes with its own set of troubles and high administrative costs at a time of severe budget cutbacks, but he hoped the report will spur more discussion.

Video recording of clashes between police and protesters also played a role in what happened last year. Viral videos of seated students being pepper-sprayed in the face and others being jabbed with batons caused outrage.

The report said the UC should establish a program for video-taping protests "designed to develop a fair and complete record of event activity solely for evidentiary or training purposes."

Edley said the report's recommendations are meant to help the system avoid past mistakes, and he thinks it a road map to better management of future protests.

"Had our recommendations been in place, the mistakes made in November would not have been made," he said. "Maybe different mistakes, but not those mistakes. I feel very confident in that."

The report does not dismiss the need for police force in certain circumstances, and when it is needed, the authors recommend the use of "hands-on pain compliance techniques" instead of pepper spray. An example of such a technique is the application of pressure at certain points on a demonstrator's body to help immobilize the person.

"In these rare situations ... we would recommend that campus police utilize hands-on pain compliance techniques before pepper spray or batons whenever feasible," the report stated.

Barry Shiller, a spokesman for UC Davis, where the pepper-spraying incident occurred, said the insights from this report and the others that have been released will inform its reform efforts.

"Given that it includes 50 recommendations and spans more than 150 pages, we want to give this report the thoughtful review it deserves before addressing specific details," he said.

Fishermen free tangled whale that went missing

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

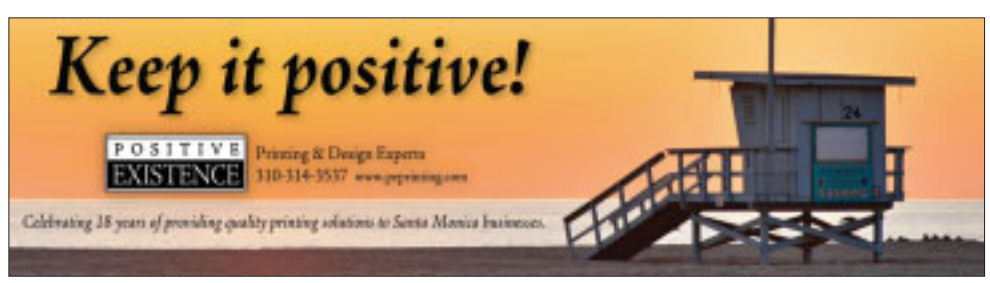
BODEGA BAY, Calif. Federal wildlife officials say that a whale tangled in a large fishing line that went missing during previous rescue attempts has been freed by a fisherman.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration spokesman Jim Milbury says that a crabbing boat's captain and crew spotted the gray whale in the ocean off Bodega Bay on Thursday.

Captain Mark Anello and his crew spent 90 minutes working to free the 40-ton mammal.

The whale was first spotted off the Orange County coast April 17, hundreds of miles from where it was ultimately rescued, dragging several buoys attached to a net.

Rescuers attempted to free it at the time, but it went missing until it was spotted off the coast of Monterey County.



Pelosi criticizes crackdown by feds on pot dispensaries

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi said she is concerned that the Obama administration's crackdown on medical marijuana dispensaries is hurting patients with a legitimate need for the drug.

The San Francisco congresswoman said in a statement Wednesday that the crackdown has undermined "a policy that has been in place under which the federal government did not pursue individuals whose actions complied with state laws providing for medicinal marijuana."

The crackdown was initiated last fall by federal prosecutors in California, Colorado and other states against landlords, growers and dispensary operators. Authorities believe laws that allow pot use with a doctor's recommendation are being used as a cover for drug trafficking.

The advocacy group Americans for Safe Access said its members had lobbied Pelosi to condemn the crackdown, which has resulted in the closure of hundreds of dispensaries throughout California. The Democratic parties of San Francisco and Alameda counties also have gone on record opposing the enforcement actions.

As a candidate, President Barack Obama said he would not use federal law enforcement resources to circumvent state medical marijuana laws. He told Rolling Stone magazine in an interview last week that he stood by that pledge.

"What I specifically said was that we were not going to prioritize prosecutions of persons who are using medical marijuana," the president said. "I never made a commitment that somehow we were going to give carte blanche to large-scale producers and operators of marijuana — and the reason is, because it's against federal law. I can't nullify congressional law."

As part of the crackdown, California's four U.S. attorneys notified dispensary landlords they could be violating federal drug laws by aiding trafficking enterprise and could lose their properties or face criminal prosecution. Many landlords subsequently evicted pot shop tenants.

In her statement, Pelosi did not call on the Obama administration to stop targeting dispensaries but said she supported revising federal laws to recognize the scientific evidence and clinical research demonstrating the medical benefits of medicinal marijuana.

"The opportunity to ease the suffering of people who are seriously ill or enduring difficult and painful therapies is an opportunity we must not ignore," she said.

Former cop in NorCal drug task force probe pleads guilty

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

OAKLAND, Calif. A former Northern California police officer pleaded guilty Friday to federal charges of stealing drugs from law enforcement, setting up men for drunken-driving arrests and other crimes.

Christopher Butler entered his plea in U.S. District Court to multiple counts, including robbery, conspiracy and extortion. He was at the center of a Contra Costa County drug task force scandal.

Butler and Norman Wielsch, former head of the now-defunct Central Contra Costa Narcotics Enforcement Team (CNET), were indicted last year for allegedly stealing marijuana and methamphetamine from evidence lockers to sell in 2010, prosecutors said.

The pair also ran a Pleasant Hill brothel, according to authorities.

Funded by the Department of Justice and overseen by officers from Contra Costa County police agencies, CNET was suspended in February 2011 after Wielsch and Butler, a former Antioch police officer, were arrested on suspicion of selling stolen drug evidence.

As a private investigator, Butler, 50, also admitted to setting up so-called "dirty DUIs" for wives in divorce cases. The scheme involved hiring attractive women to lure the husbands into cheating and drunken driving. Butler was also trying to land a reality show based on his business.

Wielsch, 51, who was indicted last year, has pleaded not guilty to similar charges against him.

Also Friday, Louis Lombardi, a former San Ramon police officer was sentenced to three years in federal prison for his role in the scandal.

As part of a plea deal, Lombardi plead guilty in January as part of a plea deal to stealing at least $40,000 in cash, guns, jewelry and other property while serving as an agent for the team.

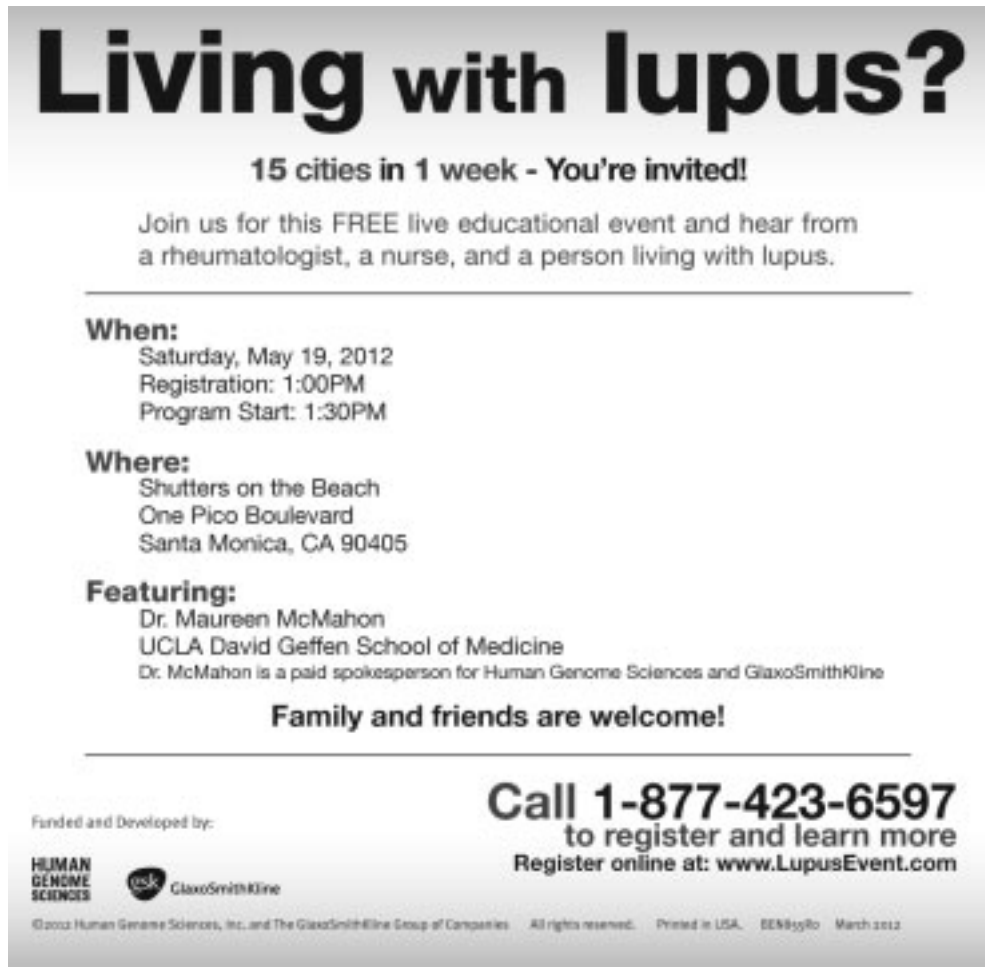
A judge also ordered Lombardi, 39, to complete a drug-treatment program while in prison and to pay $7,500 in restitution to the city of San Ramon.

A fourth defendant, Stephen Tanabe, a former Danville police officer, is also being prosecuted for alleged crimes involving Butler and the "dirty DUI" incidents.

Tanabe denies the charges.









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SCHOOLS
FROM PAGE 1

sions work, board members said.

"I think we should move forward," said Boardmember Nimish Patel. "We owe it to you, we owe it to the community and I want it to happen."

The decision delighted Malibu residents who packed their City Hall to show support for the separation, which some believe would solve a chronic problem of underrepresentation at a district packed with elected officials from Santa Monica.

"There's a sense of animosity, and a sense that we are not listened to," said Malibu Mayor Laura Rosenthal. "I really can't implore you enough to listen to that."

According to early work by district Chief Financial Officer Jan Maez, a new Santa Monica-only district would operate $4.1 million in the red annually, down from the $4.6 million the SMMUSD currently copes with.

A Malibu district, which would also include some parts of unincorporated Los Angeles, would have an annual shortfall of $2.35 million.

Though both show red ink, neither number reflects the impact of parent and community fundraising, which has amounted to millions of extra revenue to the district in years past, nor does it include staff reductions for the Santa Monica schools, despite the fact that it would lose 17 percent of its student body.

The calculation also assumes that Malibu will lose its share of a parcel tax, which would expire after the split assuming that either Malibu voters did not agree to a new tax or local legislators did not pass what county officials call "spot legislation" to preserve the revenue stream.

If passed, the tax would turn the new district's fortunes around, supporters say.

Beyond the parcel tax, the remaining roadblock is debt on existing bonds, which were issued to pay for facilities improvements throughout the district.

According to the report, the district is shouldering approximately $222 million in debt from Measure BB bonds, and around 30 percent of those payments fall squarely on Malibu, which has higher property values than Santa Monica.

If the two districts split immediately, all of the debt would be placed on the new Santa Monica district unless the two districts could come to some kind of agreement, Maez said.

It would also be more difficult for the new Santa Monica district to issue the remaining $83 million in bonds without the Malibu property. The district had planned to issue those bonds this year for projects, including new facilities at Malibu High School.

Overall, the presentation was rosier than many attendees had predicted, causing some to scrap previous objections and move forward with a more conciliatory attitude.

"We're really pleased with the work you did. On that basis, the speech we had prepared will not be given tonight," said Craig Foster, president of the Webster Elementary parent group and member of AMPS.

Despite the new sense of togetherness, the effort could still fall through.

New studies could show financial weaknesses in the proposed districts that Maez' calculations did not predict, or struggles with what Foster and others noted were the two largest hurdles — the questions of the parcel tax and bonds.

"We can deal with those collectively after we work out all of the other details," Foster said. "If we can fix this, we'll have two separate districts that can be highly cooperative and successful."

The cooperation of the Board of Education is critical if Malibu is to split from SMMUSD.

Officials at the Los Angeles County Office of Education made it clear at a study session in March that if the board objected to Malibu schools leaving the district, the effort would likely fail.

"If it's controversial, good luck getting it on the agenda any time soon," Matthew Spies, a representative of the county Office of Education, told board members and the public in March.

That process is a long one, which can span several years with no promise of success.

First, the application must go to the Committee on District Reorganization at the county level and then to the state Department of Education, either with the approval of the county body or on appeal.

It takes about a year to get the matter heard by the Department of Education, and its vote is final.

If approved, the matter would be placed on the ballot in the next election. It would be up to the county Office of Education to recommend who could vote on that issue — Malibu and Santa Monica residents, or just those in Malibu — and the state would either accept that recommendation or make its own.

ashley@smdp.com

City of Santa Monica
Ordinance Numbers 2397-2398 (CCS)
(City Council Series)

The following are summaries of Ordinances Number 2397 and 2398, which were adopted by the City Council on April 24, 2012.

Ordinance Number 2397 authorizes an amendment to the contract between the City and the CalPERS Board, which oversees the entity that provides retirement plans for eligible City employees. The amendment would establish a second tier of retirement benefits for eligible employees who are hired after July 1, 2012. Second tier employees retirement pensions would be calculated differently, resulting in lower pensions, which would eventually lower the City's employer contribution rate.

Ordinance Number 2398 reorganizes and consolidates Municipal Code provisions relating to use of City parks and the beach, repeals antiquated provisions, clarifies some ambiguous language, and changes penalty options for violations of code provisions relating to use of the parks and beach.

These ordinances will become effective thirty days after their adoption. The full text of the ordinances is available upon request from the Office of the city Clerk, located at 1685 Main Street, Room 102, Santa Monica, California; phone (310) 458-8211.

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GREENERY

Kevin Herrera *kevinh@smdp.com*

With the help of Alan Parr (middle) and several other members of the Santa Monica Lions Club, city arborists planted five jacaranda trees on 11th Street on Thursday, bringing the total number of trees planted by City Hall since January at just under 800. Lions Clubs worldwide have planted roughly 5 million over the last year as part of the international president's initiative.

HOTEL

FROM PAGE 1

City Council or at the ballot box.

Normally, voters don't have the option to dispute a development decision, but this hotel was a special case.

The 285-room hotel slated for the corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Seventh Street was governed by a development agreement, a special provision that allows the City Council to make an exception for buildings that are bigger than what's allowed under the zoning code in exchange for community benefits.

Development agreements, however, are both contracts and laws, which means they can be overturned by a vote of the public if the matter gets on a ballot.

The developer and city planners negotiated the agreement for the hotel and included a living wage provision that originally promised $10.64 or $11.89 per hour depending on whether or not workers also received health benefits. It did not cover workers that receive tips.

Gorby's offer was one of the first wage guarantees in the city for a non-union hotel, and was opposed by business interests who felt that it set a bad precedent and involved government too much in business affairs.

The union also objected, pushing for a $15 per hour wage for all employees, but Gorby held that he could not afford that high of a wage, particularly with the $11 million he was planning to invest to rehab a historic building included in the site.

City Council members compromised with a $11.29 or $12.54 per hour wage, also excluding tipped workers.

On April 20, Unite Here! filed its petition and began gathering signatures that weekend.

One week later, the developer agreed to give the union a crack at organizing its future employees, representatives confirmed.

The decision was seen by supporters both as a major victory for the workers and a clear sign that the developer's cries of poverty were inaccurate.

City Councilmember Kevin McKeown, who voted against the compromise wage rate, was pleased with the outcome.

"The lesson for the City Council may be that despite protestations, hotel developers can afford to treat their workers with dignity and fair wages if we make that a priority," McKeown wrote in an e-mail.

ashley@smdp.com

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Gin that doesn't come on too strong

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

While I've never been a devoted gin drinker given the overpowering nature of the juniper (it always reminded me of cleaning products), after sampling Nolet's Silver, I just might have to become one.

Never have I sampled such a versatile gin that can stand on its own or pair nicely with a variety of mixers and foods. Crafted by the family that brought Ketel One Vodka to the states, Nolet's Silver uses some of the world's finest botanicals — including white peach, raspberry and Turkish rose petals — for a floral and fruit-forward spirit that still provides dedicated gin lovers that classic heat and velvety finish, but also something more appealing to the casual drinker's palette with a reduced juniper base.

The combination of cocktails that can be created with the dry gin are seemingly endless, as evidenced by the other night's affair at the FIG restaurant in the Fairmont-Miramar Hotel. The folks from Nolet's were on hand — including co-creator Carl Nolet, Jr. — to treat a dozen or so writers, editors and bloggers to a taste of the Silver (and the more refined Nolet's Reserve).

Chef Ray Garcia, one of my favorites in the local scene for his interesting incorporation of Latin flavors and dedication to freshness, crafted a five-course meal that was paired with different cocktails, including a tangerine sour with egg whites and orange bitters and an espresso-based after-dinner drink with cream and chocolate bitters (drinks courtesy of FIG mixologist Tavis Alexander).

The one dish that stuck with me the most from that evening was the gin and citrus cured sea trout with melons, cucumber and sea beans. There was just a hint of gin — mainly the rose and raspberry flavors for me — that helped bring out the citrus, while the trout was tender, light and refreshing. For dessert, chef prepared a sticky "root beer" pudding and anise float that was pretty sinful.

We capped the night off with a sip or two of the Reserve (that some fine sippin' gin) and left with a bottle of the Silver (which retails for around $50) to sample at home. I had it straight up with a lemon peel in the evening (the rose is a little overpowering and somewhat overstays its welcome in this form), and with mint, lime and simple syrup for a sweet, but sharp gimlet that I enjoyed while barbecuing on the back patio last weekend (I made some tender beer can chicken coated in old-fashioned barbecue sauce).

All those who sampled it with me enjoyed the Silver and remarked how easy it was to put back. It's definitely different than any other gin I've tried and I can see why the Nolets believe this spirit will make inroads in the local bar scene. It's a little outside the box, but yet still respects the gin tradition.

kevinh@smdp.com



Photos by Howard Wise

SIP: **Nolet's Silver is a different type of gin, combining Turkish rose, white peach and raspberry botanicals for a unique flavor that is perfect for blending. Here is FIG Restaurant's 'We've Got the Beet' cocktail.**



TELL IT: **Carl Nolet, Jr. talks with local journalists about his family's 300-year history of crafting quality spirits, including Ketel One Vodka.**

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City of Santa Monica

Mandarin Fizz
2 oz. NOLET'S Silver Dry Gin
.75 oz. Lemon Juice
.75 oz. Simple Syrup
1 Egg White
Angostura Bitters
6 tangerine segments
Zest tangerine

Shake all ingredients, double strain into a mini-pilsner glass. Garnish with dashes of bitters.

We've Got The Beet
1 oz. NOLET'S Silver Dry Gin
.5 oz. Beet Juice
.75 oz. Apple Syrup
.5 oz. Lime Juice
Absinthe spray glass

Shake all ingredients, strain over fresh ice, serve in a rocks glass.

Palisades Coffee
1 oz. NOLET'S Silver Dry Gin
.5 oz. Root Liquor
.5 oz. Benedictine
1 oz. Espresso
.5 oz. Cream
.25 oz. Simple Syrup

Shake all ingredients, strain, serve up in a coupe glass.

Drink recipes created by Tavis Alexander, FIG Restaurant

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The Re-View

Merv Hecht

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Photo by Brandon Friend-Solis

COME INSIDE: **The interior of new 'gastro-lounge' The Charleston, which features the fusion comfort food of chef Jet Tila and live music for those looking to grub and groove.**

The Charleston: 'gastro-lounge' serves up comfort food, jazz

THE CHARLESTON HAS TAKEN OVER where Angel's Piano Bar & Supper Club once stood on Wilshire Boulevard. It looks more modern, less cluttered and cleaner in general, but the idea is still the same — combine good music, hand-crafted cocktails and food.

There's a nice selection of beers, a competent bartender, a dozen or so wines marked up three or four times cost, good looking cocktails, and even a selection of Absinthe served by a fairy. The 1930s décor is perfect for a jazz club with snacks and drinks.

But there's more. While not a full menu, there are plenty of good looking dishes offered during happy hour. I've tried a few of them. I loved the pulled pork sliders, and two of these small beauties were plenty for my dinner, washed down with a Dos Equis. Another time I tried the hot wings, but was less pleased. I think they need to be cooked much longer so they are more tender, and a little more vibe in the sauce. And they were certainly not "crispy fried" as advertised on the menu.

But there was no objection from any of my friends to the delicious "smoked" mac and cheese. While we didn't taste any smoke, we loved the cheese flavor and the texture. And a vegetarian friend was very happy with the garlic edamame.

Some of chef Jet Tila's promised specials were not on the menu, and I'm going back when they are — such as Five Spice Pork Belly Boa Buns.

All of these dishes are between $5 and $8, and the beer was $5 during happy hour, so for $20 one can have a nice informal dinner and a couple of beers. And the service, while clearly not formally trained, is perfectly adequate and there are plenty of servers around.

So what could be better? The entertainment. This is really like a club, with a variety of everything from "nightly live entertainment such as rock cover bands, DJs, jazz, karaoke, comedy nights, and dueling pianos." I think it's great to have a place like this in Santa Monica where you can get some informal entertainment over dinner when you don't feel like a movie.

But I'm concerned at the ability of a club to survive with such an eclectic selection. Jazz clubs get by because they develop a steady clientele of jazz lovers. To switch between rock, jazz, comedy and karaoke, among other offerings, is going to make it hard to develop a following. I wish them the best.

If you go

The Charleston
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(310) 828-2115

SECOND TIME AROUND

A few weeks ago I wrote a less than ecstatic review of the new Mr. C Italian restaurant. I mentioned that my friend Jay Weston had written a great review about his lunch there, but that I wasn't going back unless it was with him. A few days later he called and invited me to lunch there with him and the restaurant manager.

It was a different experience. With the manager sitting at the table with us, and only one other table occupied during lunch, the service was much better. In fact, you could say "perfect." And the food was better, somewhat. There were some very good dishes, especially the desserts, and the black ink risotto had good flavor and texture, although it was a touch more liquid than I like. But the pasta was still overcooked (less than before) and a veal dish was not made with good quality veal — it was tough and stringy. A few days later I was e-mailed that in addition they had improved the wine list by the glass.

I'm now convinced that one can have a reasonable lunch or dinner there. But if they aim to become a really great Italian restaurant they still have a lot of work to do in the kitchen.

MERV HECHT, the food and wine critic for the Santa Monica Daily Press, is a wine buyer and consultant to a number of national and international food and wine companies. He can be reached at mervynhecht@yahoo.com.





Woman in Secret Service case calls agents 'fools'

FRANK BAJAK &
VIVIAN SEQUERA
Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia A woman who says she was the prostitute who triggered the U.S. Secret Service scandal in Colombia said Friday that the agents involved were "idiots" for letting it happen, and declared that if she were a spy and sensitive information was available, she could have easily obtained it.

The woman said she spent five hours in a Cartagena, Colombia, hotel room with an agent, and while she barely got cab fare out of him, she could have gotten information that would have compromised the security of U.S. President Barack Obama if the agent had any. "Totally," she replied when asked.

"The man slept all night," said the woman, who was identified by her lawyer as Dania Londono Suarez. "If I had wanted to, I could have gone through all his documents, his wallet, his suitcase."

She said in the 90-minute interview with Colombia's W Radio conducted in Spain that no U.S. investigator had been in touch with her, although reporters descended on her home a week after the incident when a taxi driver led them to it.

"They could track me anywhere in the world that I go but they haven't done so," she said, speaking in Spanish. "If the Secret Service agents were idiots, imagine the investigators."

That alarmed a U.S. congressman who is monitoring the case.

Rep. Peter King, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, issued a statement on Friday expressing concern that investigators "have been unable to locate and interview two of the female foreign nationals involved," including Londono. "I have asked the Secret Service for an explanation of how they have failed to find this woman when the news media seems to have no trouble doing so."

Eight Secret Service agents have lost their jobs in the scandal, although there is no evidence any of the 10 women interviewed by U.S. investigators for their roles in it have any connection to terrorist groups, King said earlier this week.

In the interview, Londono called the Secret Service agents caught up in the scandal "fools for being from Obama's security and letting all this happen."

"When I said, 'I'm going to call the police so they pay me my money,' and it didn't bother them, didn't they see the magnitude of the problem?" she said.

Londono said the man she slept with never identified himself as a member of Obama's advance security detail for the April 14-15 Summit of the Americas and said she saw nothing in his room that would have indicated the man's job other than a brown uniform.

Londono said the man had agreed to pay her $800, but that she never would have made a public fuss about his failure to pay had she known he was part of Obama's security detail and realized the repercussions it would have for her.

"My life is practically destroyed," she said. "My name is in the gutter."

Her photo has been splashed all over the Internet since a newspaper took it off Facebook a week after the incident, when she said she fled Colombia fearing for her life.

"I was afraid they might retaliate," she said, saying she feared for herself and her family after looking up Secret Service on the Internet and seeing that some agents were sharpshooters.

The mother of a 9-year-old boy she said she had when she was 17, Londono said she would happily sell her story now and pose nude.

She said she had contracted one of Colombia's top lawyers, Abelardo De la Espriella. He confirmed her identity for The Associated Press and said she called him for the first time earlier Friday, recommended by the radio host who interviewed Londono. He said he didn't see that there was any criminal infraction in the incident. Prostitution is legal in Colombia. "Let's see how we can help her," De la Espriella said of Londono.

Londono appeared in the interview, part of which was also broadcast by Colombia's Caracol TV, with just a little makeup, her fingernails painted white and wearing a tight green dress.

W Radio asked that the location of the interview not be disclosed for Londono's security, and she later gave an interview to the Spanish radio network Cadena Ser, which said it was recorded in one of its studios.

Londono giggled nervously and refused to answer prying questions from reporters from several international news media during the W Radio interview on topics such as the nature of her sex act with the Secret Service agent.

She said that the desk clerk at the Hotel Caribe called at 6:30 a.m. to tell her it was time to leave, and the agent addressed her with an insult in telling her to get out. Dania said it was nearly three hours after the man kicked her out of the room and she alerted a Colombian policeman stationed on the hallway before three colleagues of the agent, who had refused to open his door after giving her $30, scraped together $250 and paid her, she said.

Later that day, April 12, the agent and 11 other Secret Service colleagues who may have also had prostitutes in their rooms at the five-star hotel were sent home, under investigation for alleged misconduct.

Londono's story agrees with what investigators in Washington have disclosed. She said she met the man, one of 10-11 agents in a Cartagena bar, and accompanied him back to the hotel, stopping on the way to buy condoms.

She said the other agents at the bar were all drunk. "They bought alcohol like they were buying water," she said, though she never saw any evidence that any of them used illegal drugs.

She said the man she was with was only moderately intoxicated. She said she did not know his name.

Londono said that she went to Dubai after the scandal broke and spent time with someone she had previously met in Cartagena. She would not say whether that person had been a client.

She said she was charging between $600 and $800 for sex while working in Cartagena and only accepted foreigners as clients, considering herself an "escort."

Asked why she became a prostitute, Londono said "it's an easy life" that would allow her to study and provide for her son.

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TV
FROM PAGE 1

York apartment, where family and friends were gathered for a viewing party in her honor.

"But I hate watching myself," she says. "So while the show was on, I was buried in my laptop tweeting. It was fun."

Then, too excited about her new show to sleep, she logged back on to Twitter a couple of hours later to chat with "Scandal" viewers tuning into the West Coast feed.

The act of watching TV has no doubt gone through epic transformations.

Remember when TV shows were locked in place by broadcasters, cemented on each station's grid in take-it-or-leave-it formation? Well, maybe you don't. It's been a generation since the first affordable home VCRs let viewers store and time-shift their favorite programs, putting made-to-order scheduling in each viewer's hands.

Here's another one: Remember when you needed a TV to watch TV? It was only in recent years that TV content escaped the physical constraints of what we call a TV. You now can opt for watching "television" on a PC screen or even newfangled devices such as an iPad, iPhone or Kindle Fire.

And that's not all. Now, in the latest quantum leap, those alternative outlets are converging with the TV for a multi-screen experience.

A new book, "Social TV," speaks of "a rediscovery of TV as a NEW medium." According to authors Mike Proulx and Stacey Shepatin, "We now live in a world where television has symbiotically become one with the Web, social media and mobile."

No more can TV-watching be contained by the TV or any other gadget. A companion screen — be it computer, tablet or smartphone — has been brought into the act. Never again need TV be experienced as TV alone.

Nor need any member of the audience experience TV while being alone.

TV was always a solitary pastime. Maybe a few family members convened to watch together, but for the most part, TV funneled the world to viewers individually, each of whom knew that millions of others were seeing the same shows, but in similar isolation. Truly sharing the experience was impossible, even unthinkable.

Now, thanks to "second screens" and the social media they convey, the TV audience can talk among themselves. As they engage in the new pastime of virtual co-viewing, they can express their likes and dislikes in a massive, global back-and-forth.

What's more, they are heard, and often heeded, by the presenters of those programs.

Maybe it's as simple as a cable-news show that, bannering its hashtag, invites Twitter users to weigh in on the story being reported, with their tweets unscrolling on the TV screen.

Maybe it's as complex as teams of data miners curating what the Twitterati are saying about a TV show, from moment to moment as the show unfolds, for sharp-eyed analysis by network bosses and ad buyers.

And the tweets add up. At 10:35 p.m. Eastern time on a Sunday night last August, MTV's "Video Music Awards" sparked a record-breaking 8,868 tweets-per-second as Beyonce finished singing and rubbed her belly, signaling she was pregnant.

Now what would Karen Scott have made of that?

I'm talking about the heroine of a short-lived 1960s NBC sitcom. "Karen" centered on a "modern teenage girl" who "by the light of television" (according to the theme song, performed by the Beach Boys) "can even write a book report."

Today, of course, that report would be composed on a laptop or a tablet that emits its own light, while the multi-tasking Karen keeps her eye on her TV and tweets on her phone.

Maybe circa-2012 Karen would be following her favorite show on Twitter or Facebook.

Maybe she would log onto a specialty app for a show she likes, such as TBS' "Conan," whose Team Coco tablet app presents its own Twitter feed interspersed with other content unfurling in synch with the show as it airs.

Maybe she goes to a website like TweetTV, where she can find a full array of TV shows, with their respective Twitter feeds, to choose from.

Maybe she checks into sites for TV shows on Viggle or ACTV8.me, whose users can redeem the points they earn for items like movie tickets or gift cards.

And maybe she would make time for websites like Yap.tv, SocialGuide, GetGlue, Miso and BuddyTV.

In March, the Hollywood Reporter published results of a poll that found that nine out of 10 people view social networking sites as a new form of entertainment, while more than half of the respondents said social media sites are important tastemakers in determining not only what to watch, but also what to buy.

The poll, conducted by market research firm Penn Schoen Berland, surveyed 750 social network users ages 13 to 49. It found that half of the respondents post on social networking sites while watching TV to feel connected to others who might be watching.

Welcome to the era not of the bygone Must-See TV, but of Must-Tweet TV. The second screen has become its own media destination.

And its own TV-navigating tool. Peel is one of several sites that provide an on-screen customized remote control and a search mechanism for keeping track of favorite TV shows. Meanwhile, its social platform allows the user to find and follow friends to see what they are recommending.

As one special feature, Peel unveiled an "American Idol" app earlier this season, which, among other things, lets users post "Cheers" and "Boos" for each performer as a real-time interaction, which results in a leaderboard summarizing how the Peel community sizes up the performances.

"Most viewers want to have a rich engagement around a program," says Peel marketing vice president Scott Ellis. "They're looking for that intersection of the social TV platform and the second screen, which provides an enhancement of the programs they care about."

But there's more going on than that. Companies are tracking buzz from you outspoken viewers. Programmers and advertisers are interested in how you respond to their shows, stars, advertisements and brands. Social media exchanges are followed, quantified and analyzed.

With measurements like tweets per second, volume of show mentions, and conversation sentiment, social media

SEE VIEWERS PAGE 15

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VIEWERS
FROM PAGE 14

have certified TV viewers as active participants, not just pairs of eyeballs. As a viewer who engages in social TV media, you are no longer held captive to the proxy voices of a few thousand households in a Nielsen audience sample. You are part of the world's largest focus group.

For instance, on a recent Wednesday night, you made "American Idol" the top broadcast show, by far, on social media, according to figures compiled by Trendrr.tv from Twitter, Facebook and several other sites. There were 227,858 messages all day and 162,700 messages while the show was on the air. "Revenge" was second, with all-day activity of 93,723 and on-air activity of 68,541.

This comports with overnight Nielsens, which placed "American Idol" first with 16.5 million viewers, and "Revenge" second with 6.8 million viewers.

But third-place in the Trendrr.tv survey was "Late Night," hosted by tech-savvy Jimmy Fallon, with daily activity of 51,924 — compared with its relatively modest average of 1.8 million viewers.

"By measuring people's engagement around TV shows, whether through Twitter or with second-screen applications, there is now a new level of interactivity around the media itself," says Trendrr.tv CEO Mark Ghuneim.

"TV has always stimulated conversation," says Tom Thai, vice president of marketing at Bluefin Labs, another social TV analytical firm. "Whether in people's living rooms, or as the proverbial water-cooler effect with people discussing shows at work, you watch TV and then you talk about it. But no one had been able to quantitatively measure those conversations, so they didn't factor into business decision-making.

"Now we can now measure conversations," he says. "But it's not at the water cooler. It's virtual."

According to Bluefin's analysis, "The Academy of Country Music Awards" on CBS last month inspired 676,000 social media comments, 28 percent of them identified as positive and 13 percent of them negative. A time line of the tweet rate during the broadcast finds a spike of 20,000 tweets at 10 p.m. Eastern time, when Toby Keith performed, and an evening-high jolt of 35,000 tweets shortly after 11 p.m., as Taylor Swift was crowned Entertainer of the Year.

CBS conducts lots of research of its own to harvest viewer feedback, notes David Poltrack, the network's chief research officer. But as a Bluefin client, CBS recognizes that what is unique about the feedback Bluefin crunches "is the volume of responses: It is ongoing, in a continuous stream," Poltrack says. "The question that is still to be resolved: How representative is that feedback? Only 10 or 15 percent of the population uses Twitter. Is the Twitter audience representative of the other 85 percent?"

CBS is busily assessing what this new social-media information means, and how it can best be applied in helping shape schedules, set ad rates and determine whether its shows live or die.

"We're still in the exploratory stage," Poltrack says. "We and Bluefin are learning together."

Meanwhile, social-media engagement is exploding: For instance, the volume of social media comments from last year's "CMA Awards" increased this year by 331 percent.

Clearly, it's been a long time since the era of Karen Scott, that circa-1964 sitcom teen. Her version of interactive media was a fan letter. Her version of co-viewing would have been a phone call shared with a chum while the two of them watched a TV show, and talked about it, in the privacy of their respective living rooms.

These days, more and more, watching TV is a public act.

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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

Disclaimer: this article does not constitute legal advice and does not create an attorney client relationship.

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MONDAY
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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SURF REPORT



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SURF CONDITIONS **WATER TEMP:** 61.9°

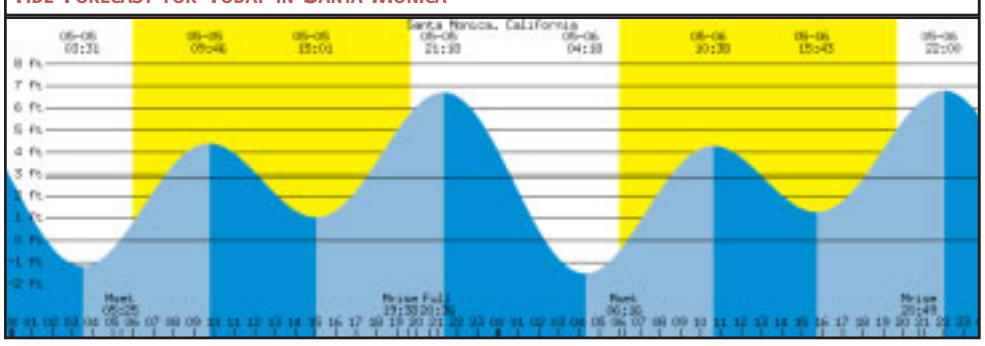
SWELL FORECAST

South facing breaks should run chest+. West facing spots should see a slight increase in wind swell to chest max.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

MOST ALL BREAKS ARE LOOKING AT WAIST TO CHEST HIGH WAVES.

TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



BEACH REPORT CARD

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Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **May 2, 2012**

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QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 13
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 32 / 33
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisa 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+	D
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	F	F
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A	A+
Solstice Canyon at Ben Blocker County Beach.	A+	B
Pearco State Beach at creek mouth.	A	A
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pearco Beach, at 21672 Malibu Rd.	A	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	B	A+
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	A+
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	F
Big Rock Beach at 19648 PCH stairs.	B	A+
Pena Creek at Los Tunas County Beach.	A+	A+
Tuna Canyon.	A	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	F	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A
Will Rogers State Beach at 17208 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	D
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	A+
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	A	C
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	A+
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A+	D
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	A+
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	A+
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St.	A+	A+
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	A	B
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	A+
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of CBW jetty).	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	A+
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	A+

LEGEND

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

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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.

NFL

911 call: Girlfriend found Seau with no sign of life

BY BERNIE WILSON
AP Sports Writer

SAN DIEGO A 911 call from the home of Junior Seau released Friday captures the voice of a woman who is horrified to find the former NFL linebacker in a spare bedroom with a gunshot wound to the chest.

"My God, my boyfriend shot himself! Oh my God!" the eight-minute call begins.

The woman, who identifies herself as Megan, said she was returning to the home Wednesday morning from a one-hour visit to the gym.

Oceanside police released the recording one day after the San Diego County medical examiner's office ruled the death a suicide. The family plans to donate Seau's brain for research into football-related injuries.

The caller is nearly hysterical and breathing heavily during much of the call as emergency workers guide her through life-saving measures that failed.

"Where is the gun?" the dispatcher asks.

"It's next to him in the bed," she answers.

"What is your boyfriend's name?"

"Junior Seau," she says.

The dispatcher asks where he was shot.

"I can't tell, ma'am. It looks like in the heart," she said.

She told the dispatcher that he did not have a pulse and that his chest was not moving.

"I just came home from the gym, and he's in our spare bedroom, and he shot himself, and it looks like he shot himself in the chest," she says after the dispatcher transferred the call to the fire department.

Nearly five minutes into the call, she goes to the door to allow rescue workers in. She explains again what happened and then begins to sob.

The woman's last name is unintelligible on the recording. Lt. Leonard Mata, a spokesman for Oceanside police, said police aren't releasing the woman's name.

Seau played for his hometown Chargers for 13 seasons and was also a star at Southern California. There's been no medical evidence that brain injuries from football may have played a role in his death.

San Diego Chargers chaplain Shawn Mitchell said Friday he didn't know where the brain will be sent.

"The Seau family really has, almost like Junior, a philanthropic approach, where they always desire to help others," Mitchell said in a phone interview. "The purpose is not initially to discover anything about their son and what led to these tragic circumstances, but rather the betterment of other people and athletes down the road through anything that can be learned through the study."

He said the family was not speculating as to whether concussions were a factor in Seau's suicide.

Garrett Webster, the administrator and player liaison for the Brain Injury Research Institute, said his group has requested that the family donate the brain but hasn't heard back.

"I don't want this to sound too crass, but we've sort of made our pitch," said Webster, the son of the late Hall of Fame center Mike Webster of the Pittsburgh Steelers. "We hope the family choses us, but the important thing is somebody's going to get it and it's going to get looked into. Junior Seau was a wonderful man and we're all aware of his work with charities. I wish it never happened. The important thing is, in some way, this will continue his legacy on giving back to the community and helping people."

Webster said it was his understanding that Dr. Bennett Omalu, the co-founder of the Brain Injury Research Institute, assisted with the autopsy as a professional courtesy, and the trip gave him the opportunity to speak with the family.

Medical examiner's spokeswoman Sarah Gordon said she couldn't comment beyond what her office released regarding the findings of the autopsy.

Officials at Boston University's Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy did not return calls from The Associated Press seeking comment Friday on whether researchers there had reached out to the Seau family. The Boston University center has analyzed the brains of dozens of former athletes, including that of former Chicago player Dave Duerson, who shot himself in the chest last year.

Duerson's family has filed a wrongful death suit against the NFL, claiming the league didn't do enough to prevent or treat concussions that severely damaged Duerson's brain before he died in in February 2011.

Another ex-player, former Atlanta Falcons safety Ray Easterling, who had joined in a concussion-related lawsuit against the league — one of dozens filed in the last year — shot himself last month at age 62. His wife has said he suffered from depression and dementia after taking years of hits.

Seau's ex-wife, Gina, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that he sustained concussions during his 20-year NFL career, during which he also played for Miami and New England.

City of Santa Monica

FOR SALE
Rare Vacant Oceanfront Property
1920 Ocean Way, Santa Monica, CA 90405

Request for Letters of Interest (RLOI)
Deadline: May 17, 2012

The City of Santa Monica is requesting Letters of Interest (LOIs) for the sale of a rare vacant oceanfront multi-family residential property located at 1920 Ocean Way. The 23,000 square foot property is zoned High Density Multiple Family Residential District (R4) and is within the Beach Overlay District. This surplus real property is owned by the City and is offered for sale in "as is" condition.

The RLOI can be obtained online at: www.smgov.net/housing

For additional questions contact:
Lisa Luboff, Housing Division, City of Santa Monica
Phone: 310-434-2651

MOVIE TIMES

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

Saturday, May 5
The Great Dictator (PG) 2hr 7min
The Producers (PG) 1hr 28min
Mel Brooks will introduce the double feature.
7:30pm

Sunday, May 6
You Natzy Spy (NR) 18min
Duck Soup (NR) 1hr 8min
Bananas (PG-13) 1hr 22min
5:00 pm

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

Marvel's The Avengers (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
11:15am, 2:30pm, 5:30pm, 6:00pm, 8:50pm, 9:20pm

21 Jump Street (R) 1hr 49min
10:45am, 2:45pm, 5:20pm, 7:55pm, 10:30pm

Little Bit of Heaven (PG-13) 1hr 47min
11:55am, 2:40pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

Titanic 3D (PG-13) 3hrs 14min
10:30am, 1:20pm

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

Chimpanzee (G) 1hr 18min
11:55am, 2:20pm, 4:45pm, 7:00pm

Cabin in the Woods (R) 1hr 35min
2:00pm, 4:40pm, 7:20pm, 10:00pm

Marvel's The Avengers (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
11:50am, 3:20pm, 6:40pm, 9:15pm, 10:00pm

Pirates! Band of Misfits (PG) 1hr 28min
1:30pm, 6:00pm, 10:40pm

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

Think Like a Man (PG-13) 2hrs 02min
10:45am, 1:40pm, 4:50pm, 7:50pm, 10:55pm

Five-Year Engagement (R) 2hrs 04min
10:50am, 1:50pm, 4:55pm, 8:00pm, 11:05pm

Marvel's The Avengers 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
10:40am, 1:00pm, 4:20pm, 7:40pm, 11:00pm

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

Restless City (R) 1hr 20min
11:00am

Perfect Family (PG-13) 1hr 24min
11:00am, 1:00pm, 3:10pm, 5:20pm, 7:40pm, 10:00pm

Damsels in Distress (PG-13) 1hr 38min
1:00pm, 10:00pm

In the Family (NR) 2hrs 49min
1:00pm, 4:50pm, 8:30pm

Citizen Gangster (NR) 1hr 45min
1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:10pm, 9:45pm

Highest Pass (NR) 1hr 30min
11:00am, 3:20pm, 5:35pm, 7:50pm

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

Hunger Games (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
11:30am, 3:00pm, 6:30pm, 10:00pm

Safe (R) 1hr 35min
11:55am, 2:40pm, 5:20pm, 7:50pm, 10:25pm

Raven (R) 1hr 43min
11:15am, 1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 11:00pm

Lucky One (PG-13) 1hr 41min
11:00am, 1:30pm, 2:30pm, 4:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Marvel's The Avengers 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
11:15am, 12:20pm, 3:50pm, 7:10pm, 7:50pm, 9:45pm, 10:30pm

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

Entertain at your place, Leo

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Relate directly to a loved one or child. You might take off together to hike or go to a flea market. Even if you choose your words with care, there is a serious chance of someone taking offense. If you say nothing, you still might get some attitude. Tonight: Togetherness feels great.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ The Full Moon highlights your relationships. You might be pushed to the max when dealing with others. Establish limits, but at the same time detach if possible. You might be crankier than you realize. Take a breather. Tonight: You're at your best around many friends.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Whether you have a spring project to do or are looking at a fun time of playing games, there is an intensity that runs through your day. How you see a personal matter will change as a result of events that take place today and in the near future. Tonight: Make sure your choice is relaxing.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★★ You might see a situation a lot differently if you permit greater fluidity and change. Be aware of a tendency right now to become a bit rigid. This attitude will not help a relationship -- or any interaction for that matter. Tonight: Squeeze in as much fun as possible.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Let go of rigidity, and honor a better sense of self. You might not want to go far or change what you are doing. Others might push and prod you to get a certain response. Discuss your feelings. Tonight: Entertain at your pad.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ Return calls and think carefully when putting plans together. You might not see a situation in the same way as someone who could make a big deal out of the same issue. Tonight: Yapping up a storm.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Curb a need to be possessive or have your way. The response you receive could be equal to your own initial implicit demand. Don't make a situation more difficult than need be. A miscommunication runs through a conversation, though it might not be seen immediately. Tonight: Your treat.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Others respond to your requests -- for now. You'll seize the moment, but you have no idea what the outcome will be. You might experience a lingering moment of self-doubt. That response could be a warning signal. Tonight: Others continue to be highly responsive.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Know when you are having an off day, and make it a point to kick back. A loved one has a strong reaction to the momentary you. Don't let words fly, or you both will regret it later. Tonight: Not to be found.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Friends encourage you to follow their footsteps regarding plans. Sometimes you need to let go and be fancy-free. This moment in time is a good example. Pressure from an older friend or relative might anger or frustrate you. Tonight: Do your thing.

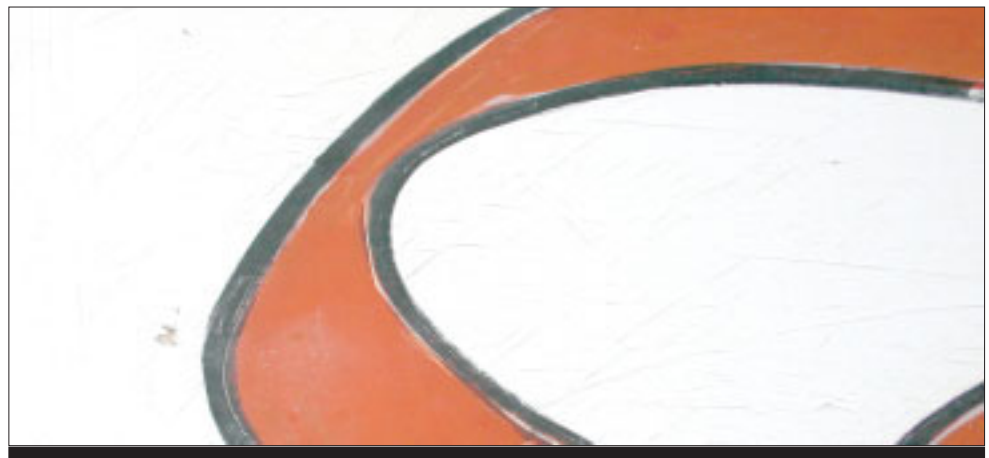
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Check in with an older relative or friend. He or she will appreciate all the attention. A natural rigidity seems to occur today. Let go of your judgments, especially one that colors a key situation. Tonight: Once more, you are leader of the gang.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Keep reaching out for someone at a distance. If you cannot meet halfway in the near future, plan a get-together as soon as possible. Tonight: Find great music. Invite others to join you.

Happy birthday

This year you discover how very full your life could be. You often are juggling many different concerns. Others clearly are drawn to you. If you are single, your charisma could be a problem, as you have too many potential suitors to choose from. You can handle it, though. If you are attached, make it OK for the two of you to pursue some interests separately. SCORPIO certainly knows how to present the other side.

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

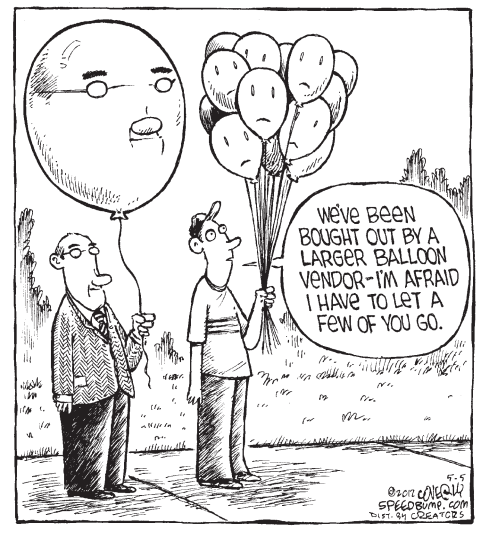


MYSTERY PHOTO

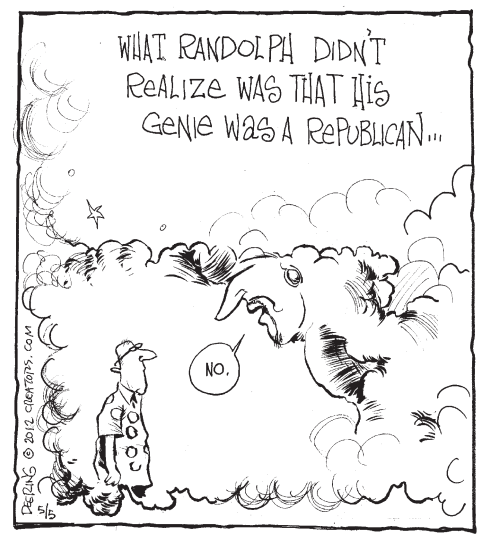
Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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

Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



Strange Brew
By John Deering



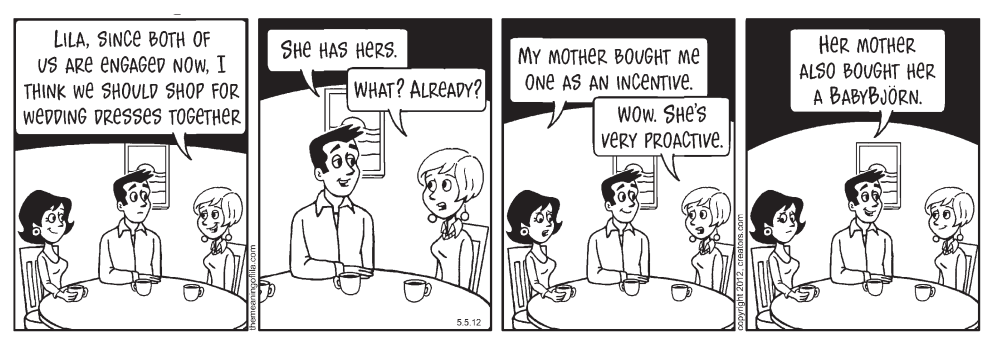
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



The Meaning of Lila
By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

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

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 On the agenda
7 Producer's nightmare
11 Exotic fruit
12 "Small-ville" role
13 Conjured up
14 Prayer end
15 Marion-ette movers
16 Squash, for one
17 Hardens
18 Flock leader
19 King of Norway
21 Gift from Santa
22 Big part of a grade
25 Immoral act
26 Lowly worker
27 Conforms
29 Hugh Grant film "About —"
33 Miles and Wang
34 Teatime treat
35 Avenue liners
36 Block-dropping game
37 Mob action
38 Right now
39 Ticked off
40 Low cards

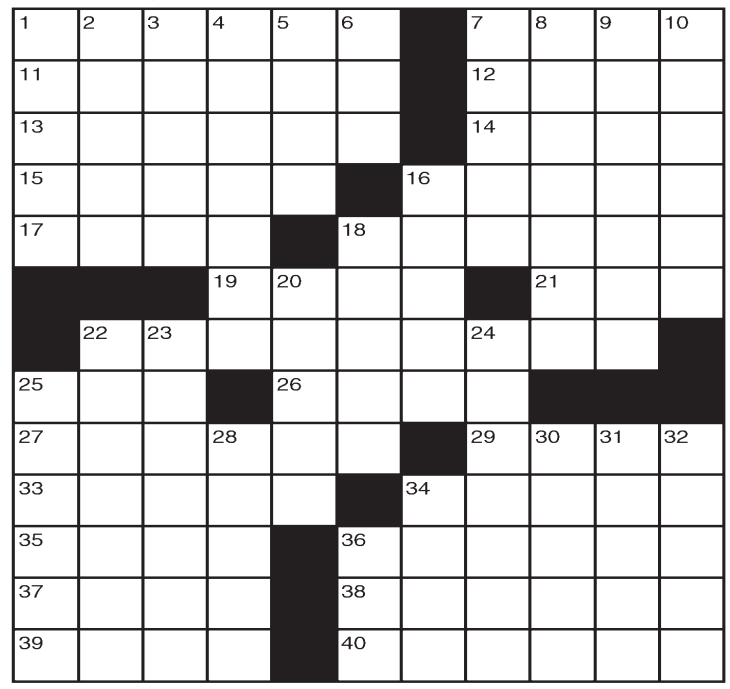
DOWN

1 Gushes forth
2 "C'est —!"
3 Left on a boat
4 Adopts
5 Peer group?
6 June honoree
7 Wing parts
8 "Raging Bull" subject
9 Like old schools
10 Kitchen adjunct
16 Cohort of Wallace
18 Loses color
20 Endures
22 Beetho-ven opera
23 Like many a knight
24 Hard-to-define influence
25 Thrifty folks
28 Fake gems
30 Carried
31 In reserve
32 Agreeable answers
34 Son of Adam
36 Skin art, for short

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

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



5-5

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

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

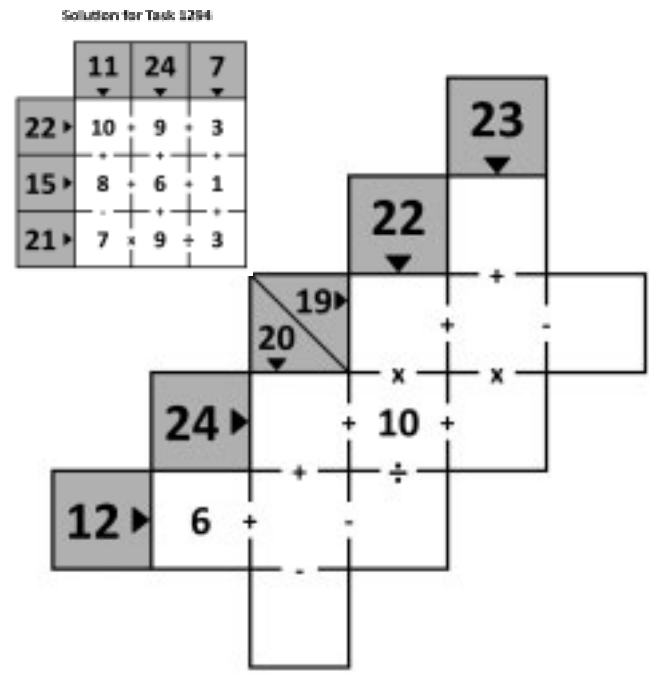
• Remember to multiply or divide before you add or subtract.

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

2, 2, 3, 3, 5, 10, 11, 11, 12

Solution for Task 1284





NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Condo developer Larry Hall is already one-quarter sold out of the upscale doomsday units he is building in an abandoned underground Cold War-era Atlas-F missile silo near Salina, Kan. He told an Agence France-Presse reporter in April that his 14-story structure would house seven floors of apartments ($1 million to $2 million each, cash up front), with the rest devoted to dry food storage, filtered-water tanks and an indoor farm, which would raise fish and vegetables to sustain residents for five years. The 9-foot-thick concrete walls (built to protect rockets from a Soviet nuclear attack) would be buttressed by entrance security to ward off the savages who were not wise enough to prepare against famine, meteors, nuclear war and the like. Hall said he expects to be sold out this year and begin work on another of the three silos he has options to buy.

■ Dan O'Leary, the city manager of Keller, Tex. (pop. 27,000), faced with severe budget problems, was unable to avoid the sad job of handing out pink slips. For instance, he determined that one of Keller's three city managers had to go, and in April, he laid himself off. According to a March Fort Worth Star-Telegram report, O'Leary neither intended to retire nor had other offers pending, and he had aroused no negative suspicions as to motive. He simply realized the city could be managed more cost-effectively by the two lower-paid officials.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1961 – The Mercury program: Mercury-Redstone 3 – Alan Shepard becomes the first American to travel into outer space, making a sub-orbital flight of 15 minutes.

1964 – The Council of Europe declares May 5 as Europe Day.

WORD UP!

fulcrum
\ FOOL-kruhm \ , noun;
1.
The support, or point of rest, on which a lever turns.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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Single Family Homes
From **ALL** agents in **ALL** companies
Listed for Sale As of Early May 2012

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North of Montana	=	$4,249,591
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$2,080,429
South of Wilshire	=	$956,625
Sunset Park	=	$1,242,444
Ocean Park	=	$2,164,000

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