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Santa Monica Daily Press
TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2013
Volume 12 Issue 158

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

NO MORE DRAMA
SEE PAGE 12

THE BACK TO NORMAL ISSUE

Council may join fight against big business

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor-in-Chief

CITY HALL Elected officials appear ready to back a nationwide movement to amend the U.S. Constitution so that corporations would not be afforded the same rights as people and therefore not be allowed to spend an unlimited amount of money on political campaigns.

In April, the City Council ordered its attorneys to draft a resolution in support of the Move To Amend Campaign, which aims to establish that money is not a form of protected speech under the First Amendment and that inalienable rights belong to human beings only, not big businesses or unions.

A resolution is ready for the council's adoption, which could come Tuesday night.

The campaign against "corporate personhood" gained momentum following the controversial 2010 U.S. Supreme Court decision in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission that rolled back limits on corporate campaign spending, essentially allowing businesses and unions to spend as much

SEE COUNCIL PAGE 7

City Hall to extend BBB deal with SMC

Editor's note: This story is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures appearing on upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agendas. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the City Council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past.

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor-in-Chief

CITY HALL More Santa Monica College students are taking advantage of the Big Blue Bus' "Any Line, Any Time" program created to cut traffic congestion, prompting the community college to increase the amount of money paid to City Hall to cover fares by 8 percent for a total of roughly $1.3 million per year.

The City Council Tuesday is expected to approve the agreement at its regularly scheduled meeting. It is one of a handful of items featured on the council's consent agenda, which includes a total of roughly $3.2 million in expenses.

The "Any Line" program, which was created in the fall of 2008 after it was learned that most of SMC's roughly 34,000 students and 1,700 employees commuted by car, has increased in popularity by 12 percent over the prior year for 1.78 million boardings as of February, according to a report by public transit officials.

Over the last year, City Hall and SMC have held discussions to come up with a reimbursement formula that is considered

SEE CONSENT PAGE 8



FUN IN THE SUN

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

Visitors play and surf in the waves at Malibu Beach on Monday afternoon. Temperatures reached the low 80s on Monday along the coast.

Trial to start in aspiring model's slaying

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

LOS ANGELES Five years after an aspiring young model and actress was strangled and beaten in her Santa Monica home, the woman accused of killing her is going on trial.

Jury selection began Monday in the trial of Kelly Soo Park.

Park has plead not guilty to killing 21-year-old Juliana Redding, who was slain in her apartment in 2008 while calling 911 for help.

Grand jury transcripts say DNA matching Park was found on Redding's skin, clothes and cellphone, and her fingerprints and DNA were found around the apartment. Park has been free on $3.5 million bail.

SEE TRIAL PAGE 9

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, May 14, 2013

Stories for babies
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
11 a.m. — 11:20 a.m.
Story series for babies ages 0-17 months accompanied by an adult. Call (310) 458-8681 for more information.

Puppet time
Ocean Park Library
2601 Main St.,
3:30 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.
Join Mr. Jesse and his gang of puppets for heartfelt stories and songs. Intended for children ages 3-7. For more information, call (310)458-8683.

Spreadsheet 101
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 4 p.m.
This introductory class will cover how to format cells and manipulate data to create simple spreadsheets. Seating is first come, first serve. Intermediate level. For more information, visit the reference desk or call (310) 434-2608.

City Council in action
City Hall
1685 Main St., 5:30 p.m.
The City Council will be discussing corporate involvement in political campaigns, the Colorado Esplanade design and preferential parking zones for residential streets. For more information, visit smgov.net.

Wednesday, May 15, 2013

Remember the trees
Third Street and Arizona Avenue
10 a.m.
Local activist group Treesavers will demonstrate five years after 23 Ficus trees were removed from Downtown amid controversy. More trees along Second and Fourth streets were marked for removal, but Treesavers rallied to help limit the number actually uprooted.

Book it
Montana Library
1704 Montana Ave., 7 p.m.
The Montana Avenue Branch Book Group will be discussing "The Whistling Season." In turn of the 20th century Montana, a young housekeeper and her eccentric brother leave a profound impact on the lives of a Big Sky widower and his three rugged sons. For more information, visit smpl.org.

Fanboys unite
Mi's Westside Comedy Theater
1323-A Third Street Promenade, 9 p.m.
Comedians re-write classic movies and TV shows to their liking. Featured performers have impressive credentials under their belts including "Parks and Recs" and "Big Trouble in Little China." For more information, call (310) 451-0850.

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

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

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



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DOWNTOWN

Marathoner named Woman of the Year

Santa Monican Julie Weiss, who recently achieved her goal of competing in 52 marathons in 52 weeks to raise awareness about pancreatic cancer, has been named Woman of the Year for the 28th Senate District.

State Sen. Ted Lieu (D-Santa Monica) made the announcement in celebration of National Women's History Month.

"As long as there are the likes of Julie Weiss in our midst, women who lead through hope and prove anything is possible, there is a true purpose for a Woman of the Year award," Lieu said. "By recognizing them, we give face to the unacknowledged they fight for."

Weiss qualified for Boston in December 2010, a month after her father, Maurice Weiss, died from pancreatic cancer.

The loss was devastating, and caused her to look more deeply into the mysterious illness that had taken the vivacious man who went through the world each day with a pocket trumpet and the humor to use it.

She didn't like what she found.

According to the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, pancreatic cancer is the 10th most commonly diagnosed cancer in the United States, but is the fourth leading cause of cancer death.

It's the only cancer that has a five-year survival rate in the single digits, which means fewer than 10 percent of patients diagnosed with pancreatic cancer are expected to live another five years. Many, like Weiss' father, die within months of diagnosis.

"My marathon schedule was nothing compared to what people with pancreatic cancer face every day," Weiss said. "I was motivated to keep going and turn my efforts into something much bigger than myself. As the process unfolded, I found I could push through barriers and limitations I never thought possible."

Weiss finished her goal at the Los Angeles Marathon in March. In all, she ran 1,362.4 miles. She also raised nearly $200,000 for the Manhattan Beach-based Pancreatic Cancer Action Network.

Learn more at her website, www.marathongoddess.com.

Lieu plans to honor Weiss Sunday, May 19 following the PurpleStride Los Angeles 5K run and walk at Exposition Park in Los Angeles.

– DAILY PRESS

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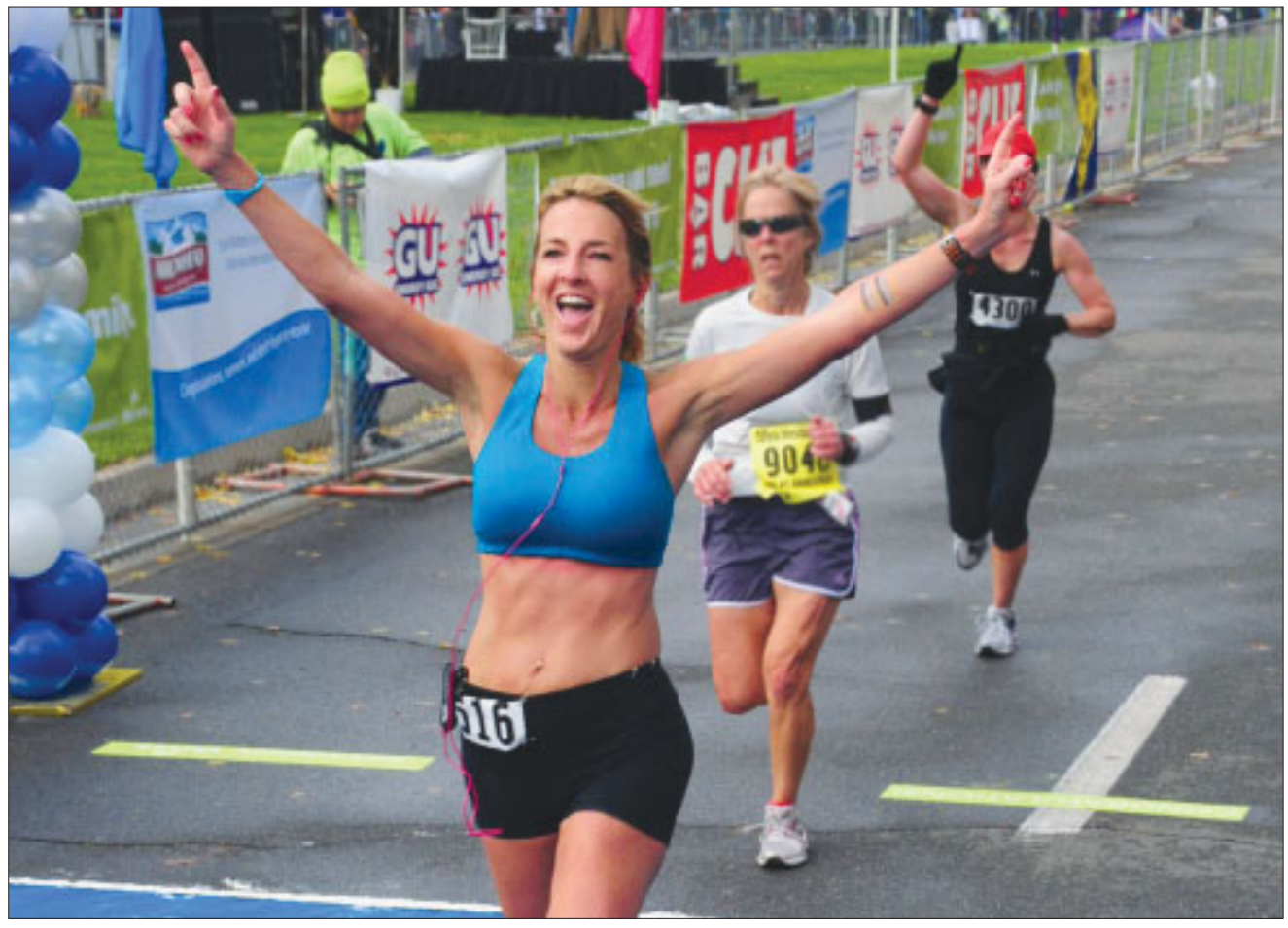
Property room closed

Looking to reclaim a stolen bicycle or other property? Well, you'll have to wait a few more days.

The Santa Monica Police Department has to close the doors to its property room for at least two days this week for administrative purposes, officials said.

The closure starts today, Tuesday, May 14. On May 15 the room will be open for a limited time – from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. – before closing again on Thursday. Regular hours resume Friday at 8 a.m.

– DP



JULIE WEISS

Democrats at odds over California budget surplus

JUDY LIN
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. California is enjoying a revenue surplus for a change. Gov. Jerry Brown is reaping the benefits of an economic turn-around and higher taxes as he prepares to release his update Tuesday for the coming fiscal year's budget.

The stock market is surging, home prices are up and the unemployment rate is down, contributing to a revenue surge of $4.5 billion more than expected from personal income taxes.

But the Democratic governor, who has pledged to maintain fiscal restraint and build a cash reserve, faces pent-up pressure from members of his own party. Democratic lawmakers want to spend the additional revenue to make up for years of budget cuts to programs serving women, children and the poor.

Assembly Speaker John Perez, D-Los Angeles, announced his fiscal priorities last week and said he wants increased spending on child care services for the poor and college assistance for middle-class families.

"This is about responsibility. It's not about walking away from our obligations," he said.

Other Democrats are pushing to restore a wide array of safety-net programs that were eliminated or reduced during the recession, including adult dental care for the poor and mental health care. Doctors, hospitals and other health providers want the state to end a 10 percent Medi-Cal reimbursement rate cut. And children's and health advocates are pushing to restore health care services, if not expanded to all Californians.

"He's going to be fighting his own Democrat Legislature because there's so much pent-up desire to spend," said Senate Minority Leader Bob Huff, R-Diamond Bar.

Brown included additional revenue from Proposition 30, the tax initiative approved by voters last fall, in the $97.6 billion general fund budget he announced in January for the fiscal year that starts July 1. Since then, personal income taxes, which are the state's largest source of revenue, have come in ahead of the administration's estimates.

Those collections exceeded projections by nearly $5 billion for the month of January alone.

In all likelihood, education is expected to take the largest share of that extra money under the state's funding formula, said H.D. Palmer, the governor's finance spokesman. Brown also is reluctant to commit to restoring services because the spike in personal income tax revenue may be the result of early withholdings, a one-time phenomenon.

"We have seen what happens, if you go back to the dot-com era, when the state takes one-time revenue and increases ongoing spending," Palmer said. "We don't want to see that movie again. It doesn't have a good ending."

Brown is taking advantage of the surplus to push for a

SEE **BUDGET** PAGE 9

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Make a little space

Editor:

Dear City Council,

Tuesday night, you are being asked to approve a development agreement which, in a negligible way, addresses the planning staff's emphasis on "walkability" or LUCE's buzzword phrases "green connections" and "ground level open space."

A three-foot sidewalk extension covered by the overhanging building above is just another project where asphalt streets and cars abut concrete curbs and sidewalks which in turn butt up against four- and five-story retail and residential facadomy which is so familiar and deadening already on Fifth Street between Santa Monica Boulevard and Broadway along with many other areas in the city.

A simple, easy solution is requiring an average 10-foot sidewalk setback open to the sky for all developments. This square foot area could be linear, square, or triangular and would be a simple and easy requirement in the revised zoning ordinance for the downtown area. Besides being simple and easy, it is a win-win for the developer and the community – useful for outdoor restaurants or galleries, enabling corner windows, openness and privacy for residential units above. This area can be either a "public parklet" with benches or if the developer prefers a "private landscaped entrance," but in any event should be considered a required setback rather than a community benefit.

If the developer prefers, alternatives could be an arcade connecting streets mid-block while providing "walkability" for the public and for the developer more window exposure for retail and apartments. Or alternatively, the developer could opt for a side yard setback above the ground floor retail which again would provide light and open space for residential or offices above while giving scale and character to each building. This would avoid structures abutting one another cheek and jowl and provide a distinctive look to the downtown environment.

Start with the DA you're reviewing tonight and simply require meaningful sidewalk setbacks for all developments for the benefit of both the developer and the community.

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What's the Point?

David Pisarra — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Blogging and dogging it

THE POWER OF THE INTERNET TO DO GOOD is astonishing.

Its power to expose a good or bad story is immense. We've all seen the Internet used in tasteless personal ways, such as the well-trod sex tape to fame path. I've been thinking about the Internet a great deal this month as I prepare for my speaking engagement next weekend at BlogPaws — the pet bloggers conference (www.blogpaws.com).

This conference is where people who write about pets and the people who love them gather to learn the latest about social media, marketing and to reconnect with old friends.

I'm headed to Tysons Corner, Va., to present my speech, "How to Write and Publish a Book in 90 Days." It's based on my experiences as a divorce lawyer writing and publishing "What About Wally? How to Co-Parent a Pet With An Ex." This is my third year in attendance and first as a speaker. I'm looking forward to catching up with friends again this year. Pet bloggers are an interesting and fun group of people.

There's the usual cat ladies, and bird men. They write the traditional stories of what their pets are going through on a daily basis, and add in tips on care and enjoyment of the tabbies and titmice. The Tripod Team is also there — three-legged dogs that are an inspiration to all.

The capybara is an unusual but intriguing pet that will be honored. Essentially it is a giant guinea pig. Weighing in between 75 to 150 pounds and standing about 2 feet tall, it is the world's largest rodent, and yes it has its fans as a semi-domesticated pet.

Ferret folk are lovers of the little creatures. Frequently they run around on leashes and are a sure hit amongst the young at heart in attendance.

There are filmmakers like Kenn Bell who does dog-based documentaries for his website, www.TheDogFiles.com. He's an amazing filmmaker and if you can take a few minutes and watch his movies I bet you'll at least tear up on "A Few Good Dogs" — his documentary on military dogs and the soldiers who train and love them. Bell also created a short called "Pit Proud: The History of the Pit Bull." It was such an amazing short that it is being turned into a feature length movie.

My writing partner, Steven May, will be speaking on taking your blog from "0 to 200,000 in the speed of a click."

For the past nine months, I've been watching the Internet be used for the good of an animal, a dachshund named Obie. He came to the public eye in August of 2012 as a 77 pound dachshund. His story is one of too much love and not enough exercise. His caretakers were elderly and they couldn't exercise him enough, but they could feed him. It's a sad story with a very happy ending.

Nora Vanatta took over the care and exercising of Obie and has done an amazing job of not just caring for him, but telling his story on the Internet by way of updates on his Facebook page, Biggest Loser Doxie Edition. His website is obiedog.com and he has become an international sensation and is putting a face on the epidemic of pet obesity.

As a co-parent of a doted-on dachshund, I've truly enjoyed watching the progress of Obie as he has slimmed down. He recently underwent skin reduction surgery (a first I believe in the veterinary world) to remove 2.5 pounds of excess skin and fat. Obie is now looking a lot more like a traditional dachshund. Vanatta has used the Internet to raise funds and awareness and she deserves to be recognized for the good work she has done.

The Internet has a lot of silly trash on it, but it does serve a great purpose. It brings people together both literally as a raison d'etre for conferences like BlogPaws, and figuratively for those of us who support efforts like Vanatta's on changing the life of Obie. It's a window into someone else's life — oftentimes for good, and occasionally to turn our stomachs.

DAVID PISARRA is a Los Angeles divorce and child custody lawyer specializing in father's and men's rights with the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or (310) 664-9969. You can follow him on Twitter @davidpisarra.



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

19,000 daily circulation, 46,450 daily readership. Circulation is audited and verified by Circulation Verification Council, 2013. Serving the City of Santa Monica, and the communities of Venice Beach, Brentwood, West LA. Members of CNPA, AFCP, CVC, Associated Press, IFPA, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce.

PUBLISHED BY NEWLON ROUGE, LLC
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California fails to screen substance abuse counselors

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. The investigative arm of the state Senate reported Monday that it found nearly two dozen registered sex offenders serving as substance abuse counselors in California, which lacks procedures to screen them out.

California and Pennsylvania are the only ones among the nation's 15 most populous states that conduct no criminal background checks on drug and alcohol counselors, the Senate Office of Oversight and Outcomes said in a report. The other states check counselors' fingerprints against criminal records or require applicants to report their own backgrounds, with penalties if they lie.

The oversight office found 23 registered sex offenders when it cross-checked the state's sex offender registry against a sampling of counselors with unusual names. The actual number of sex offenders among the state's 36,000 registered or certified substance abuse counselors "is undoubtedly much higher," the report said.

A bill that would have required licensing and background checks died in the Legislature in 2010. The oversight office recommended that state lawmakers try again to put a state agency in charge of credentialing counselors or require that the current certifying organizations do a better job.

The report cites the case of a Los Angeles County man who spent time in prison for molesting two girls, ages 12 and 15, then became a counselor in a profession where the most frequent complaint by clients is sexual misconduct. Shortly after becoming a drug counselor, he was convicted of drug possession, but he continued counseling drug addicts after he was released from prison.

The problem is not limited to sex offenders. The report also cites a Santa Rosa woman who had four theft convictions before she became a counselor. She then stole $55,000 from a client.

To start working as a counselor, an applicant currently must register with one of seven private organizations. The counselor then has five years to participate in enough training and education programs to become certified.

However, the researchers found some counselors kept treating clients after their credentials were revoked, while others ignored education and training requirements. Dozens of counselors simply re-registered with another organization and kept working.

Moreover, California has no system to weed out counselors who are convicted of crimes after they have started working.

Several counselors had drunken driving or drug convictions while they were treating clients, while one was required to attend a class offered by the same organization where he worked as a counselor.

The researchers also found that health care workers who lost their licenses for misconduct were allowed to work as counselors.

David Peters, director of external affairs for the California Association of Addiction Recovery Resources, generally supported the report's findings and recommendations. His organization runs the Board of Certification of Addiction Specialists, one of the seven groups that certify counselors.

Many of the report's recommendations were in the 2010 bill by Sen. Mark DeSaulnier, D-Concord, that died in the Assembly because of disagreements among professional organizations with a stake in the outcome, Peters said.

DeSaulnier's spokesman, Sam Mahood, said the senator would like to try again, "and this report underscores the need for that."

Peters said background checks should be required, but he cautioned against excluding counselors simply because they were convicted of certain crimes long ago.

Many counselors are drawn to the field because they are themselves in recovery, said both Peters and the Senate report.

"They make great counselors. They relate to people who've been there and done that," Peters said. "They paid their debt to society, they got through rehab ... and are abstinent from drugs and alcohol and want to give back. You don't want to rule those folks out."

His organization has supported previous legislation that would impose a lifetime ban on convicted sex offenders but would allow others to serve after a period of time has passed.

The Q Line

Cash from overseas

The Santa Monica Convention & Visitors Bureau held its fourth annual Travel and Tourism Summit last week during which they released figures that showed tourists and the hotels they stay in pumped $1.5 billion into the local economy in 2012. Of that, $48.8 million went directly into City Hall's General Fund, which supports basic city services.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
A handful of hotels are being planned for Downtown, but some residents are working to put a stop to them because they see any form of development a danger to their quality of life. Where do you stand? Should we allow more hotels to be built in the city by the sea?

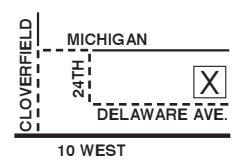
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ANTHONY MCCARTNEY
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES An associate choreographer who worked on Michael Jackson's planned comeback concerts testified Monday that she didn't see any signs that the pop superstar was ill or might die in the final days of his life.

"I just never in a million years thought he would leave us, or pass away," Stacy Walker told jurors hearing a lawsuit filed by Jackson's mother against concert promoter AEG Live LLC. "It just never crossed my mind."

Walker, who is testifying for AEG, said Jackson appeared thinner than he had been in previous years and wore multiple layers of clothes while rehearing for his "This Is It" shows planned for London's O2 arena. She said despite Jackson missing multiple rehearsals, she was convinced based on his performances the last two days of his life that he was ready for the series of shows.

Previous witnesses have testified that Jackson was shivering, had to be fed by others and appeared unprepared.

Walker said she never saw any of that behavior, although she acknowledged that her job was to work with other dancers and not Jackson directly.

"I wasn't looking for things at the time," she said. "I wish I was."

She said she attributed Jackson's multilayered wardrobe to a personal preference. She said she recalled one incident in which Jackson may have appeared groggy or drugged, but she said she couldn't remember whether she witnessed or heard about it from others on the show.

Walker was the first witness called by AEG in a trial filed by Jackson's mother, Katherine, against the concert promoter. Her suit claims AEG didn't properly investigate the doctor convicted of involuntary manslaughter in Jackson's death and that its executives missed signs that the singer was unprepared for the "This Is It" shows.

AEG denies all wrongdoing, and contends Jackson hid his struggles with prescription drug addiction. Jackson died in June 2009 from an overdose of the anesthetic propofol, which he had been using as a sleep aid.

A medical examiner who conducted Jackson's autopsy testified Tuesday that Jackson was not underweight when he died and appeared to be in excellent health.

Despite testimony from some witnesses that Jackson appeared emaciated, Dr. Christopher Rogers said the singer did not bear the signs of someone who was starving when he died.

Walker, who worked with Jackson on three projects beginning in 1996, was called to the witness stand Monday because she is slated to leave the country for work. The trial is expected to last several more weeks.

AEG is also calling choreographer Travis Payne, who worked with Jackson directly in preparation for the "This Is It" shows, as a witness. Tour director Kenny Ortega is also expected to testify.

Jurors last week heard from a dancer and also Jackson's longtime makeup artist, who testified that the singer appeared thin and at times unprepared for the concert tour. Another dancer, Alif Sankey, told the panel she expressed concerns that Jackson might die and sent an email about his appearance to Ortega.

Emails presented during the trial so far have shown Ortega expressed concerns about Jackson's physical and mental wellbeing to AEG executives.

Dad wants evidence in girl's stabbing death

HAVEN DALEY
TRACIE CONE
Associated Press

VALLEY SPRINGS, Calif. The father of a 12-year-old boy accused of fatally stabbing his 8-year-old sister said Monday he believes his son is innocent until he is shown evidence that proves otherwise.

Barney Fowler told The Associated Press that the family is standing behind the boy, who was arrested Saturday after a crime that terrified this Central California foothill community.

"Until they have the proper evidence to show it's my son, we're standing behind him," Fowler said. "If they have the evidence, well that's another story. We're an honest family."

The boy told investigators that on April 27, he encountered a random attacker in the family home. He described the man as being tall with long gray hair. The boy said the man fled and he found his sister, Leila Fowler, bleeding.

Residents of this rural community began locking their doors and calling authorities when they thought they saw men who fit the description of the supposed killer.

They also held fundraisers for the Fowler family and turned out by the thousands for a candlelight vigil in Leila's honor.

"We're thankful to the community and all they've done for my daughter," Barney Fowler said.

He echoed comments made earlier Monday by his son, Justin Fowler, 19, who told the AP that the family was in shock and extremely sad about the boy's arrest.

"We're just in a fog," Justin Fowler said.

Leila's death set off an intense manhunt in the rural community where some residents had moved to escape big city crime. The Calaveras County Sheriff's Office spent more than 2,000 man-hours amassing evidence and searching door-to-door.

Justin Fowler said the family was having a hard time coping with what is now a double tragedy.

COUNCIL
FROM PAGE 1

money as they wanted on political campaigns as long as they did not coordinate their efforts with candidates or their campaign staff. The court ruled in a 5-4 decision that funding campaign advertising amounted to free speech.

Opponents, including members of the Santa Monica City Council, argued that since corporations and unions have millions, sometimes billions, to spend that they had an unfair advantage. Rallies were held across the country on May 10 calling for an amendment to prohibit corporate contributions to campaigns.

The council in March of last year voted to adopt a resolution in support of that effort and is prepared to approve a revised version.

"We are a society and a nation built on the premise of inalienable rights for all human beings," said Councilmember Kevin McKeown. "The extension of those rights to non-human economic entities has led to environmental injustice and a distortion of our democracy. Corporations are not people, and the legal fiction that they should enjoy inherent rights beyond that for which they are chartered and contracted must end. All those rights are properly invested in and retained by the real life human beings who own corporations, but not by the corporations themselves."

While supporters of Move To Amend are against corporate personhood, they are in favor of allowing corporations to continue to enter into contracts, sue and be sued.

That said, those opposed to Move To Amend say their effort is too broad and would strip corporations, nonprofits, even media outlets like the Daily Press, of their rights to free speech. Corporations would lose the ability to protect their property from unreasonable search and seizure without just compensation.

"How can the city achieve and maintain its goal to be 'business friendly' or promote economic growth if, at the same time, it is encouraging the adoption of a constitutional amendment denying business owners basic constitutional rights," wrote local land-use attorney Tom Larmore in a letter to the council urging them to rethink their stance and focus solely on corporations' role in the political process.

"I realize that this is little more than a symbolic vote, but those votes mean something and a support of [Move To Amend's] proposal would send a very unfortunate signal to existing local businesses and those considering a move to Santa Monica, as well as to charitable and religious organizations," added Larmore, who served as the chair of the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce in 2007-08.

An amendment to the Constitution has to be proposed either by a two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress, or else by a constitutional convention convened when the legislatures of two-thirds of the states so request. The amendment has to be ratified either by the legislatures of three-fourths of the states, or by conventions in three-fourths of the states, depending on which means of ratification Congress proposes.

An Associated Press-National Constitution Center poll found that 83 percent believe there should be at least some limits on the amount of money corporations, unions and other organizations are permitted to contribute to groups seeking to influence the outcome of presidential and congressional races.

Santa Monica has a strict campaign contribution limit for City Council races, placing a cap of $325 per donor. City Hall also provides about $14,000 in taxpayer-funded support to candidates in the form of video production and TV airtime, according to a city staff report from 2011.

The City Council in March also approved the Sustainability Bill of Rights, which asserts that corporations and their leadership do not have special privileges or powers under the law that supersede the community's rights. The act was intended to enshrine the rights of the environment and residents' rights to clean air and water. It emerged following the Citizens United decision.

RE-THINKING PROP. 13

The council Tuesday will also consider supporting property tax reform that would require commercial properties to be reassessed regularly, while maintaining property owners' protections under Proposition 13.

The L.A. Times recently reported that billionaire computer magnate Michael Dell saved about $1 million a year in property taxes by exploiting a loophole in Prop. 13 when he purchased the Fairmont Miramar Hotel in Santa Monica for a reported $200 million. Dell brought on his wife and two of his investment advisors as partners. With no one taking more than 49 percent control of the hotel, the sale was not considered a change in ownership and therefore it has continued to be taxed based on the 1999 property value of $86 million, the Times reported.

Los Angeles County assessors have filed a lawsuit against Dell.

There are those who would like to amend Prop. 13, an initiative passed in 1978, so that the loophole Dell used is closed, but homeowners are still protected from significant increases in their property taxes from year to year.

Voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 13 out of a concern that homeowners, particularly the elderly, would be forced from their houses by rising tax bills during a real estate boom. The law ensured that property taxes were pegged at 1 percent of purchase price, assessed value could rise no more than 2 percent per year, and property was reassessed to full market value only when sold.

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CONSENT
FROM PAGE 1

fair to all involved, hence the increase of $97,560 over last year to reflect the jump in ridership.

The formula is based on an average fare, which is calculated by assuming that half of the SMC riders would be under 21 and eligible for a reduced fare of 50 cents while the other half would be charged a regular fare of 75 cents. (The formula was adopted before the City Council voted to increase fares.) That came out to 65 cents a ride. Officials multiplied that by 1,951,168, which equaled the number of passengers seen boarding and exiting at bus stops adjacent to SMC in the spring of 2007.

It's not an exact science and officials from the Big Blue Bus and SMC are currently discussing how they are going to get students to use a new fare collection system that involves smart cards. By getting all students, staff and faculty at SMC to switch to the smart cards, the bus company can track exactly who is using the bus and at what times to provide more accurate information on ridership patterns and potentially do away with having to use actual cash, which could speed up the boarding process, according to a city staff report.

With more accurate figures, the current reimbursement rate of $1,317,040 per year for "Any Line" will most likely change in the future to reflect real ridership.

Only SMC students with a valid student ID card can take advantage of the program, which is partially paid for by student fees.

TAKING IT TO THE STREETS

Filling potholes and making sure streets are clean are some of the most basic services a municipality can provide, which is why the council is being asked to approve two contracts worth $2,658,890 for the repaving of streets and the repairing of sidewalks.

The bulk of the money is for a contract with Toro Enterprises, Inc., a California-based company that has agreed to repave streets, help with the creation of more bike lanes and fix sidewalks damaged by tree roots, all for $2,404,836. Civil Source, Inc., also a California company, will be paid $254,054 to make sure notices are sent to business owners and residents before the work begins so they aren't alarmed by the sound of heavy equipment.

Street paving would occur mainly north of Montana Avenue and east of 17th Street, according to a city staff report. Sidewalk repair is expected to be concentrated in the North of Montana Avenue neighborhood as well.

Toro, which is located in Oxnard, Calif., has worked on similar projects in Simi Valley, Burbank, Thousand Oaks and other nearby cities. City officials said their work was completed in a "timely and cost-efficient manner while maintaining consistent quality."

City officials said that for any construction work requiring temporary closures or detours on major roads "highly visible" electronic messaging boards would be placed in high traffic areas one week prior to the planned work so people can plan their commutes accordingly.

The project is expected to be paid for using General Fund money, as well as grants, and parcel, wastewater, gas and other tax revenues.

ON TWO WHEELS

Hollister Honda is in line to win a contract for $234,433 in exchange for nine motorcycles to be used by the Santa Monica Police Department.

City officials are asking the council to approve the contract with Hollister since it offered the lowest price and the shortest delivery window out of the two companies that qualified for the bid. City Hall has worked with Hollister before, purchasing two multi-purpose vehicles from them for the SMPD.

KEEPING TRACK

To pay for those street improvements and motorcycles, the council needs cash. One of the ways it fills the coffers is through business license taxes and taxes on parking.

The council is being asked to approve a two-year contract with MuniServices, a California company, for $221,262 to conduct audits and make sure City Hall is getting all that it is due. MuniServices would audit 89 parking facilities and a specific number of companies identified by city officials as potentially underreporting their gross receipts.

City Hall levies a 10 percent tax on private and public parking fees collected, which generates approximately $9.3 million annually, $6.2 million of which comes from private parking facilities. Business license taxes, which are due on June 30 each year and are calculated using gross receipts, accounted for $26.3 million last fiscal year.

With all those numbers there's always the possibility for human error or fraud, hence the need for audits.

SEE SPENDING PAGE 9



File photo

HOPPING ON BOARD: **Santa Monica College students line up to board a Big Blue Bus last year.**



SPENDING
FROM PAGE 8

COSTS KEEP CLIMBING

It turns out that building a playground that all kids can have fun with is costing more than initially anticipated.

City officials are asking for an additional $102,762 to pay Micon Construction, Inc. to build Santa Monica's first "universally accessible playground," which will be located off Barnard Way at Santa Monica State Beach. If approved, the influx of cash would result in a new construction contract totaling $1,101,243.

Construction on the playground began in October of last year, and it is expected to be completed in late June, 2013.

After Micon was hired, changes were made to the scope of work, which increased the cost, city officials said. Some of those changes included redesigning the entranceway, ramp and gate, including more slip-resistant concrete sidewalks and more soil removal. Also, some old concrete footings, wooden piles and steel structures were discovered while digging.

City officials also want to add some more amenities for the kids, including "Chitter Chatter Talk Tubes," and a "Wake Rider."

BACK AGAIN

City officials are going back out to bid for three new vehicles for the Animal Control Unit and a contract for vehicle filters and miscellaneous parts. City officials want to look at different model vehicles for the Animal Control Unit, as needs have changed, and get a better estimate on prices for all kinds of spare parts, not just a limited sample.

PART OF THE PROCESS

And last, but not least, the council is being asked to spend $45,000 with Buerge Ford, Inc. for spare parts. It's a three-year contract worth $135,000, but elected officials are only being asked to approve the first year on Tuesday night.

City Hall has 306 Ford vehicles in its fleet and needs the parts to keep them moving. Buerge Ford was the lowest bidder and is located just 2 miles from City Hall's auto-repair shop, according to a city staff report.

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TRIAL
FROM PAGE 1

Prosecutors say Park killed Redding when a wealthy doctor sent her to "intimidate" the young woman. Redding's father and the doctor, Munir Uwaydah, had reportedly planned to go into business together, but Redding's father backed out of the deal out of concern that Uwaydah's business was not operating legally.

Park was "dispatched" by Uwaydah to "confront and intimidate" the younger Redding on March 15, 2008, according to court documents, the date police said she was murdered.

According to court documents cited by the Los Angeles Times, Park officially worked as Uwaydah's real estate broker and financial assistant but was paid hundreds of thousands of dollars to also serve as an enforcer for the well-heeled doctor.

Defense attorneys are trying to pin the murder on one of Redding's former boyfriends, who police said was cleared as a suspect.

Court documents last year said Uwaydah fled the U.S. shortly after Park was arrested in 2010 and has since been living in Lebanon.

Uwaydah has not been charged with a crime. A court motion filed last year specifies that prosecutors are "not seeking to prove that [Park] murdered Ms. Redding at the direction of Dr. Uwaydah," only that he instructed Park to intimidate and threaten the young actress.

Redding, who moved to Santa Monica from Arizona, had a role in a small 2005 movie, and appeared in Maxim magazine.

Jury selection is expected to continue for several days.

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The Associated Press contributed to this report.

BUDGET
FROM PAGE 3

new K-12 funding formula that would channel additional money to schools with high levels of low-income and non-English speaking children. He also wants to give school districts more control of the money they receive from the state.

But the governor is running into resistance from lawmakers who represent more affluent areas that would not gain as much under his plan. Democrats in the state Senate are proposing an alternative that does not include extra money for school districts where more than half of students are low-income.

Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento, said he supports more money for children from low-income families but believes the money should follow the child — even if he or she lives in an affluent community.

Brown acknowledged last week he has more negotiating to do on his education funding change.

"There's give-and-take here; we don't issue dictates," the governor said. "But the idea of putting money where the kids have the biggest challenge in the schools or districts that have the biggest challenge because of the concentration, that's the core idea."

Another task Brown and state lawmakers have to complete is expanding the state's Medicaid program to some 1.4 million low-income residents as part of California's efforts to get ready for the Affordable Care Act, which takes full effect next year.

Democrats, who control the Assembly and Senate, disagree on details of the enrollment and implementation process while Brown is pushing for savings by reducing county support for indigent care. Democratic lawmakers and health advocates fear that even a short delay will cost California hundreds of millions of dollars in federal support.

"We want to proceed cautiously, and we don't want to bite off any more than we have to chew," Brown said last week.

He has pledged to hold the line on spending and build a rainy day fund. His administration has proposed winnowing the state's estimated $27.8 billion short-term debt to $4 billion over the next four years.

Republicans say the governor is not as fiscally restrained as he seems.

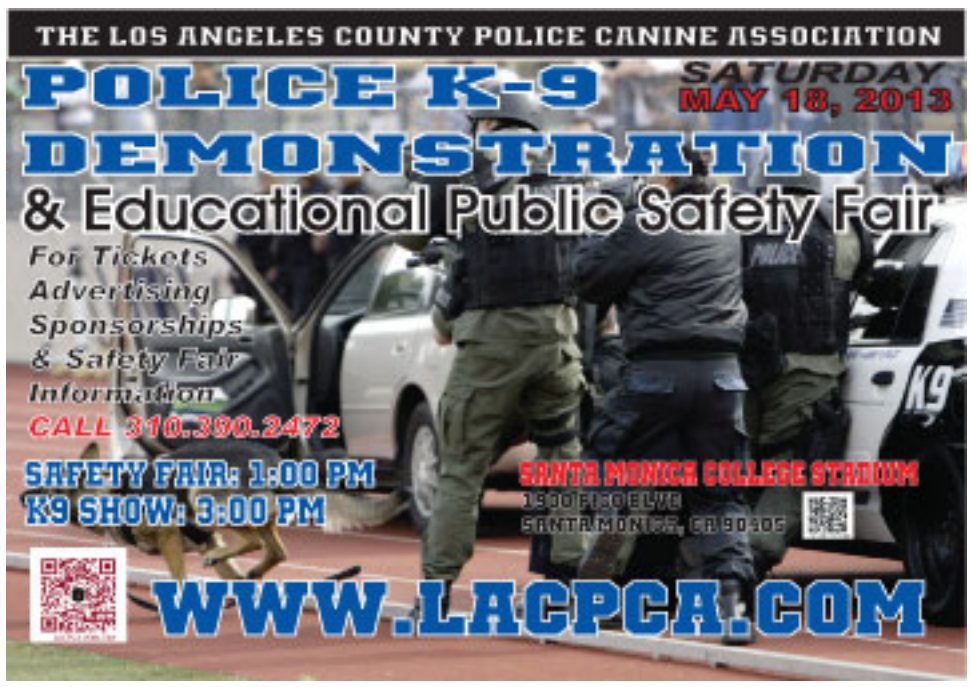
They have been sidelined from budget talks since voters approved a rule change in 2010 that allows the Legislature to pass a budget by simple majority vote, rather than a two-thirds supermajority.













Justice Department obtains wide AP phone records

MARK SHERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON The Justice Department secretly obtained two months of telephone records of reporters and editors for The Associated Press in what the news cooperative's top executive called a "massive and unprecedented intrusion" into how news organizations gather the news.

The records obtained by the Justice Department listed incoming and outgoing calls, and the duration of each call, for the work and personal phone numbers of individual reporters, general AP office numbers in New York, Washington and Hartford, Conn., and the main number for AP reporters in the House of Representatives press gallery, according to attorneys for the AP.

In all, the government seized those records for more than 20 separate telephone lines assigned to AP and its journalists in April and May of 2012. The exact number of journalists who used the phone lines during that period is unknown but more than 100 journalists work in the offices whose phone records were targeted on a wide array of stories about government and other matters.

In a letter of protest sent to Attorney General Eric Holder on Monday, AP President and Chief Executive Officer Gary Pruitt said the government sought and obtained information far beyond anything that could be justified by any specific investigation. He demanded the return of the phone records and destruction of all copies.

"There can be no possible justification for such an overbroad collection of the telephone communications of The Associated Press and its reporters. These records potentially reveal communications with confidential sources across all of the newsgathering activities undertaken by the AP during a two-month period, provide a road map to AP's newsgathering operations, and disclose information about AP's activities and operations that the government has no conceivable right to know," Pruitt said.

The government would not say why it sought the records. U.S. officials have previously said in public testimony that the U.S. attorney in Washington is conducting a criminal investigation into who may have leaked information contained in a May 7, 2012, AP story about a foiled terror plot. The story disclosed details of a CIA operation in Yemen that stopped an al-Qaida plot in the spring of 2012 to detonate a bomb on an airplane bound for the United States.

In testimony in February, CIA Director John Brennan noted that the FBI had questioned him about whether he was AP's source, which he denied. He called the release of the information to the media about the terror plot an "unauthorized and dangerous disclosure of classified information."

Prosecutors have sought phone records from reporters before, but the seizure of records from such a wide array of AP offices, including general AP switchboards numbers and an office-wide shared fax line, is unusual and largely unprecedented.

In the letter notifying the AP received Friday, the Justice Department offered no explanation for the seizure, according to Pruitt's letter and attorneys for the AP. The records were presumably obtained from phone companies earlier this year although the government letter did not explain that. None of the information provided by the government to the AP suggested the actual phone conversations were monitored.

Among those whose phone numbers were obtained were five reporters and an editor who were involved in the May 7, 2012 story.

The Obama administration has aggressively investigated disclosures of classified information to the media and has brought six cases against people suspected of leaking classified information, more than under all previous presidents combined.

Justice Department published rules require that subpoenas of records from news organizations must be personally approved by the attorney general but it was not known if that happened in this case. The letter notifying AP that its phone records had been obtained though subpoenas was sent Friday by Ronald Machen, the U.S. attorney in Washington.

Spokesmen in Machen's office and at the Justice Department had no immediate comment on Monday.

The Justice Department lays out strict rules for efforts to get phone records from news organizations. A subpoena can only be considered after "all reasonable attempts" have been made to get the same information from other sources, the rules say. It was unclear what other steps, in total, the Justice Department has taken to get information in the case.

A subpoena to the media must be "as narrowly drawn as possible" and "should be directed at relevant information regarding a limited subject matter and should cover a reasonably limited time period," according to the rules.

The reason for these constraints, the department says, is to avoid actions that "might impair the news gathering function" because the government recognizes that "freedom of the press can be no broader than the freedom of reporters to investigate and report the news."

News organizations normally are notified in advance that the government wants phone records and enter into negotiations over the desired information. In this case, however, the government, in its letter to the AP, cited an exemption to those rules that holds that prior notification can be waived if such notice, in the exemption's wording, might "pose a substantial threat to the integrity of the investigation."

It is unknown whether a judge or a grand jury signed off on the subpoenas.

The May 7, 2012, AP story that disclosed details of the CIA operation in Yemen to stop an airliner bomb plot occurred around the one-year anniversary of the May 2, 2011, killing of Osama bin Laden.

The plot was significant because the White House had told the public it had "no credible information that terrorist organizations, including al-Qaida, are plotting attacks in the U.S. to coincide with the (May 2) anniversary of bin Laden's death."

The AP delayed reporting the story at the request of government officials who said it would jeopardize national security. Once government officials said those concerns were allayed, the AP disclosed the plot because officials said it no longer endangered national security. The Obama administration, however, continued to request that the story be held until the administration could make an official announcement.

States seeking to fix gun background check backlog

SUSAN HAIGH
Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. Connecticut officials are setting aside millions of dollars to address backlogs in background checks that have soared into the thousands since the December school shooting in the state, which is one of several struggling with bottlenecks as people rush to buy guns ahead of new restrictions.

Since the Dec. 14 massacre of 20 children and six educators at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown reignited the debate over gun laws in the U.S., a host of factors have strained state background check systems, including a spike in gun purchases. Tougher gun laws have also been passed in Connecticut, Colorado and elsewhere that include additional background check requirements, and states must hire more workers to do the checks. Outdated technology used to take fingerprints has also contributed to the backlog.

"These states are saddled with a huge increase in volume, and with the increase in volume they just can't handle it," said Jake McGuigan, director of government relations and state affairs at the National Shooting Sports Foundation, an advocacy group based in Newtown.

About 9,300 people were waiting for background checks to be completed as of Friday in Connecticut, said Michael Varney of the state's emergency services department. The figure includes both pistol permit applicants and people who need checks for employment.

"Right after Sandy Hook, it spiked," said Varney, adding that the backlog was much smaller before the shooting.

The state also needs to complete another 62,000 gun registrations received from gun dealers and private parties that are transferring firearms, Reuben Bradford, the state's public safety commissioner, confirmed in a May 8 letter. He said those transfers all had cleared the necessary background checks, but the information has not been entered into the agency's system for firearms tracking. He attributed the backlog in data entry to "an unprecedented number of weapons purchases that were made in anticipation in a change in law."

Gun rights advocates fear that the delays could grow even longer once additional requirements for background checks take effect, such as Connecticut's requirement for a check on any sale or transfer of a long gun, which begins in January.

Connecticut Gov. Dannel P. Malloy's administration is working with lawmakers to come up with $3 million to $5 million in the new state budget to make technology improvements and fill as many as 39 jobs to help address the backlog, said Michael Lawlor, undersecretary for criminal justice and planning in Democratic administration.

The logjam for completing background checks will probably last for the rest of the year, Lawlor predicted, but the new staffing should alleviate that. He said those new workers, ranging from basic clerical to more skilled staff, will likely become permanent.

"In the future, more and more effort will be focused on very carefully regulating firearms," he said. "There are a lot of tools available to make sure guns are kept out of the hands of criminals and irresponsible people, but it takes a lot of time and a lot of effort."

In Maryland, state police increased processing hours from eight to 21 a day to address a backlog of more than 47,000 applications, Sgt. Marc Black said. New state gun laws take effect in October, and the state police licensing division added more personnel and spent money on overtime and additional computers to address the accumulation.

"We're just not going to sacrifice safety for speed," Black said. "We're going to give each application the time that is needed."

The office that handles federal background checks has not encountered any delays despite an increase in requests since the Newtown shooting, said Stephen Fischer, a spokesman for the FBI, but senators backing gun control are discussing ways to revive legislation that extend federal background check requirements to more buyers.

The National Rifle Association has opposed calls for universal background checks, arguing on its website that no system will be truly universal because criminals won't submit themselves to the system. NRA supported the creation of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, which became operational in 1998 and verifies whether someone seeking to buy a gun from a gun dealer is not barred by federal or state law.

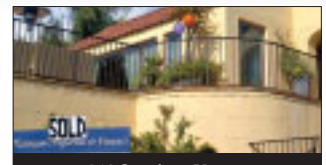
States that rely on state agencies to handle background checks, such as Connecticut, Colorado and Maryland, have experienced the brunt of the backlogs, McGuigan said, adding that the increase has been fueled by people seeking permits who are concerned about losing their right to bear arms and access to firearms.

Some delays in Connecticut were also caused by traditional ink fingerprints taken at local police departments that are flawed and can't be scanned and processed by the state police to send to the FBI for review, state officials told lawmakers last week. And even police departments that have computerized fingerprinting machines often put them in booking rooms where suspects are processed and the public is not allowed.

In Colorado, where a gunman killed 12 people in an Aurora theater last year, officials have responded to a backlog by implementing a computerized fingerprint checking system this month that allows fingerprints to be uploaded from remote locations, such as local police departments. The agency also recently hired 10 additional employees.

"So far, up to this point, the ability to reduce that backlog in quick fashion looks like it's going to take place," said Steve Johnson, an assistant director of the Colorado Bureau of Investigations.

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Kiffin, USC strive for drama-free 2013 season

RALPH D. RUSSO
AP College Football Writer

LOS ANGELES Lane Kiffin has an idea.

He's not serious about it. Not really. There is, however, just a hint in his voice that suggests he's not totally joking, either.

"I did think the other day what it would be like to be a high school head coach or to be at a small school," Kiffin said. "I thought about it the other day. The first time. I wonder if there's something to that peace of mind. Maybe it's something I can go back and do when I get older. I'm going to go coach high school.

"It's just the game. It's the game in its realest sense and it's fun. Working with the kids and not all this other stuff. You go back and have fun."

If Kiffin's Trojans have another season like last year, he may not have to wait long to give high school a try.

Nonetheless, on this day, with spring practice fading in the rearview mirror, it'd be hard to find a guy on the USC campus in a better mood than the Trojans' football coach.

As he relaxes on the big, white, leather sectional couch in his office, sunshine spilling through the sliding glass doors that lead out to a small patio, Kiffin seems at ease as he considers the future of a coaching career spent mostly in the brightest of spotlights.

NFL head coach at 31. SEC head coach at 33. Head coach of USC at 34. When it comes to acronyms, the 37-year-old Kiffin's resume has some of the best in sports on it.

But it's been a bumpy ride for the boy wonder, bouncing from one volatile situation to another. When it comes to turmoil, Kiffin seems to either walk into it or create it. It's a talent that has made him maybe the most vilified man in college football today.

It's part of what prompts the inevitable question, but suggest to Kiffin that he's coaching for his job this season and he answers, "I always feel like that's the case."

Kiffin's boss, USC athletic director Pat Haden, brushes off that idea as well.

"I'm not going to start getting into those things," he said. "I'm not going to make any pronouncements. Let's just enjoy the season."

There's definitely a no-drama vibe emanating from USC these days. The Trojans are still dealing with NCAA sanctions handed down in 2010 for the Reggie Bush scandal, but they will be neither bowl-banned nor No. 1 going into the 2013 season.

After USC went 7-6 last season, Kiffin replaced about half his assistants, including his father, the longtime and well-respected NFL defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin, and preached to his staff that he wanted to recreate the passion and energy of his first season in this, his fourth with the Trojans.

He said others have told him he seems more relaxed this spring, and his boss is fine with the team flying under the radar.

"Let's just earn it on the field," Haden said. "Let's play as hard as we can. Let's have no off-the-field distractions. Let's play the game with a sense of purpose and fun and with a little more physical nature than we did last year."

Last year was anything but fun.

The Trojans became the first team to start the season No. 1 in the AP poll and finish it unranked since Mississippi in 1964, when the rankings only went 10 deep. They lost five of their last six games, including a downright depressing 21-7 loss to Georgia Tech in the Sun Bowl.

They couldn't run the ball. The defense fell apart. Star quarterback Matt Barkley was inconsistent, and finished the year injured. For the first time since 1995, USC lost to both UCLA and Notre Dame.

"The way that I think of it in a positive way is we're going to learn from it," Kiffin said. "That can't happen again. But we're not going to change everything because prior to that game (a 39-36 loss at Arizona on Oct. 27) we had won 17 of the previous 20 games. We were 17-3 in the middle of sanctions, probation, reduced roster. All those things going on, we're winning 17 of 20 games. We're doing something right."

But during those last two months of last season, "Everything that could go wrong went wrong," he adds.

And with the losses, came drama. That always seems to be the case with Kiffin.

His 20-game run in the NFL ended with then-Raiders owner Al Davis calling him a liar and firing him with cause. While Kiffin clearly wasn't the solution, a decades' worth of futility in Oakland suggests he was far from the only problem with the Raiders.

A couple of months later, Kiffin landed at Tennessee, a fading program in the midst of an awkward breakup with longtime coach Phillip Fulmer.

Kiffin managed to tick off most of the Southeastern Conference, talking trash and pushing the envelope in recruiting as he tried to pump some life into the Vols.

They did get better under Kiffin, going 7-6, but he turned out to be one and done. He couldn't resist the temptation to return to USC, where he was offensive coordinator under Pete Carroll, and replace his mentor. He left behind NCAA violations and a thoroughly ticked off fan base in Knoxville.

He hasn't exactly been embraced by the USC faithful, skeptical of his credentials and exasperated at time by his actions.

In three seasons with USC, he's been fined by the Pac-12 for criticizing officials, battled the local media over access to practice and the reporting of injuries and had special teamers switch jerseys to run trick plays against overmatched Colorado.

So, of course, when it was revealed that a USC team manager under-inflated the footballs for last year's Oregon game, Lane got blamed again even though there was no evidence he had anything do with it.

"He's the anti-Teflon coach," Haden said. "Stuff sticks to him that's not even his fault. He gets blamed for earthquakes and wildfires."

SURF REPORT



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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **64.9°**

TUESDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** Knee to chest high occ. 4ft
Modest SSW-S swell continues; keeping an eye on the winds

WEDNESDAY – SURF: **1-2 ft** Ankle to knee
Very Small mid period swell from the south holding during the day.
Light and variable south winds all day and switching to the west-northwest.

THURSDAY – SURF: **1-2 ft** Ankle to knee
Very Small mid period swell from the south holding during the day.
Light and variable south winds all day and switching to the west-northwest.

BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **May 1, 2013**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)
Number of sewage spills -- 0
Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
Number of wet days -- 8
Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 38 / ns
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / ns

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Los Cerritos Beach, at Arroyo Seguit Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisa creeks.		
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	C	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 21672 Malibu Rd..	A	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (beach location) - daily.	A	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A	ns
Pena Creek at Los Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	D	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17300 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	ns

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

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

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

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

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

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MOVIE TIMES

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(310) 260-1528

Call theatre for more information.

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

Croods (PG) 1hr 38min
1:55pm, 4:45pm

Big Wedding (R) 1hr 29min
7:30pm, 10:10pm

Place Beyond the Pines (R) 2hrs 20min
12:45pm, 3:55pm, 7:00pm, 10:20pm

Peeples (PG-13) 1hr 35min
1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 9:50pm

Iron Man 3 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 15min
1:10pm, 4:05pm, 7:05pm, 10:05pm

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

Iron Man 3 (PG-13) 2hrs 15min
11:00am, 3:00pm, 6:30pm, 10:00pm

Oblivion (PG-13) 2hrs 05min
11:20am, 2:10pm, 5:05pm, 7:55pm

Oblivion (PG-13) 2hrs 05min
10:40pm

Great Gatsby (PG-13) 2hrs 23min
12:45pm, 4:05pm, 7:20pm, 10:45pm

Great Gatsby in 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 23min
11:45am, 3:00pm, 6:30pm, 10:00pm

42 (PG-13) 2hrs 08min
11:55am, 6:15pm, 9:30pm

Pain & Gain (R) 2hrs 09min
11:00am, 1:55pm, 4:50pm, 7:50pm, 10:45pm

Iron Man 3 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 15min
12:30pm, 2:55pm, 3:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:15pm

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

Mud (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

Renoir (R) 1hr 53min
4:30pm

Reluctant Fundamentalist (R) 2hrs 08min
1:10pm, 4:10pm, 7:10pm, 10:10pm

Iceman (R) 1hr 45min
1:50pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:10pm

Company You Keep (R) 2hrs 05min
1:30pm

Royal Opera House: Nabucco Encore
(NR) 2hrs 50min
7:30pm

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

Happy Birthday

Michael Brady: Therapist, music lover and softball stud.

VANISH WHILE YOU CAN, LEO

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Whether it happens in reality or in your dreams, you'll awake with an unusual insight and a need to push in a certain direction. You have a lot of power and energy behind you, and you could feel nearly unstoppable. Tonight: Let the fun begin.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You will be on a mission from the moment you wake up. You could have something you want to say to someone, but this person might not be ready to hear it. Tonight: Let yourself relax with friends.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Be more aware of your possessive and materialistic side; otherwise, you could find yourself caught up in a shopping spree that might be nearly impossible to stop. Tonight: Indulge a loved one.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You are capable of creating what you want. You could be dealing with a contentious friend right now, or perhaps a demanding and unpredictable situation. Instead of running from fire to fire, stop and center yourself. Tonight: All smiles.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★ You sense that more is going on behind the scenes than others are willing to acknowledge. Observe more, and get to the root of a problem. The unexpected occurs when you least expect it, but the experience opens you up to be more adventuresome. Tonight: Vanish while you can.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★★ You will want to keep your focus and not get distracted. There is something going on that could be deterring you from staying centered. A loved one might have pushed beyond normal limits. Avoid a power play by not playing, and remain unresponsive. Tonight: Ever playful.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Pressure builds. It seems as if an authority figure has high expectations for what you can do. Truth be told, you might be focused on a personal issue that is taking up a lot of your time. Tonight: Try to stay centered.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ While others run around in circles, you have the unique ability to stay focused on what you need to do. Though you are an emotional sign, you know when to detach and see the big picture. Tonight: Go for something unusual.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ You could be trying to do something very differently. Realize that you need to work closely with one person in order to succeed. Don't allow a situation to intimidate you. Someone could be trying to make you feel insecure. Tonight: Chat over dinner.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Others have the intention of running the show. Aren't you a little tired of this scenario? You might want to be more involved. Perhaps you need to start your own project and not let others in. Tonight: Let your creative genie out of the bottle.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Know what you want. You will want to put an extra effort into maintaining your desired pace. Someone might throw a boomerang in your path. Don't spend too much time wondering why. Tonight: Happy when you finally get home.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You are so creative and dynamic that others can trigger your imagination with a simple comment about the weather or something similar. You might want to stay on top of what is going on. Jot down your thoughts if you're being hit by too many ideas. Tonight: Fun and games.

Tuesday, May 14, 2013

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

This year you encounter some touchy situations yet manage to remain held together. Sometimes you get involved in power plays, even when you have no interest in them. Try to figure out why you do this. If you are single, you could meet someone easily and experience the most euphoric beginning. Give yourself plenty of time before committing. If you are attached, as a couple, you have had and continue to have issues over power and control. Accept each other as you are. CANCER seems understanding and nearly always receptive to your energy.

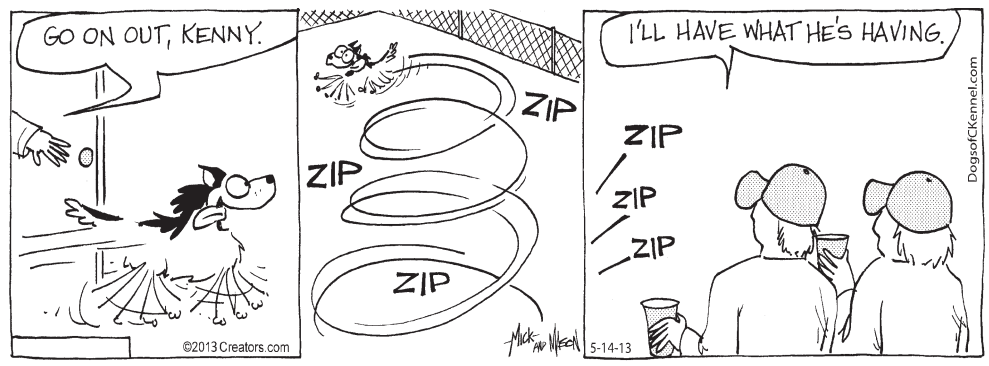
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



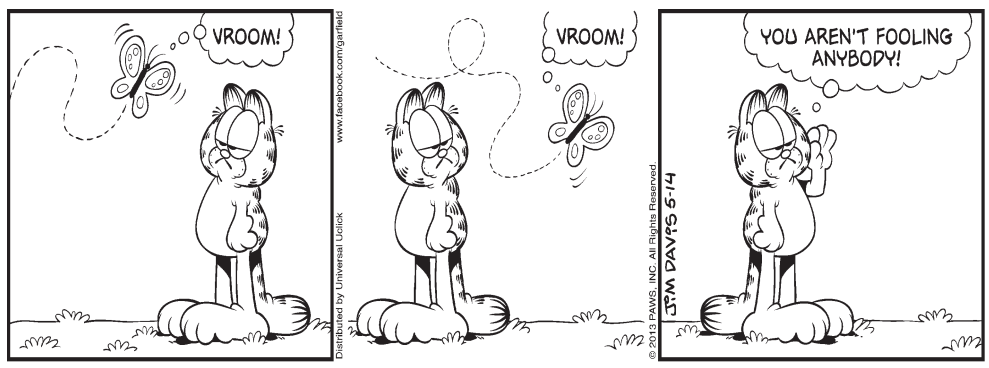
Strange Brew
By John Deering



Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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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.

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Llama's cousin
7 Sub shop
11 Carter's successor
12 Poet Khayyám
13 Günter Grass book
15 Trifled
16 High school student
18 Gofer's assignment
21 Guys' dates
22 Zany
24 Wisdom bringer
25 Buddy
26 Gorilla, e.g.
27 Dusk sight
29 It may be furrowed
30 Forked over
31 Rowing team
32 Western resort lake
34 Günter Grass book
40 Continental coin
41 Salad green
42 Close to
43 Put on, as a play

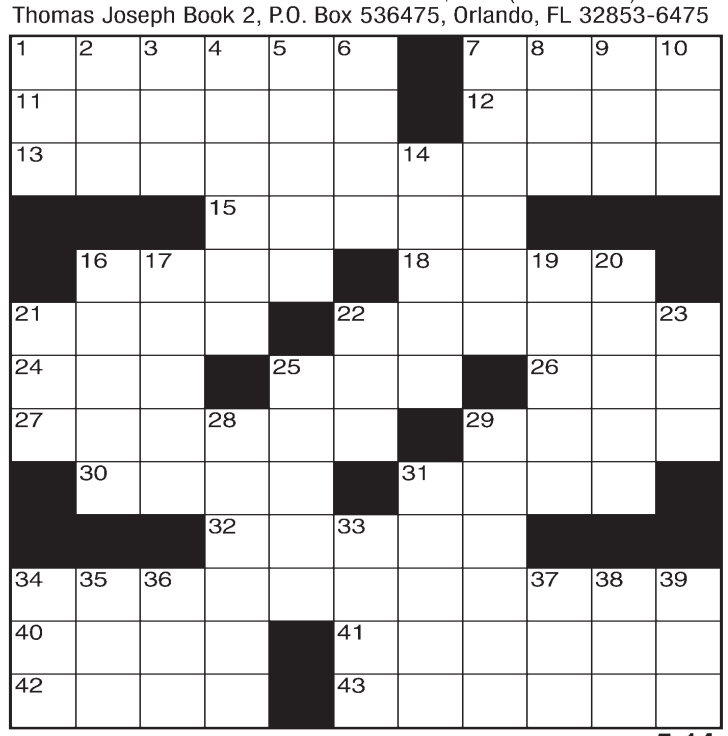
DOWN

1 Pendulum path
2 Michele of "Glee"
3 Touch lightly
4 Playing marbles
5 Church code
6 Tennis star Roddick
7 Thing-amajig
8 Running bird
9 — Vegas
10 Hot blood
14 Copper or cobalt
16 Touch base
17 Kagan of the Supreme Court
19 Frighten
20 Punch sound
21 Oxygen, for one
22 Small rug
23 Sunday seat
25 Brake, for one
28 Have done, as a portrait
29 Starr of the comics
31 Enumerate
33 Works the soil
34 Kayo count
35 Color
36 Important time
37 Use a spade
38 Second person
39 Spectrum end

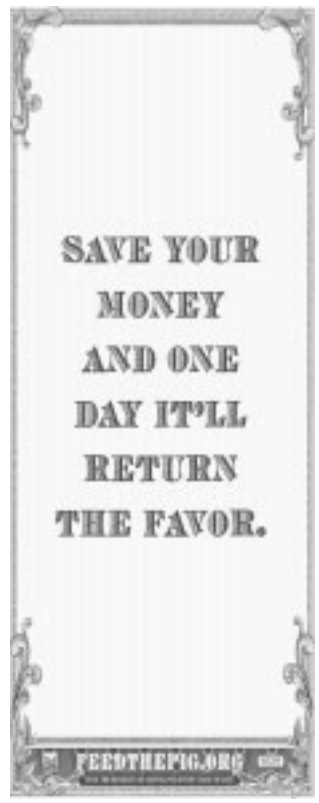
S	W	A	S	H	■	Y	E	A	S	T
K	O	R	E	A	■	E	R	R	O	R
I	N	C	A	N	■	M	A	I	N	E
■	■	■	P	O	L	E	■	A	G	E
S	E	A	L	I	O	N	S	■	■	■
O	L	G	A	■	T	I	E	B	A	R
U	S	I	N	G	■	S	A	L	M	A
P	A	N	E	L	S	■	F	O	O	T
■	■	■	S	E	A	H	A	W	K	S
C	O	B	■	A	M	E	R	■	■	■
A	D	A	M	S	■	D	E	G	A	S
R	O	M	E	O	■	G	R	A	C	E
P	R	A	W	N	■	E	S	S	E	X

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



5-14



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Last year, according to Chicago's WBBM-TV, Palmen Motors in Kenosha, Wis., sold a brand-new GMC Terrain SUV to an elderly couple, 90 and 89, in which the husband was legally blind and in hospice care, on morphine, and the wife had dementia and could barely walk. According to the couple's daughter, it was her brother, David McMurray, who wanted the SUV but could not qualify financially and so drove his mother from Illinois to Kenosha to sign the documents while a Palmen employee traveled to Illinois to get the father's signature (three weeks before he passed away, it turns out). An attorney for Palmen Motors told the TV station that the company regretted its role and would buy the vehicle back.

■ The city council of Oita, Japan, refused to seat a recently elected member because he refused to remove the mask he always wears in public. Professional wrestler "Skull Reaper A-ji" said his fans would not accept him as authentic if he strayed from his character. Some masked U.S. wrestlers, and especially the popular Mexican "lucha libre" wrestlers, share the sentiment. (At press time, the issue was apparently still unresolved in Oita.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1970 – The Red Army Faction is established in Germany.

1973 – Skylab, the United States' first space station, is launched.

1988 – Carrollton bus collision: a drunk driver traveling the wrong way on Interstate 71 near Carrollton, Kentucky, United States hits a converted school bus carrying a church youth group. 27 die the in the crash and ensuing fire.

2004 – The Constitutional Court of South Korea overturns the impeachment of President Roh Moo-hyun.

2012 – Agni Air Flight CHT crashed near Jomsom Airport in Jomsom, Nepal, after a failed go-around, killing 15 people.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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2107 Oak St. #1. 2 Bd + 1 Bth. Hdwd floors, laundry, pet friendly, laundry onsite, private storage, SM permit street parking. $2195

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110 Granville #401. 3Bd + 2.5Bth. Penthouse in Brentwood. Hdwd floors, views, W&D in unit, stainless steel appliances. $3795 p/m

633 Indiana Ave. in Venice. 3Bd + 1Bth. Lower unit in duplex. Pets ok. Hardwood floors. Tandem parking. Laundry onsite. $2550 p/m

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401 Montana Avenue
$7,200,000

Fabulous Development Possibility
Prime Santa Monica Location
18 Residential Units



2434 Oak Street
$1,399,000
4 Units in 1 Building

- Great Sunset Park Location
- Units w/ Private Patio Areas
- Vaulted Wood Ceilings
- Open Floor Plans



1033 Pearl Street
$1,499,000
4 Units in 2 Separate Buildings

- Great Sunset Park location
- Quiet Residential Neighborhood
- Beautifully Maintained
- New Windows



2502 5th Street
$1,599,000
House + 3 Units

- 3 Bedroom House
- 3, 1-Bedroom Units
- 4 Blocks to Trendy Shops
- 5 Blocks to the Beach



2524 5th Street
$1,599,000
House + 4 Units

- House 2 Bedroom + 1 Bath
- 4 Units 1 Bedroom + 1 Bath
- 4 Blocks to Trendy Shops
- 5 Blocks to the Beach



Average Price of ALL Santa Monica Single Family Homes From ALL agents in ALL companies Listed for Sale as of Mid May 2013		
Santa Monica Canyon	=	$ 6,159,750
North of Montana	=	$ 4,109,438
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$ 2,364,143
South of Wilshire	=	$ 873,00
Sunset Park	=	$ 1,491,174
Ocean Park	=	$ 2,152,167
Statistics updated every Friday		

Proud Sponsor of:

FRANKLIN Elementary School

Santa Monica LITTLE LEAGUE

Roosevelt Elementary School

Santa Monica GIRLS FASTPITCH

LINCOLN MIDDLE SCHOOL SANTA MONICA, CA

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.
BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF SANTA MONICA

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