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Santa Monica Daily Press
WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 2011
Volume 10 Issue 160



Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

DEAR OPRAH
SEE PAGE 4

THE AGAIN? ISSUE

District considers new parcel tax, bond for schools

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS In the wake of Monday's release of Gov. Jerry Brown's latest budget proposal, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's Chief Financial Officer Jan Maez was left shaking her head.

"Right now, we're trying to translate what they're saying into how it affects us," she said, reading and rereading a convoluted paragraph of government speak.

The state of California's finances, and therefore the district's budget, is so uncertain that the Board of Education put an item on its agenda to reconvene a citizen-led commission to look into the possibility of passing another parcel tax and bond measure to support local schools.

If the board votes to activate the committee, it would be tasked with gauging the popularity of an emergency parcel tax to be placed on the November 2011 ballot, as well as a capital improvement bond which would be brought back in early 2012.

The committee would get $50,000 to poll voters about the parcel tax alone, and would need to bring back the recommendation by Aug. 10 to have a shot at getting it on the November ballot.

The idea is to find out how open voters would be to providing extra money to help the district fill in more funding gaps that might come down from the state level, said

SEE DISTRICT PAGE 12

Rents expected to rise citywide

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

CITYWIDE Renters in Santa Monica will have to pay their landlords as much as $57 more a month under a plan being considered by the Rent Control Board.

The annual general rent adjustment, which the board is charged with setting using a complex formula that takes into account rising costs for property owners such as heftier insurance and utility bills, would amount to a 3.5 percent increase under the plan, allowing landlords with rent-controlled units to raise rents by that amount on those who moved in before Sept. 1 of last year.

A public hearing has been scheduled for June 9, at which time the board could approve the increase and a cap or "ceiling" of $57. If approved, landlords can raise rents starting Sept. 1, 2011.

Rent Control Board staff this year altered the formula used to calculate the adjustment, incorporating a business license fee that was adjusted to reflect current costs as well as including property assessments that were previously not passed on to renters.

The change was the result of a settlement reached in April after the Action Apartment Association, an advocacy group representing property owners in Santa Monica, sued the board, claming the old formula did not accurately reflect actual costs and was in violation of the rent control law, which calls for landlords to receive no more than a fair return on their investment.

The legal team for the Rent Control

SEE RENT PAGE 12



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

BUSY SCENE: **Surrounded by press, former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger leaves his Main Street office on Tuesday.**

Reports: Schwarzenegger used Santa Monica office for trysts

JOHN ANTCZAK
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has acknowledged that he fathered a child with a member of his household staff, a revelation that apparently prompted wife Maria Shriver to leave the couple's home before they announced their separation last week.

Several media outlets are reporting that Schwarzenegger may have used his office in Santa Monica located on Main Street for romantic liaisons.

Shriver separately issued a statement saying it was a "heartbreaking time," and two of their children, Patrick and Katherine, expressed their love for their family in separate Twitter messages.

Schwarzenegger and Shriver jointly announced May 9 that they were splitting up after 25 years of marriage. Yet, Shriver moved out of the family's Brentwood mansion earlier in the year after Schwarzenegger acknowledged the child is his, the Los

SEE OFFICE PAGE 11

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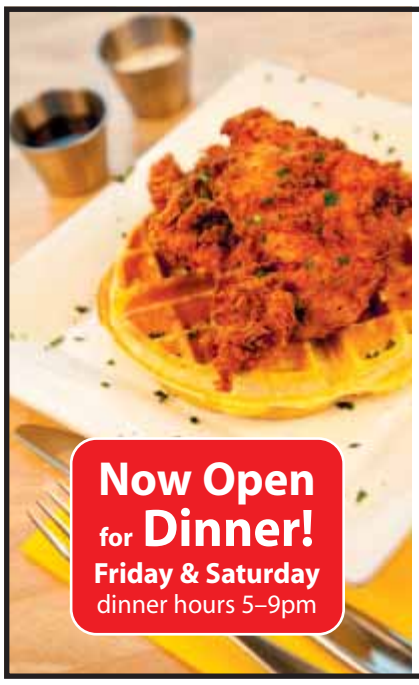


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, May 18, 2011

Financial planning for older adults
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 1:30 p.m.
Experts in the field of financial planning will be on hand to help older adults better understand what they are doing right and where there is room for improvement in managing their finances. This event is sponsored by the library and the Commission for the Senior Community. For information, call (310) 458-8644.

'Goldfinger' on deck
Santa Monica Place
Broadway and Third Street, 7 p.m.
Catch a free screening of the James Bond classic "Goldfinger." This event is free. Guests are encouraged to bring blankets and chairs. For more information, visit santamonicaplace.com.

Thursday, May 19, 2011

Bike to Work Day
City Hall
1685 Main St.
Green your commute — and rest, refresh and grab some goodies at City Halls' free annual pit stop and bike valet throughout the morning of May 19.

'Into the Woods, Jr.'
John Adams Middle School
2425 16th St., 8 p.m.
"Into the Woods, Jr." is a twisted and hilarious fairytale musical produced as a partnership with the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation and the JAMS Theatre Company. This production also takes place on Friday at 7 p.m., and Saturday at 2 and 7 p.m. All tickets will be sold at the door.

Fashionable relief
California Market Center Fashion Theater
110 E. Ninth St., L.A., 7 p.m.
With proceeds over cost going to the Red Cross for Japan relief efforts, the Santa Monica College Fashion Program is proud to present "LA Mode 2011," the annual fashion show in which students will showcase their cutting-edge designs.
For more information, call (310) 434-3005.

Craft Beer Week
Library Alehouse
2911 Main St., daily
From May 16-22, Library Alehouse will join the Brewers Association and other purveyors of fine suds nationwide in celebrating American Craft Beer Week. For more information, call (310) 314-4855.

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

CITY HALL

First Lady's fitness challenge comes to town

Unplug the television and put away the iPods, it's time to play outside.

City Hall wants kids to get active and enjoy Santa Monica's parks, officially making Saturday, May 21 "Kids to Parks Day," a first in the city's history.

"Active kids are healthy kids," said Mayor Richard Bloom. "We are thrilled to support this national movement to reconnect youth with the outdoors. Santa Monica is fortunate to have a wealth of parks and recreation resources, making it easy for residents to participate in 'Kids to Parks Day.' In fact, the most difficult part may be deciding which park to go to first."

"Kids to Parks Day" is a national event led by the National Park Trust as part of First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" initiative to implement comprehensive long-term approaches to reducing childhood obesity.

Virginia Avenue Park is the place to be Saturday, offering a morning full of outdoor activities for kids. There will be races, an obstacle course, physical fitness stations and other activities beginning at 9 a.m.

More information on Santa Monica's parks is available online at www.santamonicaparks.com. Information on year-round recreational classes and camps can be found at www.smgov.net/recreation. Information on the National Park Trust can be found at www.parktrust.org.

KEVIN HERRERA

SM BAY

Ford, Heal the Bay team up for beach cleanups

Good karma won't be the only thing volunteers with Heal the Bay have a shot at taking home following summer beach cleanups. Thanks to a partnership with Ford, picking up cigarette butts and other urban debris could earn you a new, eco-friendly car.

The "Nothin' but Sand" cleanup events, kicking off this Saturday at Dockweiler State Beach, will provide volunteers with a chance to test drive a Ford vehicle. For every test drive, Ford will donate $50 to Heal the Bay. At each cleanup, one lucky volunteer will win a "virtual" key that could potentially start the winning vehicle at the final Coastal Cleanup Day event, scheduled for Sept. 17.

"Cleanups are a great way to take direct action to improve the health of our local environment," said Meredith McCarthy, Heal the Bay's programs director. "Volunteers can leave with a good feeling about the ocean, not to mention a good chance to win a new car."

Following the Dockweiler event, the Heal the Bay-Ford cleanup campaign shifts to Will Rogers State Beach (June 18 and Aug. 20) and Playa del Rey (July 16).

Volunteers can come to all the Nothin' But Sand Cleanups this summer and take a test drive to increase their odds of winning.

To register and find more details about the Ford cleanup events, please visit healthebay.org/event/nothin-sand-beach-cleanup-6.

KH



Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

DOING HIS THING: **Pacifica Christian's Austin Cortina makes a play earlier this season against Brentwood.**

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS ROUNDUP

Pacifica Christian players named all-league

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

DOWNTOWN Pacifica Christian's baseball team's dominance of the Heritage League must have caught the attention of league rivals.

The Seawolves Kevin Hammer was voted co-MVP by the league's coaches Monday, but the accolades don't stop there for the No. 10 team in CIF-SS Division 7. Austin Cortina (pitcher, shortstop) and Athen Shelp (outfield) were named to the first team, and Tucie Shelp (infielder, pitcher) and Keenan Pierandozzi-Howes (catcher) were named to the second team, Head Coach Julian Chavez said.

Not to be out done, Chavez was named coach of the year.

"I'm really proud of the guys," he said. "They earned it."

The honors come on the eve of the team's first-round playoff game on Friday. The Seawolves will play the winner of a wild card game played on Tuesday between Coast Union and Trinity Classical Academy. The results of that game were not available at presstime.

SAMOHI'S JORDAN MATHEWS MAKES ALL-STATE TEAM

Based on the eye test alone, Vikings sophomore Jordan Mathews played well beyond his years this past season.

That level of play on the basketball court has paid off for the Santa Monica High School guard who was named to the Cal-Hi Sports All-State Underclassman Team, last week.

For Mathews, the news came as a bit of a surprise following his first season at Samohi after transferring from Riverside North before the school year.

"It was kind of shocking, I didn't expect to make it," Mathews said. "It's good to be noticed, it was flattering."

The scoring-guard helped Samohi overcome a slow start to the season to finish a surprising second place in the Ocean League and a berth in the postseason. The Vikings were bounced in the first round of the playoffs a year removed from making it to the CIF-Southern Section Division 1A finals.

Head Coach James Hecht credited Mathews and a young supporting cast for turning the season around and expects more of the same next year.

"We have a lot of good pieces returning from last year," Hecht said. "We have players coming back who have varsity experience. The team's chemistry is very good.

"We have our sights set on a successful season."

The future looks bright for Mathews, who has already begun attracting attention from a number of teams from the Pac-10, among others.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Santa's on vacation

Editor:

'Santa' Monica Beach
Crossing Idaho Bridge the other day
Was Santa, and much to my dismay,
His means of travel was not a sled,
Albeit his bike was firehouse red.
Of course, it was him; he pedaled right by,
And everyone knows that glint in his eye.
His beard was flowing and serious white,
But there was nary an elf in sight.
His clothes were period beach attire.
Oh, no! I thought, did he retire?
I should have asked him, "Do you belong
Here on the beach?" It seemed so wrong.
After all, he should be up-north in the cold,
Making gifts for us, as we've been told.
He toils all year, they're always saying,
But here on our beach, he appears to be playing.
In winter, it seems that he behaves,
Come spring, he may like catching waves.

G.E. Matthews
Santa Monica

Fighting unfair rate hikes

Editor:

My healthcare insurer has just raised my rates to $650 per month! This is the third increase in three years! My insurance premium has nearly doubled in three years! These increases equal an almost 100 percent increase in three years, and there's no way you can tell me healthcare costs or inflation have gone up anything close to that percentage!

I have friends with union jobs who pay as little as $100 per month for their entire family. My brother's wife is a teacher in New York City and they pay just $7 per month to cover their family of four!

What is the point of having an insurance commissioner who cannot protect citizens from these excessive rate hikes? AB52 would be a start to help regulate and keep costs better within reasonable limits.

It's obvious that the corruption in our state and nation's healthcare policy is caused by greed and lack of regulations. Every first-world country from Japan and Canada to Europe, has single-payer healthcare. This is the only proven solution. Without it our great country and golden state is only second world and second class at best!

I support AB52 as a start to regulate health insurance rate abuse. But the final solution is not a politician/commissioner with the power of approving or denying rate hikes. The solution is clear. Single payer is the only solution, it's been proven, and the current system has utterly failed.

Kurt Matlin
Santa Monica





Meredith Pro Tem

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

An open letter to Oprah

DEAR OPRAH,

I have a little dish on a bookshelf in my bedroom that holds small but possibly critical pieces to various parts of my home. I have no idea from whence any of them came, but I know that in case I ever experience an emergency of any kind, I will immediately sort through the various screws, picture hooks, bolts and metal pieces to try and determine which will save the day. I have faith one of them just might work.

I have come to think of your show as I do the contents of that little dish: I'm not exactly sure where it fits into my life exactly, but without it I fear I'll be lost in the event of a crisis. I have always known you'll come through for me when I need you most, but since you are essentially a talk-show host, I haven't quite figured out what would qualify as the speaking catastrophe in which I might be required to pick up the "Bat Phone" and have you swoop in and save me from my own verbal self.

As I've watched the 25th season of your show faithfully since September (and off and on through the years) in anticipation of you saying goodbye forever (or at least until you announce one of what I'm sure will be many new shows in which you'll star to boost ratings on your network, OWN: The Oprah Winfrey Network), I've tried to absorb as many lessons as possible. You know, just in case I need to bank a few more for after you're gone for good (on network television, anyway) next week.

Over the past month, for example, I've learned that if you are a lesbian woman-turned-heterosexual man (Chaz Bono), Canadian-turned-Swiss-and-back-to-Canadian again (Shania Twain), or a British commoner-turned-royalty-turned-disgrace (Sarah Ferguson), and wealthy either through birth, album sales or selling access to your former prince, then you, too, can get your own TV show in which you can get as much gratis help as possible.

What people like me (straight, happily married Americans with no singing voice or royal aspirations of note and no fairy godmother willing to pay me to air my dirty laundry on cable TV) stand to gain from watching those specific shows remains to be seen, but I'm guessing you know something I don't (as usual). Which means I'll probably be compelled to watch all three of their shows on OWN at some point just so I can add them to my little dish. Because you just never know.

Often times I come away from watching your show feeling better about myself, but usually by default, really. As in, I'm not nearly as screwed up as that (fill in the name of a hapless guest). Frequently I find myself envious of the guests on your show, not to mention the audience members who luck out with thousands of dollars of booty like weddings, exotic vacations and cars. (Although I did feel sorry for the audience who thought they were getting hooked up but instead got reusable grocery totes from Julia Roberts. Was that really the best she could do?).

Sometimes I feel worse, or if not worse, then simply morose when the closing credits roll. Your recent show on the biggest teaching moments over the years had me sobbing, and they were most definitely not tears of joy. Between the skinheads, the suicidal mom who lost a child and the anorexic who lost her battle with life, I got the point, I think, of why you wanted to do that show, but it seemed to me that it was for your benefit alone. You succeeded in growing and moving on from the depression that those subjects brought, but for me it is still lingering.

MORE AND MORE I'M THINKING WHAT YOUR SHOW HAS GIVEN ME WAS THE CHANCE TO ESCAPE MY REALITY TO IMAGINE YOURS FOR AN HOUR EVERY AFTERNOON.

Your behind-the-scenes show on OWN has been even better (to me, at least) than your actual show, because we get more of a glimpse into your life, even if it's just in your office and dressing room. One of the most interesting behind-the-scenes shows on OWN was when you did a behind the scenes on filming the behind the scenes. It's kind of the like the Land O'Lakes Indian holding a box of Land O'Lakes in which she's featured on the cover. Where it stops, no one knows.

It seems to me that you are your own best example of how to live your best life. Of course all the pithy sayings in the world ("When you know better you do better" and "You have always had the power" among them) aren't as powerful as what a billion dollars can buy you in the form of self-help and realization. I don't begrudge you your success; watching you live your best life has inspired me to dream big. Like, Oprah big. Or just a fraction of Oprah big would do, too.

More and more I'm thinking what your show has given me was the chance to escape my reality to imagine yours for an hour every afternoon. I can only imagine the joy that must come from inspiring select guests and audience members with your generosity of spirit and wallet. Viewers like me enjoy watching you enjoy what you do. And maybe that's what I'll miss the most. Either way, I know when I have a talk-related emergency that I can just check my dish to see how you can help. Because even in your absence, your presence will be felt and possibly come in handy.

Love,
Meredith

More at MeredithCarroll.com.

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Stories from the Street

Ron Hooks

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Desperately seeking shelter

WHEN DAILY PRESS EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Kevin Herrera called to ask if I would like to write a human interest story every month about people who are homeless, I must have sounded a little off and out of breath with my, "Yes." Right away he asked, "Is everything all right?"

I replied, "Yea. I'm OK. You will never guess where I'm at right now?"

I told him that I was riding in the back seat of a police car. I added that fortunately I was not wearing handcuffs or on my way to jail, this time. We had a good laugh. That day two Santa Monica police officers that my charity — West Coast Care — works with were helping me get to a local shelter as quickly as I could.

This particular story had all started the day before when I had responded to a call from the Senior Center in Palisades Park. There was a homeless person in her 30s who had wondered inside that was hungry, tired and asking for help.

The first interview was difficult because her jaw had been recently broken. Two guys had jumped her a few days earlier in an attempt to steal money from her. Just released from the hospital, she realized she had hit the bottom. She told me that she was really tired of living on the streets and wanted to go home.

When I hear that, it is like music to my ears. I learned that lesson in San Francisco where I ran a rehab for 10 years. The people graduating that wanted to go home to begin rebuilding their lives were in the highest percentage group of people who stayed clean and sober. Home is usually where the real issues started and home is usually where the most support and accountability are as well. The bottom line — this woman meant business.

I made a few calls to the several numbers that she partially remembered, then several more calls to 411, and then a series of other calls. Over the next hour I had finally made contact with her family and her Social Security insurance (SSI) payee in Northern California. The payee, who was also a social worker, started working on a plan to get her temporarily housed for that weekend and find permanent housing for her after that. The social worker also knew her family who lived in that area.

The morning that Kevin called me, her social worker had just called me back. She declared, "I've got it all worked out! We can pay for her bus ticket! Can you get her here by 7 o'clock tonight?" I quickly checked the bus schedules from my smartphone. We could get her there but we would have to hurry. Her bus left at 11:30 a.m. from Downtown L.A. and it was 10 a.m.

I was on my way to the shelter that had graciously agreed to give her an emergency bed the night before while we were all trying to work out the logistics. I needed to see if she would agree with her worker's plan and make the final arrangements. Because of time constraints I had just ditched the bicycle that I usually ride and ran across the street to get a lift from the police officers who were waiting to take me to the shelter.

Wow.

Every minute counts. I called my son Josh, who works with me, and told him to start heading over to the shelter, too. He had just picked up two other homeless people that were waiting on him at 10 a.m. at the canon by the Santa Monica Pier to be transported to the Greyhound bus station. We had successfully been able to reconnect them with their families on the East Coast.

When I got to the shelter, she was in the lobby. She agreed to the re-entry plan and just like that she was on her way. We actually got her to the station on time with a couple of minutes to spare. Her payee contacted us later the next week with a good report that she had arrived safely, was in housing, talking with her family and had started a recovery program.

I told Kevin that he had a great idea. The struggles that the homeless face are real. It's time to start telling some of these human interest/perspective stories about the people who are trying to break free from homelessness.

More to follow.

RON HOOKS is the founder and executive director of West Coast Care, a nonprofit. WCC is part of the Santa Monica Police Department's Joint Homeless Outreach Program. Since October 2006, more than 1,000 homeless have been compassionately helped to transition off of the streets of Santa Monica by reconnecting them with their families, placing them into housing and/or treatment programs. Learn more at westcoastcare.org.

The Q Line

Gap lingers on

A report by Education Trust-West found the achievement gap between white and minority SMMUSD students persists despite efforts to close it.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
What do you think can be done to bridge the gap?

Contact **qline@smdp.com** before **Friday at 5 p.m.** and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. You can also call **(310) 458-7737 ext. 102.**


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Feds allow girl raped by smugglers to stay in U.S.

AMY TAXIN
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES An 8-year-old Salvadoran girl who reported she was raped by immigrant smugglers in Mexico has been reunited with family in the United States after a tense struggle with authorities who were trying to deport her, an attorney for her grandmother said.

The girl was granted humanitarian parole by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to be able to enter the country legally at the San Ysidro border crossing on Sunday night, said immigration attorney Jessica Dominguez.

The girl's 63-year-old paternal grandmother, who is a retired seamstress and U.S. citizen, is seeking custody of the child and will try to help her obtain a green card, Dominguez said.

While advocates relished the reunion of the family in Los Angeles, the case is a tragic reminder of the perils of paying smugglers to bring family across the border — a risk many illegal immigrants take in the hopes of seeing their children again.

"Parents should really think twice — or more than twice — before they decide to either have an adult come over, a woman by herself, or even a child," said Jorge-Mario Cabrera, a spokesman for the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles. "Things are getting so bad ... you may not see your child again."

In this case, the girl's parents came to the United States illegally when she was two years old, leaving her with her maternal grandparents in El Salvador. Her mother worked in a restaurant; her father in construction, and they sent money home to support her. But the family was threatened by gangs in El Salvador, paternal grandmother Ana Alicia Giron said during a news conference Tuesday in Los Angeles.

The girl's mother decided to pay smugglers to bring the girl to the United States, Dominguez said. She was traveling through Mexico with smugglers over the span of two weeks in April. On a break in the journey, she went to use a bathroom, where she told a woman she had been raped by three men en route from El Salvador to the United States.

Mexican authorities stopped the bus at the following stop and took the girl into protective custody. Mexican immigration authorities were trying to deport the girl to El Salvador, but her relatives feared that smugglers would seek retribution and argued she would be safer in the United States.

"If this child goes back to El Salvador, her life is in danger, because she was brave enough to say, 'he, and he, and he,'" Dominguez said.

Giron and a family friend traveled to Chihuahua, Mexico, in an attempt to retrieve the girl. But authorities questioned how they would be able to legally and safely bring her into the United States, and refused to turn her over, Dominguez said.

Giron said the stress of the trip to a city she had been told was dangerous, the 15-minute-long visits she was permitted with her sobbing granddaughter and her failure to quickly secure her release landed the mother of six in the hospital. Upon her discharge, she protested for two days outside the local government offices in the hopes of winning the girl's release.

"I was desperate after being there so many days," she said in Spanish.

Salvadoran officials asked Mexican officials to turn over the child to her grandmother instead of being repatriated, said Walter Duran, general consul of El Salvador in Los Angeles.

Mexican authorities granted the girl a humanitarian visa last week, paving the way for her departure after three weeks in the government's care. Officials at the regional office of Mexico's immigration agency declined to comment on the case on Monday.

STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES
Electrical vault explosion injures bus driver

An explosion in an underground electrical vault Tuesday near UCLA sent smoke and flames shooting up from the street, shattered windows and hurled a manhole cover into a commuter bus, slightly injuring the driver, authorities said.

Nobody was seriously hurt by the explosion that occurred about 9:30 a.m. in the Westwood Village shopping and dining district near the University of California, Los Angeles.

Witnesses said flames and black smoke shot from a manhole, and windows in a bank were shattered.

However, there was no fire, and damage to a nearby building was minor, Fire Department spokesman Greg Acevedo said.

The heavy metal manhole cover blew off and hit the back of a Metropolitan Transportation Authority bus, MTA spokesman Rick Jager said.

The driver was treated for minor injuries, he said.

Acevedo did not know whether the bus was carrying passengers at the time.

No electrical outages were reported.

The cause of the blast was under investigation.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES
Murder plot case goes to jury

A Los Angeles jury has been handed the case of a Ventura County gold trader charged with orchestrating his wife's murder.

City News Service says the murder and conspiracy trial of James Fayed went to the jury Tuesday. He could face the death penalty if convicted.

Fayed has pleaded not guilty in the death of Pamela Fayed, who was stabbed and slashed 13 times in a Century City parking garage in 2008.

Prosecutors say the Moorpark man paid $25,000 to have her killed because she stood to gain half their marital assets in a divorce and also planned to cooperate with a federal investigation of her husband.

The defense has argued that Fayed's sister might be the real killer.

Three other men are facing trial in connection with the killing.

AP

Activist's death doesn't stop open meetings crusade

PAUL ELIAS
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO Rich McKee was a Pasadena City College chemistry teacher who spent his spare time exposing elected officials he found violating California's open meeting laws.

He died unexpectedly at the age of 62 last month amid a battle with the Tulare County Supervisors — a majority of them had lunched together with the county's lawyer more than 30 times on the government's tab in 2009.

Now, more than 100 media organizations from the Los Angeles Times to The Reedley Exponent are fighting to keep alive one of McKee's last battles. The media outlets, which include The Associated Press, are urging the Court of Appeal to declare the lunches were illegal meetings.

Free speech advocates and others say the number of media involved underscores what's at stake legally while serving as a tribute to McKee, an open-government expert who at his own expense filed 30 lawsuits and wrote many more letters to elected officials alleged to have violated public records acts and meetings laws.

Tulare County Superior Court Judge Melinda Reed last year dismissed McKee's lawsuit. She said there was no evidence that the supervisors discussed important government business or that lunches included "collective decision making related to the public's business."

The supervisors said the lunches, many held the day before a schedule meeting, were largely social "team-building" events and the discussions were limited to staffing issues and travel arrangements. The supervisors and their lawyer argued in court filings that those topics aren't covered by the state's so-called Brown Act, which requires elected officials to conduct much of government's business during publicly accessible meetings.

"The fact that matters discussed were work-related did not by correlation mean those matters were covered by the Brown Act," Tulare's lawyer Julia Langley wrote the appeals court.

"In addition, we believe that taking meals together in connection with work-related activities of board members serves the important purpose of fostering collegial relationships between board members," then-Board Chairman Steven Worthley wrote McKee last year. "This helps insure that the board operates most effectively and efficiently at public meetings." Worthley told McKee that the board was "temporarily suspending the practice."

Tulare County spokesman Jed Chernabaeff declined to comment because of the "pending litigation. He declined to discuss whether the supervisors had resumed lunching together.

The county has also asked for $30,000 in legal fees and costs from McKee, a request the judge hasn't ruled upon.

The Sacramento-based California State Association of Counties has filed its own friend-of-the-court brief in support of Tulare's position.

McKee and the media outlets argue that the supervisors' position — and the judge's ruling if allowed to stand — will greatly reduce the power and scope of the Brown Act, widely recognized as the broadest open-meetings law in the nation.

"It's a green light for city councils and school boards and county supervisors to start pushing the envelope of meeting in secret," said Peter Scheer, director of the nonprofit First Amendment Coalition, which is leading the media's appellate effort in the Tulare case. "This was a very brazen violation of the Brown Act because it sure looks like a business meeting paid for by taxpayers."

The Court of Appeal hasn't scheduled a hearing on a case that McKee discovered when Google News emailed him a January 2010 story in the Visalia Times Delta detailing the lunches uncovered by a request for the supervisors' expense reports.

McKee wasn't a lawyer or a trained journalist — he taught chemistry at Pasadena Community College — but he won more open-meeting lawsuits than any attorney. He co-founded the non-profit Californians Aware with attorney Terry Francke, a leading free speech and open government advocate.

McKee's daughter Kelly Aviles said his open-meeting crusade began in 1993 at a meeting of the LaVerne City Council, which she said abused the Brown Act.

"He had no background in this, but because he had such strong feelings about what is wrong and right, he went down to the law library and began researching," Aviles said. "From there, he literally put his money where his mouth was."

Aviles graduated law school in 2008 and began representing her father and dedicating her practice to public records and open government.

"It's like growing up on a farm," Aviles said. "But instead of talking about animals and crops at the dinner table every night, we talked about open government."

She said that McKee footed the expenses for most of his Brown Act lawsuits, which don't allow the winning party to collect any damages. At one point, he was ordered to pay $80,000 after a school board in Orange County filed a successful counter lawsuit to his accusing him of stifling its free speech.

Even in defeat, McKee effected change. His case resulted in the California Legislature passing a law barring government agencies from filing such counter lawsuit when accused of violating open meeting law.

"He was really disheartened by the loss," Aviles said. "But he was really revived when they changed the law."

McKee died of a heart attack in April.



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Kit helps cats learn to use the toilet



Photo courtesy Wikipedia

GOOD KITTY: **A cat gets the hang of using the toilet. A new kit helps felines make the switch.**

SUE MANNING
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Barbara Ogburn was waiting for guests to arrive for a dinner party when her Siamese cat Toby went to use his litter box.

"The guest bathroom smelled horrible and there was litter everywhere," Ogburn said. "I looked at him and said, 'Dude, your litter box is gone.'"

Someone had given Ogburn a Litter Kwitter, a three-step training kit that teaches cats to use a toilet instead of a litter box. She decided to try it, and it worked. Now Ogburn, who's had cats since she was a child, says she will never again have a litter box. No more buying litter, lugging it home, or cleaning it up.

Litter Kwitter and other toilet-training kits on the market for cats work like this: The toilet seat is fitted with a series of plastic rings the cat can step on so it doesn't fall in. The hole in the rings gets larger over time, until the cat can simply balance on the toilet seat.

But training a cat to use the toilet is not as easy as getting a cat to use a litter box. Cats instinctively bury their waste to hide it from predators, and litter fosters that instinct in a way that using the toilet does not, according to Steve Duno of Seattle, a veteran pet behaviorist and trainer who has written 18 books.

That's why, when switching to the toilet, some cats will scrape the bowl, the tank or the wall next to the toilet. Outdoor cats are not good candidates for toilet-training.

In addition, some cats tolerate change in their routines, while for others, even a slight change in feeding schedules will make their worlds fall apart, said Dr. Meghan E. Herron, chief veterinarian at the Behavioral Medicine Clinic, part of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Services at Ohio State University.

"Cats are slaves to routine and very wary of danger to themselves," Duno added.

And there is nothing about the size or height of a toilet that is normal to a cat, Herron said. "One bad experience with a toilet can make them never use it again," she said.

Duno, who has toilet-trained several cats, says he's "known cats that have fallen into the toilet and that's it, you're done right there."

You also need patience. "Cats learn at a very metered pace," Duno said. If you go too fast, your cat might find other places — furniture, plants, rugs or closets — to go, Herron said.

When you talk about toilet-trained cats, most people think of Mr. Jinx, Robert De Niro's beloved, toilet-flushing, mayhem-making cat in "Meet the Parents," "Meet the Fockers" and "Little Fockers."

Dawn M. Barkan trained all the Himalayan cats that portrayed Mr. Jinx in those movies, including two rescued cats, Peanut and Charlie, who still live with her.

Misha, who has since died, did the original scene, but "we didn't really train him to use the toilet," said Barkan, who freelances for Los Angeles-based Birds & Animal Unlimited. "It's movie magic." The cat sat on a prop designed to look like a toilet and pressed a button so that the toilet appeared to be flushed. Sound effects were added later.

The idea for Litter Kwitter came from "Meet the Parents," said Jo Lapidge, who with her husband Terry invented the kit.

After research and tests, the Sydney, Australia, couple launched their company in 2005. Since then, they've sold 750,000 kits.

Lapidge says the kit has an 80 percent success rate that "would be higher if humans stopped to follow all the instructions and showed a bit more patience."

In addition to toilet-training products with plastic rings — ranging in price from lightweight plastic for about $10 to Litter Kwitter at $50 — there are also online how-to sites and books that explain how to toilet-train your cat.

Online customer reviews for the products are mixed. Even those who say they've been successful often say it took several months to complete the training, with the cat having accidents along the way. One commenter for a toilet-training kit for a product called CitiKitty gave it five stars but cautioned that the process was "messy."

There is one disadvantage for cat-owners who successfully train their animals. Owners may be alerted to health problems by how often a cat uses its litter box or the odor, color or texture of waste. With a toilet, "you can't monitor the cat's health through elimination evidence," Duno said.

In addition, as a toilet-trained cat ages, it may have a hard time leaping onto the seat.

Herron cautioned that a cat is likely to find another place to go rather than wait in line at a bathroom door, so a spare or guest bathroom the animal can use works best.

One benefit in addition to doing away with litter: Toilets diminish the risk of humans contracting parasites or infectious diseases like toxoplasmosis, ringworm or tapeworm from cat waste.

Finally, no matter how happy you might be to have toilet-trained your cat, Duno said this is one animal behavior that shouldn't be rewarded with a treat.

"You are choreographing it, but you are not actively encouraging it," Duno said. "You can't be there to praise the cat. It's too distracting."

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BIG CROWD: **Members of the media surround Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's car on Tuesday.**

OFFICE
FROM PAGE 1

Angeles Times reported Tuesday.

"After leaving the governor's office I told my wife about this event, which occurred over a decade ago," Schwarzenegger told the Times on Monday in a statement that was later sent to The Associated Press. "I understand and deserve the feelings of anger and disappointment among my friends and family. There are no excuses and I take full responsibility for the hurt I have caused. I have apologized to Maria, my children and my family. I am truly sorry.

"I ask that the media respect my wife and children through this extremely difficult time," the statement concluded. "While I deserve your attention and criticism, my family does not."

Hours later, Shriver also released a statement: "This is a painful and heartbreaking time. As a mother, my concern is for the children. I ask for compassion, respect and privacy as my children and I try to rebuild our lives and heal. I will have no further comment."

In a Twitter posting Tuesday, Patrick Schwarzenegger, 17, said: "some days you feel like s---, some days you want to quit and just be normal for a bit, yet i love my family till death do us apart." He signed his tweet "Patrick Shriver."

That was followed later in the day by a Twitter message from his sister, 21-year-old Katherine Schwarzenegger.

"This is definitely not easy but I appreciate your love and support as i begin to heal and move forward in life," she said. "I will always love my family!"

The Times did not publish the former staffer's name or that of her child but said the woman worked for the family for 20 years and retired in January.

Schwarzenegger issued his statement to the Times late Monday, after the newspaper interviewed the former staffer. She had told the Times that another man — her husband at the time — was the child's father. When the Times later informed the woman of the governor's statement, she declined to comment further.

Schwarzenegger later released the statement to The Associated Press and other news organizations.

The child was born before Schwarzenegger began his seven-year stint in public office.

Shriver stood by her husband during his 2003 gubernatorial campaign after the Times reported accusations that he had a history of groping women. Schwarzenegger later said he "behaved badly sometimes."

In public comments after the couple announced their breakup, Schwarzenegger said last week that he and Shriver "both love each other very much."

"We are very fortunate that we have four extraordinary children and we're taking one day at a time," he said at a Los Angeles event marking Israeli independence. Their children range in age from 13 to 21.

Since his term as California governor ended in early January, Schwarzenegger, 63, has hopscotched around the world, his wife nowhere in sight. While the "Terminator" star appeared confident about the future since exiting politics, cutting movie deals and fashioning himself as a global spokesman for green energy, Shriver, known for her confidence, seemed unsettled.

Shriver, 55, maintained her own identity when her husband entered politics, though she gave up her job at NBC. Their union was often tested in Sacramento, where the former action star contended with a rough seven years of legislative gridlock, a budget crisis and lingering questions about his fidelity.

The estranged couple's initial separation statement referred to "a time of great personal and professional transition for each of us" but gave no hint of what caused the split.

Shriver had also mentioned "transitions" in a Facebook posting earlier this year but gave no details. At the time it seemed most likely to be a reference to the end of her role as California's first lady. Schwarzenegger had left office in January after seven years as California's governor. Shriver never moved to Sacramento during that time, but she used her position to run a popular yearly women's conference.

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RENT
FROM PAGE 1

Board felt the board was providing a fair return, but was concerned about how the "black letter of the law" would be interpreted in court and chose to settle, said Michaelyn Jones, general counsel.

The increase comes as the cost of living in Santa Monica continues to be a burden for many residents, with rents much higher here than in neighboring communities, according to the Rent Control Board's annual report, released last week, on the impact of vacancy decontrol, which allows property owners to increase rents to market rate when a tenant moves out.

Although market rents have fallen slightly over the past two years because of the sputtering economy, a family of four still needs an annual income of nearly $85,000 — exceeding the area median income of $63,000 — to afford a one-bedroom apartment without being considered rent poor under federal affordability guidelines, which state that a person should not be dedicating more than one-third of their income to rent.

The report also pointed out that since 1999, the median market-rate rent has gone up 39 percent in Southern California, while the increase in Santa Monica has been 150 percent.

"These figures continue to amaze and depress," Commissioner Marilyn Korade-Wilson said.

Despite the changes to the formula used to calculate the rent adjustment, some landlords are not satisfied. They believe the formula still does not accurately reflect their costs and should be more in line with the consumer price index (CPI), which measures the prices paid for goods and services. Landlords said the board historically has set rent increases roughly 75 percent of the CPI, coming close but not going far enough.

"[The proposed increase] is a good start but it doesn't come close to covering the increases that we are seeing in operating expenses in our buildings," said Bill Dawson of Sullivan-Dituri, which managers over 160 buildings in Santa Monica.

Dawson said the fire and life safety inspection fee charged by City Hall jumped significantly, along with water and sewer service. He would like to see the board approve a 5 percent rent increase.

To determine the rent increase, staff uses a pie method developed in 1983 in which the rent dollar is cut up like a pie into different slices representing where a landlord's money goes. Some slices like maintenance and cash flow represent a greater portion of the pie.

The majority of costs (roughly 65 percent) are determined by the changes in CPI, which measures the costs for goods and services. Roughly 20 percent is based on actual changes, such as fee increases for services provided by City Hall, said Tracy Condon, who manages the Rent Control Board staff.

Condon said periodically new rent dollar components have to be added, as was the case this year because of the lawsuit. She feels confident in the formula as it stands now.

"It does more accurately reflect owners' expenses," Condon said.

Rent Control Board commissioner Robert Kronovet, a landlord himself who is barred by the Fair Political Practices Commission from voting on the rent adjustment, said he believes the revised formula is more equitable than it has been in the past but more work needs to be done. He echoed Dawson's call for a straight CPI formula that he believes could save the board money by not having to hire a consultant to provide guidance.

Fellow commissioner Todd Flora said he was interested in examining the formula further, but more so that he could understand why certain components carry more weight than others. He said the erosion of rent control's impact due to vacancy-decontrol, and the profits gained by landlords because of it, could be a component to consider adding to the formula.

No matter what the percentage increase approved (some have wondered if commissioners will approve a smaller percentage out of fear of being voted out of office by the powerful renters lobby), Wes Wellman, president of Action, said many landlords will not raise rents because of the current rental market where demand is lower than supply. Units are vacant longer and landlords are willing to reduce rents for those paying market rate. Most will raise rents only on those paying below market rate.



File photo

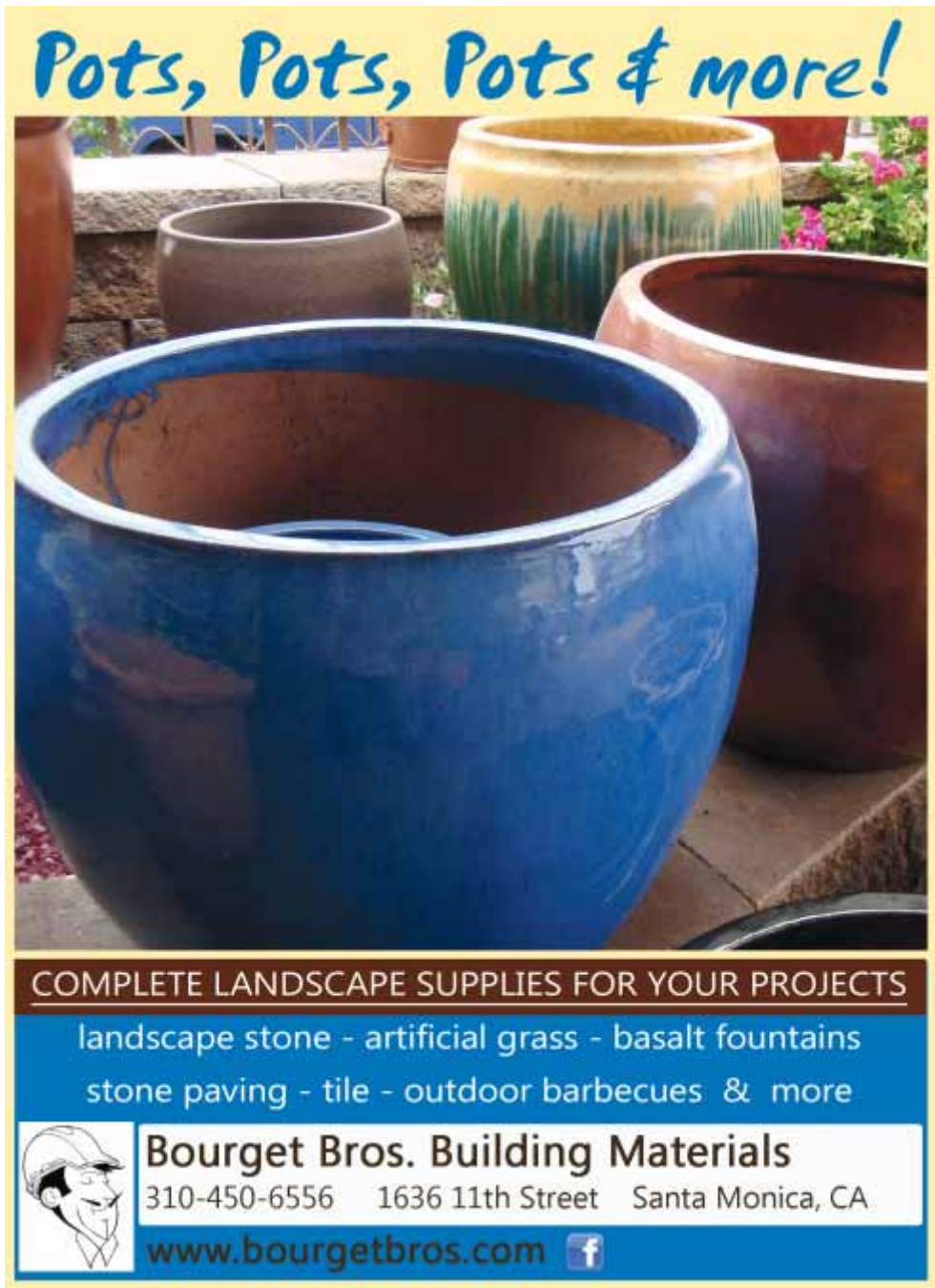
UP, UP, UP: **Rents may soon increase.**

"The vast majority [of rent-controlled tenants] are paying half or a third of market value," he said. "Their cries of hardship [created by the rent increase] are really not legitimate."

In the end, no one wants vacancies, only a fair process, Dawson said.

"A landlord without a tenant is bankrupt," he said "and a tenant without a landlord is homeless."

kevinh@smdp.com



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DISTRICT
FROM PAGE 1

Superintendent Tim Cuneo.

"The board's interest is two-fold," Cuneo said. "We don't know what the state budget future looks like, and the complications it will have on the district's ability to continue at the staffing level and program offerings."

Although the recently-passed Proposition Y and YY money covers a portion of the losses, it won't save everything, particularly if the governor fails to pass extensions on state taxes that expired this year. Prop. Y is expected to generate roughly $12 million annually through a half-cent sales tax hike approved by Santa Monica voters, with half of that money promised to public schools.

As it stands, the school district could be looking at anything from "flat funding," or a $19 decrease in per pupil money, to a loss of $679 per student without the passage of the three state taxes.

Two organizations that help districts interpret the budget documents are suggesting that the proposal could result in the rosier of the two outcomes, Maez said.

"All that (Brown's) got in it is still dependent on new revenue sources, the extension of those taxes. They're a key component of the plan," Maez said. "How they plan to do that is not clear yet."

A parcel tax could provide safety net funding to protect popular programs at the school.

The idea has been on the table since the conclusion of the Y and YY campaign. The board did not disband the citizen's committee, but instead kept it around in case the district would need to explore the option of another tax.

"It was intentional that the committee would stay in existence, continue its work and examine what was going on in the landscape of the school district," said Shari Davis, president of the PTA Council and member of the citizens' committee.

Although the item was agendized for Thursday's meeting, the committee members weren't told that they might be asked to come back into action, Davis said.

The last time the district tried to pass a parcel tax was in May 2010. Measure A, an emergency tax which would have put a $198 charge per parcel, failed to reach the required 66 percent majority.

Much of the opposition came from Malibu, which would have paid more than its schools received, said Malibu Mayor Pro Tem Laura Zahn Rosenthal.

The receipts of the parcel tax get divided based on the percentage of students that attend the school.

While Malibu has 18 percent of students in the district, it would pay over 30 percent of the parcel tax revenues because of the higher property values, Rosenthal said.

If a parcel tax were to come up again, it might be different this time.

The passage of Y and YY committed the city of Santa Monica to give half of the revenue from the recent half-cent sales tax increase to the schools, which might help soften Malibuites that benefit from the money but do not necessarily contribute to it.

"I think that given the state of the economy right now and what we needed to do last summer to save teachers' jobs, it would get a higher percent, and I would work to make that happen," Rosenthal said.

SMMUSD has one parcel tax already. Measure R, which combined two parcel taxes into one charge on property owners' tax bills, charges tax payers $358 per parcel. It generated approximately $10.5 million this year.

The district committee will look at the budget projections for the next three years, to find out what level of deficit spending will be needed to keep programs going.

The citizens' committee will also consider a bond measure to fund the school district's master plan to improve facilities across the district, Cuneo said.

Committee members will look at the balance of the projects on the master plan that have yet to be completed and projected costs. Voters already approved Measure BB in 2006, which gave the school district the authority to issue $268 million in bonds for repairing and renovating outdated facilities.

"We already have a bond right now to improve secondary schools and security ... and building an elementary school," Cuneo said. "We would like to begin planning and completing the work."

ashley@smdp.com

Internet could spell end of snow days for cold states

HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH
Associated Press

PARKVILLE, Mo. Could the Internet mean the end of snow days? Some schools think so, and they are experimenting with ways for students to do lessons online during bad weather, potentially allowing classes to go on during even the worst blizzard.

"Virtual snow days" would help ease pressure on school calendars. Because districts are required to be in session for a certain number of hours or days, losing teaching time to winter weather can mean extending the school day or cutting short spring break or summer vacation.

And canceling school in the winter, when some of the most difficult material of the year is covered, risks leaving students with a learning deficit heading into the spring, when many states administer standardized tests.

"Even if you can't continue on at the same pace, being able to keep students on track can make a huge difference," said Doug Levin, executive director of the nonprofit State Educational Technology Directors Association.

Virtual learning, which has been widely used by colleges and universities for years, is becoming more viable for younger students as teachers and administrators grow comfortable with the technology. Online learning also saves money because districts don't have to pay for transportation, electricity and custodians.

But there are obstacles, too. Many families don't have Internet access with speeds that would support complex classroom-style work, especially in rural areas and impoverished inner cities. Families with multiple children — without multiple computers — could be hard-pressed to keep up.

And some people say kids just need an occasional extra day off in the depths of winter.

"When deep snow falls, the world becomes quiet and still. And if we listen to our instincts, we settle in and enjoy the pure joy of not doing," David Santner wrote on the website for the Poughkeepsie Day School in New York, where his son is a middle schooler, after the school turned to online learning during a spate of winter storms.

For schoolchildren, old-fashioned snow days used to mean languorous hours spent playing outside in the drifts, watching television or sipping hot chocolate. But someday, kids who can't get to the classroom might just sit down with their computers.

Josie Holford, head of the Poughkeepsie school, which had six snow days and four late starts this past winter, said it's possible to enjoy the outdoors and keep learning. Students in one class were told to draw a picture in the snow for a lesson on angles and to take a picture of their creation.

"We have to recognize as teachers, educators, all of us, that we are in a completely different landscape, and that learning really isn't confined to a textbook or a teacher anymore," Holford said. "We all have to be learning all the time. Why should a snow day stop the progress of learning?"

At St. Therese School in the Kansas City suburb of Parkville, students recently did a virtual make-up day after classes were canceled six times because of weather.

As she used a computer drawing program to complete an art lesson in her kitchen, seventh-grader Cameron Mottet predicted her classmates would embrace the system, especially if it means "they don't have to go to school in June."

Cameron's older sister, whose school isn't making up days virtually, has grumbled that she will be in class while Cameron is free to hang out at the pool.

The first experiments with virtual snow days began a few years ago as individual teachers started logging on during poor weather to drill older students. Since then, entire schools and districts have joined in, using websites such as Skype and YouTube to keep students as young as kindergarten studying during storms.

An increasing number of teachers have their own websites, so sometimes starting virtual lessons is as simple as telling parents to check on snow days to see if any assignments are posted. Other times, the makeup work occurs afterward, with students completing assignments from home on days set aside for teacher training. Students can chat online with their teachers and ask questions via email.

> **"IT'S BEEN A REALLY BAD WINTER, SO THE TEACHERS WERE GRATEFUL THEY COULD USE THESE TOOLS AND NOT LOSE A DAY OR CRAM TOO MUCH MATERIAL IN ONE DAY."**
>
> **Vivian K. Elba**
> Director of marketing and communications at Ethel Walker School

In one school, younger students were directed to a website to play online money games, while older students in another school completed a simulation program to test how the angle of a baseball pitch affects the distance a ball is thrown.

The experiments appear to be the most prevalent in affluent private schools like Cameron's, where only three of 643 students lacked a home computer.

At an all-girls boarding school in Simsbury, Conn., some teachers started using the Internet for lessons when roads become impassable so students who commute didn't fall behind the others who live on campus.

"It's been a really bad winter, so the teachers were grateful they could use these tools and not lose a day or cram too much material in one day," said Vivian K. Elba, director of marketing and communications at Ethel Walker School.

But the efforts aren't limited to wealthy, private schools. The Mississinawa Valley district on the Indiana-Ohio state line has led Ohio's push for virtual snow days. Fifty-two percent of the district's 700 students qualify for free or reduced-price lunches.

Since Mississinawa got permission last fall to make up two snow days electronically, four other Ohio districts joined the pilot program. Superintendent Lisa Wendel has received calls from other states interested in virtual make-up days.

"It is going to continue to snowball in this country," said Wendel, whose district has been forced to call off classes 11 times this school year.

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When: Saturday, May 21, 10:30 am
Where: Santa Monica Main Public Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd
The Main Public Library is served by Big Blue Bus lines 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9 & 10.
To request a disability-related accommodation, please call 310-458-8974 at least 3 business days in advance.
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CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

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

Ocean Park Boulevard Complete Green Street Project (SP2131)

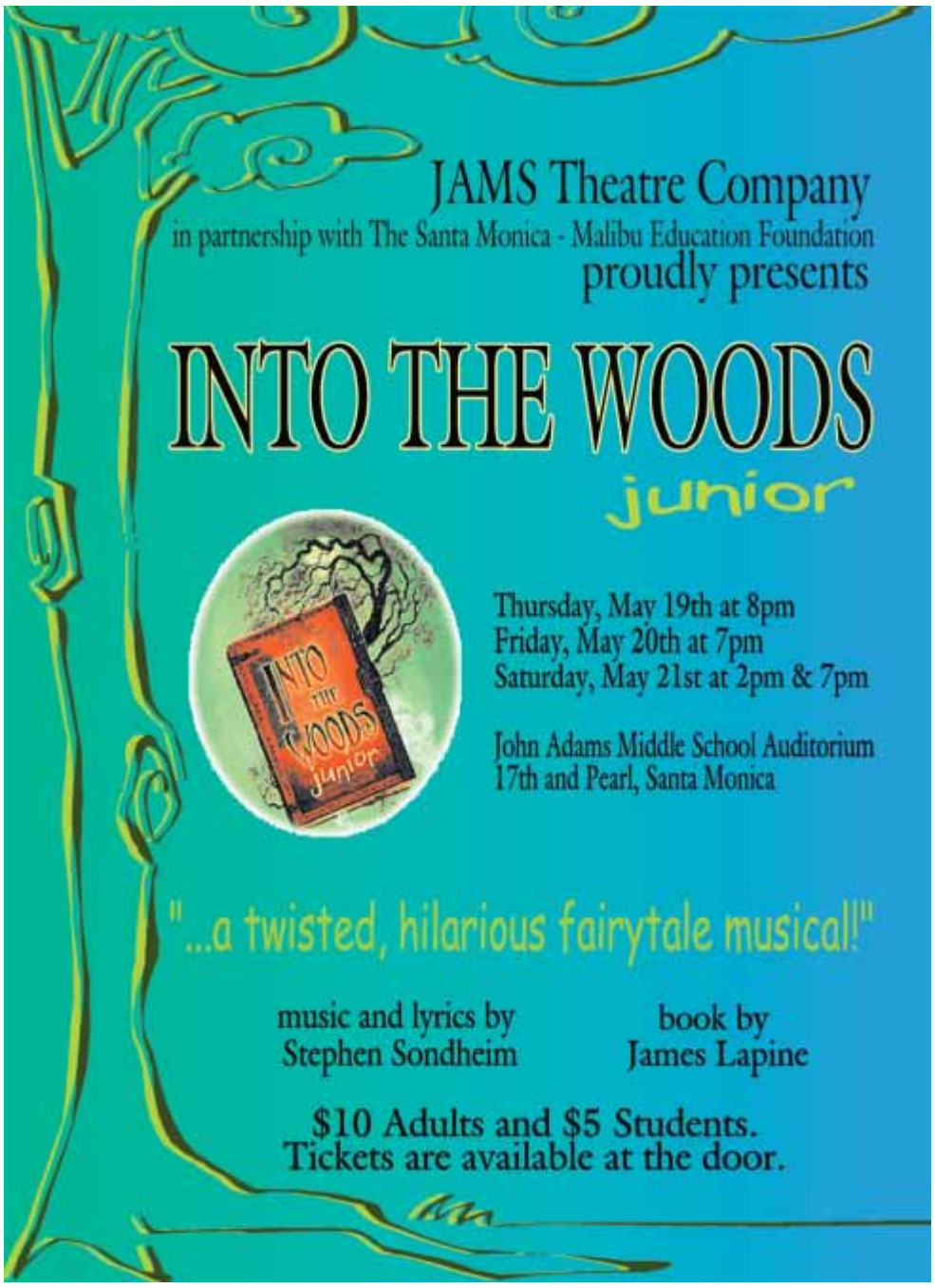
Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, 90401, not later than 2:30 p.m. on **Thursday, June 16, 2011**, to be publicly opened and read aloud after 3:00 p.m. on said date in City Hall Council Chambers. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Bids.

MANDATORY JOB WALK: **Monday, May 23, 2011 at 9:00 a.m.**
N/E corner of Neilson Way and Ocean Park Blvd
Santa Monica, CA 90405

PROJECT ESTIMATE: $5,184,000
CONTRACT CALENDAR DAYS: 393
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $720 Per Day
COMPENSABLE DELAY: $500 Per Day

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

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



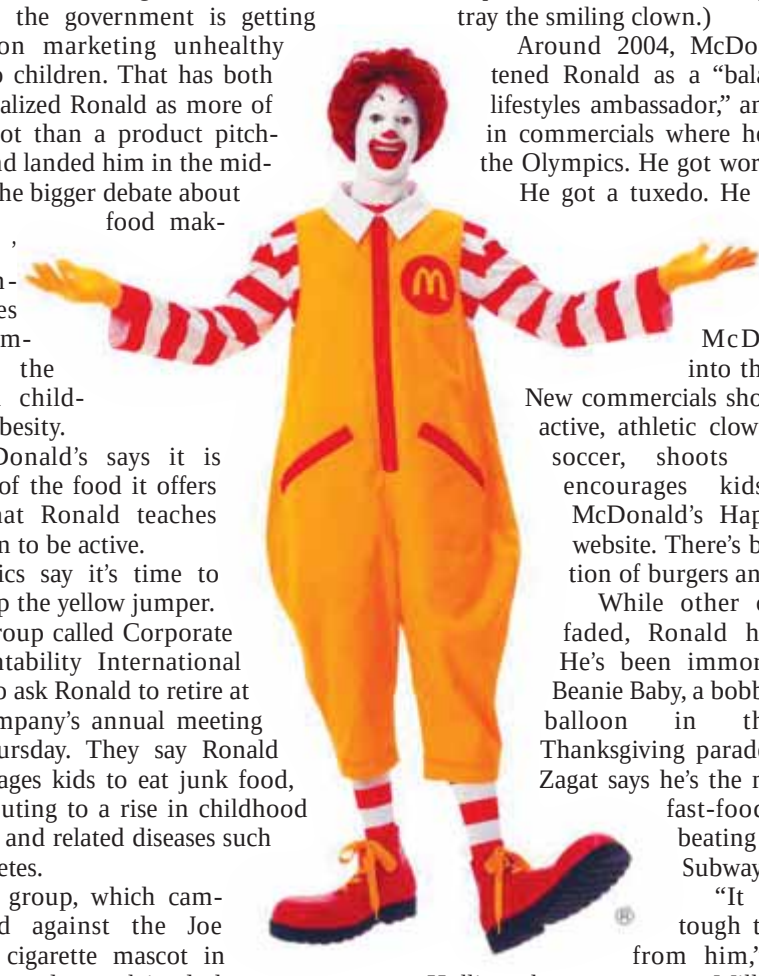
Venerable Ronald McDonald going through a midlife crisis

CHRISTINA REXRODE
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Ronald McDonald is having a midlife crisis.

His floppy shoes, painted-on smile and flaming-red hair may be a harder sell to today's kids who are trading in their dolls and trucks for manicures and mobile game apps at ever younger ages. He also seems out of step with McDonald's Corp.'s new efforts to appeal to adults. The 48-year-old spokesclown has fallen flat in new ads this year, according to Ace Metrix, a group that tracks TV advertising.

And the government is getting strict on marketing unhealthy food to children. That has both marginalized Ronald as more of a mascot than a product pitchman and landed him in the middle of the bigger debate about food makers' responsibilities in stemming the rise in childhood obesity.



McDonald's says it is proud of the food it offers and that Ronald teaches children to be active.

Critics say it's time to hang up the yellow jumper.

A group called Corporate Accountability International plans to ask Ronald to retire at the company's annual meeting on Thursday. They say Ronald encourages kids to eat junk food, contributing to a rise in childhood obesity and related diseases such as diabetes.

The group, which campaigned against the Joe Camel cigarette mascot in the '90s and complained about Ronald as a role model at McDonald's annual meeting last year, has stepped up its campaign. The group has taken out full-page ads Wednesday in the Chicago Sun-Times, New York Metro and four other papers to call for his head. The ads, signed by more than 550 health groups and professionals, carry the headline, "Doctors' Orders: Stop Marketing Junk Food To Kids."

What follows is an open letter to McDonald's CEO Jim Skinner, that says in part, "We ask that you heed our concern and retire your marketing promotions for food high in salt, fat, sugar, and calories to children, whatever form they take — from Ronald McDonald to toy giveaways."

McDonald's defended Ronald against the group's attack at last year's annual meeting and is adamant that it has never considered retiring or even downplaying their smiling mascot.

"It's totally unfounded," said Marlena Peleo-Lazar, the company's chief creative officer, who describes Ronald as "a force for good."

Ronald, the world's most famous clown, had humble beginnings with a paper-cup nose and scraggly blonde wig. First played by Willard Scott in 1963, he dispensed burgers and fries to delighted children and flew around on a magic hamburger. "Goofy and clumsy" is the way McDonald's describes the early incarnations.

A decade later McDonald's created standards on makeup and mannerisms for Ronald, so the actors who portrayed him could present a united front. Around that time, they also created McDonaldLand, home to Grimace, Mayor McCheese and an array of other characters.

(McDonald's, for the record, views Ronald as a real person. "There's only one Ronald," Peleo-Lazar said in response to several questions about how many actors portray the smiling clown.)

Around 2004, McDonald's christened Ronald as a "balanced, active lifestyles ambassador," and stuck him in commercials where he trained for the Olympics. He got workout clothes. He got a tuxedo. He moved from McDonaldLand into the real world. New commercials show him as an active, athletic clown who plays soccer, shoots hoops and encourages kids to visit McDonald's Happymeal.com website. There's barely a mention of burgers and fries.

While other clowns have faded, Ronald has endured. He's been immortalized as a Beanie Baby, a bobblehead and a balloon in the Macy's Thanksgiving parade. Even now, Zagat says he's the most popular fast-food mascot, beating out Jared the Subway Guy.

"It would be tough to walk away from him," said Nigel Hollis, whose company, Millward Brown Optimor, calculates that McDonald's is the fourth-most valuable brand in the world. "It would be almost as if the Geico gecko disappeared, or the Aflac duck."

But Jack McKee, vice president of sales and marketing at Ace Metrix, said new Ronald McDonald commercials have failed to entice test audiences. His company surveyed 500 people about each commercial, he said.

"It's really remarkable how often I saw the word 'creepy'" in the survey comments, McKee said.

Replies Peleo-Lazar: "For everyone who may feel that way, there are more who feel the opposite."

Through the years, Ronald has also been the face of Ronald McDonald House Charities, which provides free or inexpensive housing for families who must travel to get medical treatment for a child. He still shows up as often as ever at camps for sick children and charity events.

Nick Guroff, a spokesman for Corporate Accountability International, said while that's a worthwhile charity, "to use that as their excuse for marketing junk food to kids is sort of having their burger and eating it too."

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Oregon pot bar hosts karaoke

NIGEL DUARA
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. Lights dim. A white-haired man of perhaps 50 approaches the stage. He's wearing a blue suit jacket, open-neck shirt, black leather loafers and sunglasses, indoors, at night. He's got the Sinatra panache down.

Then, the voice, a rich baritone, sweeps over the audience of a couple dozen glazed and grinning pot smokers.

"Day and night, night and daaaaay," he croons the Sinatra standard into a mic in his right hand. "Only you beneath the moon or under the sun, whether near to me or far, it's no matter darling where you are.

"Dum dum, dum dum de-doo-dee-dum."

The audience yelps and coos in appreciation.

This is karaoke night at Portland's Cannabis Cafe, a combination of the bar from Cheers and a street-side pot palace in Amsterdam. It is perfectly legal in this smoky room for medical marijuana patients to burn, eat, rub, filter and roll marijuana.

There are cancer patients, AIDS patients and sufferers of smashed vertebrae and pinched nerves. There are also those who find refuge under Oregon's "severe pain" allowance — tell a marijuana-friendly doctor you've got pain, and you've pretty much got weed.

Since the medical marijuana law's passage in 1998, nearly 40,000 patients have gotten access.

The pot in the cafe is brought in by patients or donated by growers. Money doesn't change hands unless it's to buy a sandwich or coffee. The price of admission: a $20 monthly charge and a $5 door fee.

The cafe has farmer's markets of donated weed-laden goodies, a weekly comedy show and even an employees' night. On Thursdays, it's karaoke. An ill-lit stage catches an occasional cloud of puffy white smoke blown from a pipe or a bong or a vaporizer.

The Sinatra crooner, unlike many tonight, has got the goods.

The rest of the evening will be spent alternatively cringing and clapping at the cluster of medical marijuana users who make it their business to be at the cafe when karaoke kicks off at 7 p.m.

From table to table, the stories pour out of them. Most declined to give their names to The Associated Press.

Teresa Sheffer was hit by a train while driving in Alto, Mich. It broke every major bone on her right side and left her with damage to her spine. Now her pain sometimes gets so severe it forces her to huddle in her house, alone.

But sitting six paces from the stage with a pipe in front of her and a thick pinch of locally grown pot packed into her friend's bong, she's relaxed. If there is a point to the Cannabis Cafe, it is to give people who smoke pot a place to do it together.

"It's a family here," Sheffer said. "You see other people with the same problems, but it's not a hospital. It's a reason to get out of the house so you're not just a hermit in the dark with pain pills."

To Sheffer, smoking marijuana softens the dull aches and sharp pangs of pain she still experiences. Others enduring chemotherapy say it alleviates their nausea. Marijuana at the Cannabis Cafe is a sleep aid, an appetite stimulator and a headache reliever.

Toward the back of the cafe on a couch dug into a little nook under a billiard lamp, Joe Winn, 30, leans into a bong, takes a giant drag, holds it and exhales. He comes here regularly, is in fact a volunteer for the place, and likes the crush of activity when people stream in.

Three feet away, a man who would only be identified as "Redeye" hauls out a 6-foot plastic bong he nicknamed "The Staleblazer," a play on Portland's NBA team and the stale smoke that accumulates from the water chamber to mouthpiece.

A few minutes later, he's up on stage, doing a muddled rendition of Sublime's "Two Joints." His thick, red dreadlocks bounce off his back, giving the impression of a Rastafarian leprechaun doll being shaken by a child.

> **"AND STONERS," SHE SAYS, "ARE WAY BETTER KARAOKE SINGERS THAN DRINKERS ANYWAY."**
>
> Melody Reid
> cafe patron

But he, like everyone who performs, gets the crowd's "wooo!" of approval.

The cafe doesn't need any special license to operate. The impetus for starting the cafe was President Barack Obama's 2009 pledge to soften the federal stance on medical marijuana.

A year ago, owner Madeline Martinez brought in a pair of local police officers to tour the cafe as a sign that the place was more than a marijuana speakeasy. She said they were polite.

The place isn't turning a profit yet. Martinez thinks that within a few years, Oregon will legalize a drug that already enjoys near-legal status and that's when the real money will roll in.

Think of it, she says: Movie theaters, bars, hotels and, maybe, a taxi service, all catering to marijuana smokers.

But for now, it's all donated weed and free music and a prominent budget deficit for the state of Oregon — $3.5 billion in all — that Martinez insists could be ameliorated by the sale and taxation of cannabis.

The mindset at the cafe is a blend of avid horticulture, sharing-is-caring communalism and good old-fashioned West Coast anti-authoritarianism.

It is also, however, just a karaoke club in the Pacific Northwest. Replace the bongs and pipes with martini stems and Tom Collins glasses and it would be nearly indistinguishable from any other bar.

"Coming up on stage, we've got our own Supremes. Come on up here ladies," an emcee laughs into the microphone. A minute later, he is replaced on stage by three women their 50s, each in a feather boa, singing, with moderate difficulty but not much concern, 1964's "Baby Love."

Melody Reid, one of the few in the cafe who chose not to sing, says she would frequent bars in her younger days before thyroid cancer and a gastric pacemaker, and that she grew tired of the constant pick-up attempts by stumbling drunks.

"I've been to bars, had them just crawling all over you," she says with a laugh, between pulls off a petite green pipe. "This is much more relaxed.

"And stoners," she says, "are way better karaoke singers than drinkers anyway."

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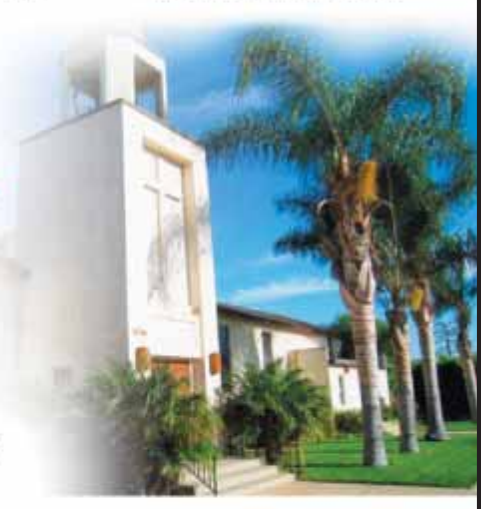
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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

Swell Forecast

NW swell come ashore, hitting SB/VC early in the day, and finally SD mid to late morning. Size should run head high at most west facing breaks with pluses at standouts going about 2' overhead.

Long Range Synopsis

NW is expected to back off a bit, more along the lines of chest to at times head high for west facing breaks.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



MLB

San Francisco Giants agree to make anti-gay bullying video

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO The San Francisco Giants will follow in the footsteps of President Barack Obama, pop star Janet Jackson and more than 10,000 others who have made videos for an anti-suicide campaign geared toward gay youth, the team said Tuesday.

The World Series champions agreed to produce a YouTube spot for the "It Gets Better" campaign at the request of a fan who started an online petition signed by 6,000 people.

Seattle writer Dan Savage launched the "It Gets Better" project last year amid several highly publicized suicides by gay teenagers. It provides messages of hope to counter the despair of bullied or rejected teens.

Meanwhile, Jarrett Barrios, president of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, said his group is in discussions with Major League Baseball about getting players to participate in an anti-bullying PSA campaign expected to premiere during the back-to-school season.

"Sports teams adding their voice to the chorus of fair-minded people in this country who are calling for an end to bullying and violence against gay people are particularly impactful," Barrios said. "Their audiences are the people, primarily young men, we most need to bring on as supporters of fair treatment of gay people."

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, employees at Apple and the vice president of the European Union all have contributed videos to the "It Gets Better" effort.

British rugby star Gareth Thomas also made a video, but the Giants are thought to be the first professional team to participate, said Sean Chapin, the Giants fan who petitioned the team through the online site Change.org.

"If every pro sports team joined the Giants in taking a stand against homophobia and anti-gay bullying by making these videos, it would have a tremendous impact on the lives of millions of kids and their families," "Chapin said. "It would also contribute to a safer playing environment for gay athletes, from high school to professional sports."

> **IF EVERY PRO SPORTS TEAM JOINED THE GIANTS IN TAKING A STAND AGAINST HOMOPHOBIA AND ANTI-GAY BULLYING BY MAKING THESE VIDEOS, IT WOULD HAVE A TREMENDOUS IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF MILLIONS OF KIDS AND THEIR FAMILIES."**
>
> Sean Chapin
> Giants fan

The Giants have not decided who will appear in the team's video or what it will say, spokeswoman Staci Slaughter said in a statement.

After Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant used an anti-gay slur over a referee's call last month, Bryant and four other players appeared in a public service announcement about respecting diversity that was played at Staples Center.

The World Wrestling Entertainment network also has produced PSA spots on the topic after a wrestler used several anti-gay taunts.

BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **April 6, 2011**

HEAL THE BAY - 1444 9th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 - www.healthebay.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 -- 10
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 34 / 12
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 11 / 32

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Grousbeck Family Foundation, simplehuman, LAcarGUY, SIMA

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.	F	F
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lachusa and Los Aliso creeks.	A+	A+
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	B	F
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	F
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	F	F
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	F	A+
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A	F
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach.	A+	F
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	F
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	F	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	C
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	B	F
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	F	F
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	A
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	C
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	B
Tuna Canyon.	ns	ns
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.	F	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	F
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	F	F
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	C
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	C
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	D	F
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	C	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	C
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	F
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	F
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	C
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A	A+
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	C
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	C
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	A	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A+	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	B
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	A+	C
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+	F

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'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.

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

Heal the Bay

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MOVIE TIMES

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

For American Cinematheque members only.
Viva Riva! (R) 1hr 36min
7:30pm
Discussion following with director Djo Mungo, followed by a Belgian beer reception in the lobby.

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

Thor (PG-13) 1hr 54min
12:00pm, 3:00pm, 6:00pm, 9:00pm

Hesher (R) 1hr 42min
1:30pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:40pm

African Cats (G) 1hr 29min
12:10pm, 2:30pm, 4:55pm

Source Code (PG-13) 1hr 34min
7:20pm, 9:50pm

Bridesmaids (R) 2hrs 05min
12:30pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm, 9:30pm

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

Fast Five (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
10:50am, 2:00pm, 6:10pm, 9:10pm, 10:45pm

Everything Must Go (R) 1hr 40min
11:20am, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:35pm, 10:15pm

Bridesmaids (R) 2hrs 05min
10:30am, 1:30pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm

Soul Surfer (PG-13) 1hr 45min
10:20am, 1:00pm, 3:30pm

Rio 3D (PG) 1hr 36min
11:30am, 2:10pm, 4:45pm, 7:15pm, 9:55pm

Priest 3D (PG-13) 1hr 27min
10:15am, 12:45pm, 3:10pm, 5:40pm, 8:00pm, 10:25pm

Thor 3D (PG-13) 1hr 54min
10:05am, 1:05pm, 4:05pm, 7:05pm, 10:05pm

Metropolitan Opera: Il Trovatore Encore (NR) 3hrs 30min
6:30pm

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

Last Night (R) 2hrs 00min
3:10pm, 7:40pm

Princess of Montpensier (La Princesse de Montpensier) (NR) 2hrs 19min
1:40pm, 4:50pm, 8:00pm

Forks Over Knives (PG) 1hr 30min
1:30pm, 7:00pm

13 Assassins (R) 2hrs 06min
4:00pm, 9:20pm

Exporting Raymond (PG) 1hr 26min
1:00pm, 5:30pm, 10:00pm

I Am (NR) 1hr 16min
1:10pm, 3:20pm, 5:30pm, 7:40pm, 9:50pm

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

Something Borrowed (PG-13) 1hr 43min
11:05am, 1:45pm, 4:25pm, 7:05pm, 9:45pm

Jumping the Broom (PG-13) 1hr 53min
10:45am, 1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 10:10pm

Water for Elephants (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
10:50am, 1:50pm, 4:45pm, 7:40pm, 10:20pm

Priest 3D (PG-13) 1hr 27min
11:50am, 2:15pm, 4:40pm, 7:00pm, 9:30pm

Thor 3D (PG-13) 1hr 54min
11:00am, 2:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:50pm, 10:40pm

Go for It! (PG-13) 1hr 30min
11:40am, 2:10pm, 4:50pm, 7:15pm, 9:50pm

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

Exercise tonight, Cancer

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ A partner encourages erring on the side of caution. More than likely, you will be spontaneous but land well. Do weigh a risk and determine what the damages would be if it backfired. If you can handle a flop, then move forward. Tonight: Where there is great music.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Listen well to what an associate or friend shares. This person might have a dark view in your judgment. The situation could change radically if you relax and help him or her open up. Make time for an important discussion. Tonight: Make it a duo.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Others seem bound to let you know that they know and understand more than you. So let them handle the issue in question. You might feel put down in one sense, but on the other hand, you could be looking at new freedom or an opportunity to do something you have been putting off. Tonight: Ever playful.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Negativity could be a problem on the domestic front. How you plan to deal with a personal matter and the way you move through a problem come into question. Others might need to distance themselves some, as they might be unsure about your methods. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You wake up ready to pursue a particular goal or project. A serious conversation with a relative or neighbor might cause you to think too much. Don't let this discussion distract you from your plans. Flow, as you stream one idea after another. Tonight: Play away.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Consider how you feel when pushed to your limit, especially at home or in a personal situation. You could be far more exhausted and reactive than you realize. Even if just the cat acts up, you could find yourself in a tizzy. Tonight: Your home is your castle.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Your seriousness often can be a negative, but today it anchors others and helps find the right solution. Keep talks moving. Listen and share. Do acknowledge that you might be unusually somber. Tonight: Catch up on others' news.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Others look for leadership and understanding. Remain willing to follow your preordained path. If someone doesn't agree, of course, this person can step up to the plate and lead. Know when to say "no." Tonight: Burning the candle at both ends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ You seem to leave others way behind. You are full of energy and playfulness. In your present mood, you might not know when you are pushing too much. Be careful with an older person who might be pivotal in your life. Tonight: Only what makes you happy.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Use your instincts and follow through on what you deem important. You might not be the lead player, but you certainly are instrumental. Could you be having a hard time allowing someone else to share the limelight? Tonight: Get a good night's sleep.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Zero in on what you want. A goal or simply a whim has been on the back burner for too long. Make it happen now. Open doors by sharing more of your plans. Understand that not everyone will think you have a great idea. Accept your differences. Tonight: Where the fun is.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might feel exposed when expressing your strong feelings and pointing in a new direction. The real issue is determining at what point to defer. An associate lets you know he or she does not agree. Why not invite this person to take the lead position? Tonight: Till the wee hours

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

Happy birthday

This year, you open up, possibly through your own volition or because of an event. You will let go of what is no longer functioning. Much of this year, you will be evaluating what you deem important. Changes are likely. If you are single, you could meet someone and dive into a relationship. Nothing happens overnight. Relax and go through a year with this person. If you are attached, your sweetie could invite you to join in his or her type of thinking. It could be an interesting adventure. SAGITTARIUS helps you bottom-line problems.



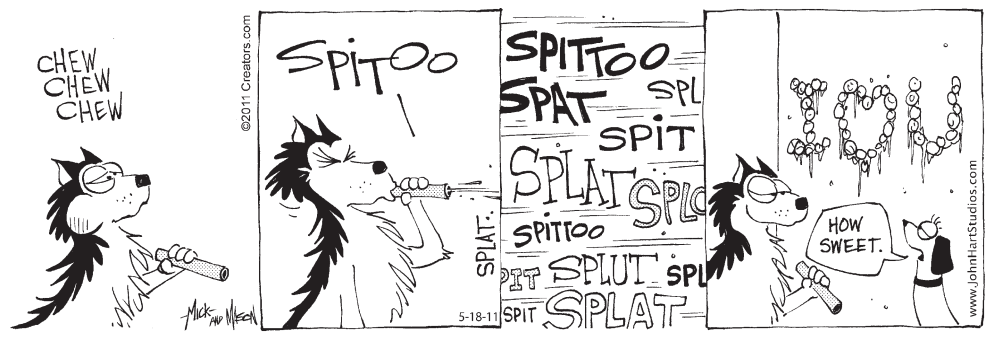
MYSTERY PHOTO

Brandon Wise *brandonw@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.

Dogs of C-Kennel

By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



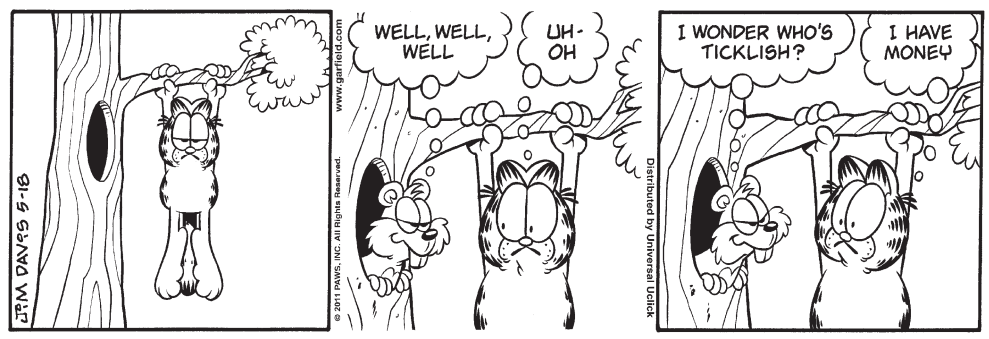
The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



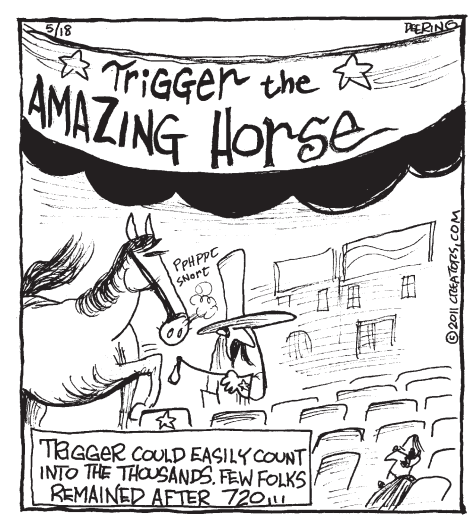
Garfield

By Jim Davis



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Company bigwig
5 Title paper
9 Choir members
11 Robot part
12 Blessed event
13 Domesticated
14 Cain's mother
15 Pennsylvania city
17 In front
19 Maiden name label
20 Aroma
21 Nap site
22 Suspect's story
24 Brooch
26 Lets off steam
29 Determined
30 Furniture trim
32 Direction
34 "The Bells" writer
35 Wagering every chip one has
36 Admit
38 Blood lines
39 Wed without fuss
40 Important times
41 Clutter

DOWN

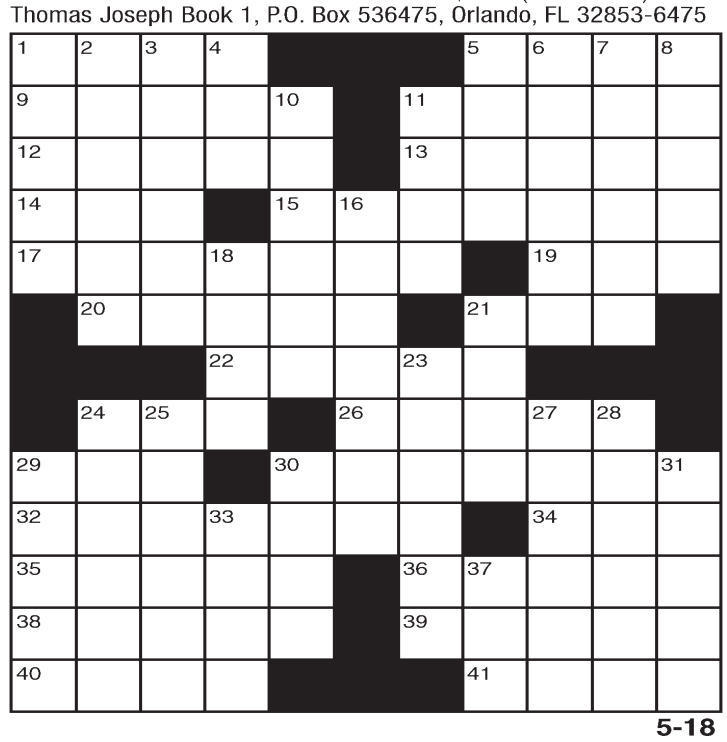
1 2006 Brad Pitt movie
2 Relish tray items
3 Brook
4 Lush
5 Out of play
6 Regal fur
7 Made flat
8 Evade
10 Strident

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

Yesterday's answer

11 Antlered animal
16 Pep up
18 University VIP
21 Tough spot
23 Darwin's ship
24 Kitchen gadget
25 Napoli's nation
27 Go quietly
28 Nosy ones
29 Barbershop offering
30 Storage spots
31 Heredity units
33 Clamors
37 Spreading tree

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5-18

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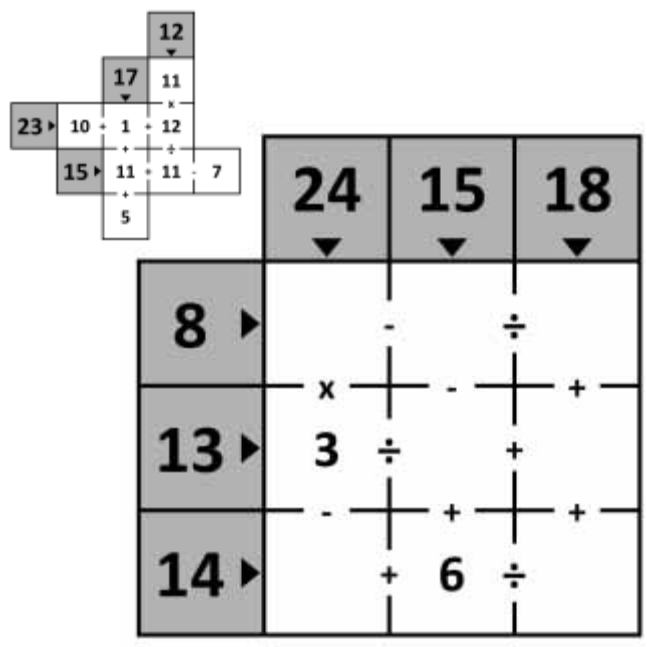
- Fill the grid with the set of given numbers (1 to 12) to satisfy the Equa demands (7 to 24) in the shaded boxes. The Equa demands represent the sum of the digits that you will insert into the empty squares.
- Each horizontal row has one Equa demand to satisfy; each vertical column also has one demand to satisfy. Each empty square in the grid dictates the math operation (addition +, subtraction -, multiplication X, and division ÷) that must be performed to meet the demands.
- You must follow the given math operations for each square and you must make sure all the numbers satisfy the demands in the shaded boxes when connected in adjacent threes and calculated together from left to right, and top to bottom.
- The numbers you insert into the grid must satisfy the Equa demands both horizontally and vertically.

For more games, go to www.arithmo.com

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

3, 3, 3, 12, 12, 12, 12

Solution for Task 544



DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS: 3 33 39 47 53 Meganumber: 9 Jackpot: $12M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS: 2 11 17 31 47 Meganumber: 12 Jackpot: $16M

Fantasy 5: 9 12 23 24 28

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 7 1 4 EVENING: 4 1 2

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 07 Eureka 2nd: 05 California Classic 3rd: 12 Lucky Charms RACE TIME: 1:45.75

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at http://www.calottery.com

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Nursery school teacher Elizabeth Davies, 48, was fired in February from Hafod Primary School in Swansea, Wales, after accusations that she had sprayed pine-scented room-freshener on kids who passed gas and on Bangladeshis who had come to class reeking of curry and onions. Of the latter, she reportedly said, "There is a waft coming in from paradise."

■ Recently, public school students were expelled in Spotsylvania, Va. (possession of homemade tubing for launching plastic "spitballs" in lunchroom horseplay) (December); arrested in Hammonton, N.J. (a 7-year-old, for bringing to class a Nerf-type "gun" that fired soft balls) (January); and arrested in Arvada, Colo. (for drawing violent stick figures, which was recommended by his therapist as a way to tamp down harmful thoughts) (February). Meanwhile, in March, at the other end of "zero tolerance," a judge allowed Ryan Ricco, 18, to play for his school in a big basketball tournament despite being on modified house arrest after being charged with threatening to blow up two other high schools in the Chicago suburbs.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1980 Gwangju Massacre: students in Gwangju, South Korea begin demonstrations calling for democratic reforms.

1983 In Ireland, the government launches a crackdown, with the leading Dublin pirate Radio Nova being put off the air.

1990 In France, a modified TGV train achieves a new rail world speed record of 515.3km/h (320.2 mph).

1991 Northern Somalia declares independence from the rest of Somalia as the Republic of Somaliland but is not recognised by the international community.

1992 The Archivist of the United States officially announces the Twenty-seventh Amendment to the United States Constitution.

WORD UP!

connubial
\kuh-NOO-bee-ul; -NYOO-\ , adjective;
1.
Of or pertaining to marriage, or the marriage state; conjugal; nuptial.

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Gorgeous Remodel!
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Great Price Reduction to:
$1,699,000
Spectacular,
Contemporary Spanish
Custom Details Thru-Out
Top-Of-The-Line Appliances
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Verdant Grounds
Built-In BBQ
Great Views
4 Bed, 3.5 Bath
Open Sunday May 22nd
2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Average Price of **ALL** Santa Monica Properties
From **ALL** agents in **ALL** companies
Listed for Sale As of Mid-May 2011

		Single Family Homes	Condos & Townhomes
Santa Monica Canyon	=	$1,725,000	$2,400,000
North of Montana	=	$3,237,500	$1,309,500
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$1,995,000	$862,000
South of Wilshire	=	$737,000	$497,000
Sunset Park	=	$1,069,000	$599,000
Ocean Park	=	$1,250,000	$900,000

Statistics updated every Monday

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