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Santa Monica Daily Press
FRIDAY, MAY 18, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 161

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

SAMOHI OPENS PLAYOFFS WITH BANG
SEE PAGE 3

THE BACK AT THE HELM ISSUE

City Hall's five-year deficit hits $4.6M

Loss of redevelopment funding, changes to retirement to blame

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL City officials are projecting that City Hall will run a $4.6 million deficit by June 2016, up from the $100,000 they predicted at the beginning of the year.

The increase mostly comes from the dissolution of the Santa Monica Redevelopment Agency, increases in the amount City Hall must pay for its employees' retirement and operating costs for new parks and facilities.

Those costs have more than absorbed the $6.3 million in projected extra revenue from the unexpectedly good tax returns and a prepayment on those same retirement accounts.

The projected deficit constitutes 1.4 per-

SEE BUDGET PAGE 12



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

A WORK IN PROGRESS: **Visitors pass by the new beach bathrooms while they were still under construction in 2011.**

Beach bathrooms have the Midas touch

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SANTA MONICA BEACH Visitors will probably appreciate the fact that for the first time in many years they will have access to brand new bathrooms after fighting their way through traffic on Interstate 10 to sun themselves on Santa Monica's beaches.

The local residents who paid for those shining commodes may complain that they were lined in gold.

According to records from the Public Works Department, the seven bathroom facilities built at strategic points along the beach cost taxpayers almost $5 million.

The original estimate by staff, before the project was put out to bid to contractors, was $3.6 million for eight units and around 112 stalls, according to a City Hall report from November 2009.

One of those, at 2400 Ocean Front Walk,

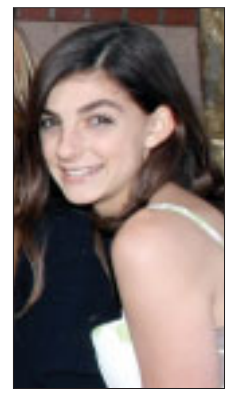
SEE BATHROOMS PAGE 13

Conviction in murder of Malibu student

BY KNOWLES ADKISSON
Special to the Daily Press

MALIBU A man who was despondent over losing his job and driving recklessly along Pacific Coast Highway, crashing his car and killing a 13-year-old Malibu girl, was convicted Thursday of second-degree murder.

Sina Khankhanian, 28, faces up to 16 years to life in prison when he is sentenced June 15.



SHANE

Prosecutors argued that Khankhanian was suicidal over the loss of his job on April 3, 2010, and drove his Mitsubishi Lancer recklessly for 17 miles at speeds up to 70 mph before he crashed near Heathercliff Road, killing Emily Rose Shane, who was walking along the street.

While the usual sentence for second-degree murder is 15 to life, an extra year was added because Khankhanian used his car as a weapon, Michael Shane, the father of Emily, said.

The eight-man, four-woman jury began deliberations Tuesday afternoon and came to its decision Thursday. It was the second trial in the case. The first trial earlier this year ended in a hung jury.

"I am relieved that the legal part of this horrible tragedy is behind us," said Ellen Shane, Emily's mother. "Nothing is going to bring [Emily] back, but at least justice was done for her."

The Shane family created a foundation in Emily's name — emilyshane.org — to reward people for doing good deeds and to offer tutoring services to youngsters.

Khankhanian's defense attorney argued that his client was not guilty of murder, saying that at most he was guilty of vehicular manslaughter. He denied that the fatal crash was the result of a suicide attempt.

news@smdp.com

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


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Friday, May 18, 2012

Bowling for benefits
AMF Bayshore Lanes
234 Pico Blvd., 6 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Santa Monica-Malibu Unified substitute teachers are holding a fundraiser dubbed Bowling for Benefits Two. There will be unlimited bowling, free shoe rental and prizes for just $20 per bowler. Proceeds go to help local subs. For more information, call (310) 395-1528.

Dance, dance, dance
The Broad Stage
1310 11th St., 7 p.m.
Santa Monica College's Global Motion World Dance Company presents "Olakino," a program of choreography from across the globe. "Olakino," Hawaiian for "health," reflects the 2011-12 SMC Global Citizenship theme of "Health, Wellness & the Pursuit of Happiness." This performance also takes place on Saturday. For more information, call (310) 434-3467.

Fine wine
Ruskin Group Theatre
3000 Airport Ave., 8 p.m. — 10 p.m.
"Sideways the Play," adapted by Rex Pickett from his own novel, follows two friends — Miles and Jack — on their journey across the Santa Ynez wine country on one last blowout trip before Jack gets married. Along the way, Miles and Jack must face their uncertain futures … just as soon as they figure out how to survive their chaotic present. For more information, call (310) 397-3244.

Sweating it out
Senior Recreation Center
1450 Ocean Ave., 9 a.m. — 10 a.m.
Seniors are invited to this low-impact aerobic exercise program that works all parts of the body, from head to toe. For more information, call (310) 458-8644.

Saturday, May 19, 2012

Calm and care
Santa Monica Place
395 Santa Monica Place,
7:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.
Take part in health workshops and yoga classes in this half-day wellness event benefiting the City of Hope. In addition to these activities, guests will also enjoy an opening bell ceremony, live music and yoga instruction from some of L.A.'s premier teachers. For more information, or to register for the event, visit www.yoga4hope.org, or call 800-266-7920.

Book talk
Ocean Park Library
2601 Main St., 11 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.
A monthly book discussion group focusing on books that have won the Pulitzer Prize. This time, the group will discuss Willa Cather's "One of Ours." For more information, call (310) 458-8683.

Teen thespians
Lincoln Middle School
1501 California Ave., 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.
A rope swing, sword fights and an on-stage pirate ship will be part of the fun at "The Pirates of Penzance," a musical comedy produced by student actors at Lincoln Middle School. Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for students and children. For more information, e-mail springconcert2012@gmail.com

Get festive
Clover Park
2600 Ocean Park Blvd.,
11 a.m. — 6 p.m.
The Santa Monica Festival offers an eclectic mix of live music and dance, do-it-yourself art workshops with recycled and repurposed materials, guilt-free shopping featuring Earth friendly artistic wares and local services offered by a variety of City Hall, environmental and local nonprofit organizations. Admission is free. Those biking should take advantage of the free bike valet. For more information, go to www.smgov/net/festival

Walk the walk
Santa Monica Pier
Lot 1 North, 7:30 a.m.
The Arthritis Walk of Los Angeles will feature live entertainment, a play area for kids, refreshments and food, but first you must walk. The Arthritis Walk is the Arthritis Foundation's signature event that takes place in communities nationwide to raise funds and awareness to fight arthritis, the nation's number one cause of disability. For more information, call (323) 954-5760 x 250 or visit http://lmt.arthritis.org/

To create your own listing,
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For help, contact Daniel Archuleta at
310-458-7737 or submit to editor@smdp.com

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



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PICO BLVD

Pedestrian sting

Santa Monica police officers wrote 16 tickets to motorists who failed to stop for pedestrians in a crosswalk at the corner of Pico Boulevard and 31st Street on Wednesday.

Officers were in the area from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. They used a police employee to act as a decoy, something which has been deemed legal by the courts, said SMPD Sgt. Richard Lewis.

Officers conducted the sting after receiving complaints from residents in the area that vehicles do not yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk.

KEVIN HERRERA

SMC

Student wins hair competition

Santa Monica College cosmetology student Inga Erdene Jargalsikhan was named winner Tuesday of the Junior Style Stars National Hair Competition, beating out 315 students nationwide.

In addition, SMC students captured second-, seventh- and eighth-place spots in a contest with 11 finalists.

Jargalsikhan, who wins $5,000 in cash and $50,000 in prizes, was told she was the winner at a surprise celebration in the SMC Cosmetology Department, where students and professors cheered wildly and shared cake and refreshments.

SMC students Yuzu Tanaka placed second, Roxanne Kumasaka placed seventh, and Brittney Hayes placed eighth in the nation and will also receive prizes.

"SMC is just absolutely amazing when it comes to cosmetology," said Paul Barry, vice president of Junior Style Stars, who organized the competition and presented an oversized check to Jargalsikhan.

Contestants earlier this year received identical mannequins to style, cut, color and make up in a bridal theme. The students had two weeks to work on their mannequins, which, upon completion, were brought to JC Penney for photos that were then sent to the judges.

"I'm really proud of our students and teachers," said SMC Cosmetology Department chair Helen LeDonne. "I know these remarkable students who have done so well in the competition will be successful in their careers."

KH

MONTANA AVE

Care package cleaners

Flair Cleaners on Montana Avenue is offering people 50 percent off dry cleaning if they bring in goodies for care packages that will be sent to troops fighting overseas.

Flair did the same thing last year and found it to be such a success that they wanted to repeat.

Businesses and individuals are being encouraged to bring in anything that will offer a "touch of home" for soldiers, including music, DVDs, water, snacks, and personal hygiene products. A complete list can be found on the Flair Cleaners website, www.flaircleaners.com.

"The USO Greater Los Angeles Area, which serves more than 60,000 military personnel and their families annually, is delighted to once again partner with the patriots at Flair Cleaners in this drive for our troops," said Barbara Musella, center manager of the USO - Greater Los Angeles Area. "The leadership of businesses like Flair Cleaners in rallying our communities' generosity is vital in helping provide the USO's famous touch of home."

Flair Cleaners in Santa Monica is located at 720 Montana Ave. The offer lasts until May 27.

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

Samohi routs La Quinta for first-round win

BY DANIEL ARCHULETA
Managing Editor

MEMORIAL PARK Santa Monica's perennial trip to the softball playoffs began Thursday with vigor during a 21-1 rout over Orange County's La Quinta at Memorial Park.

The CIF-Southern Section Division 4 game started competitively enough with both teams knotted at 1-1 after the first inning.

Then, things became decidedly more lopsided.

The Samohi Vikings tacked on a pair of runs in the second inning and then exploded for five runs in the third that put the game out of reach for La Quinta, the third place finisher in the Garden Grove League.

Samohi senior Kelly Ricard began the third inning rally with a single to left. Marissa Padilla followed with a bunt single of her own. Annie Quine would plate both runners on a ground ball that La Quinta shortstop Andrea Garcia couldn't corral for an out.

A few batters later, with the bases loaded and the score 5-1, starting pitcher Sara Garcia popped a fly ball to second base that Christine Miranda couldn't convert into the third out of the frame allowing a trio of Samohi base runners to score on the play.

The fourth inning was more of the same for Samohi.

The Vikings would score 10 runs during the inning. At one point, nine consecutive batters would reach base safely and score.

The big inning was marred by a collision at home plate. Samohi's Garcia was coming into score when she crashed into La Quinta catcher Lupe Vasconcelos, who was thrown to the ground as a result. Coaches from both teams rushed to her aid, eventually calling paramedics to take a look at her. She was ultimately cleared of any major injuries. She didn't return to the game as a precaution.



Morgan Genser *news@smdp.com*

STRIKE: **Samohi freshman Carly Condon fires the ball to home plate, beating the runner for an out that stemmed a La Quinta rally on Thursday at Memorial Park.**

The game would eventually continue, but the mood was somber until coming to a close with Samohi advanc-

SEE **SOFTBALL** PAGE 12

'Ring of Fire' eclipse visible from China to Texas

ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES Sunrises and sunsets often dazzle, but they'll have a special ring to them in a few days for people in the western United States and eastern Asia: The moon will slide across the sun, blocking everything but a blazing halo of light.

It's been almost two decades since a "ring of fire" eclipse was visible in the continental United States. To celebrate the end of that drought, nearly three dozen national parks in the path of the eclipse will host viewing parties.

The solar spectacle is first seen in eastern Asia at dawn Monday, local time. Weather permitting, millions of early risers in southern China, northern Taiwan and southeast Japan will be able to catch the ring eclipse. Then it creeps across the Pacific with the western U.S. viewing the tail end.

The late day sun will transform into a glowing ring in southwest Oregon, Northern California, central Nevada, southern Utah, northern Arizona and New Mexico and finally the Texas Panhandle where it will occur at sunset on Sunday. For 3 hours, the eclipse fol-

SEE **MOON** PAGE 10

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Don't do it

Editor:

Members of the city of Santa Monica Human Services Division should be ashamed of themselves for putting forward a plan to take away the Recreation Center at Palisades Park from Santa Monica senior citizens. The fact that you want to take seniors out of this special place makes me wonder what specific plan you may have for these facilities. Mayor [Richard] Bloom, the City Council members (except Kevin McKeown and Bobby Shriver) and the Human Services Division seem far too eager to pursue this questionable plan.

We, the people of Santa Monica, resent this decision and strongly disapprove of this project. Santa Monica seniors currently have little problem getting to the center by bus and other means; this project will greatly increase the traffic congestion. Every day they enjoy convenient lunches in the comfortable atmosphere of the Palisades Park center. Seniors have been going there for more than 30 years. We love being there.

Seniors have social intercourse with other members, play games, see movies and read books. Plus the most important activities are the exercise and yoga classes, which are held in a very spacious room with large windows that allow us to view the gorgeous, sparkling blue Pacific Ocean.

These social, physical and spiritual activities would never be as enjoyable in the Ken Edwards Center; the patio mentioned in earlier articles can not replace the Senior Center because it is often cold, windy and too small. This is a terrible mistake.

Please do not do this to your Santa Monica senior citizens.

Adria Lacamara
Santa Monica

Save the nativity scenes

Editor:

Tuesday night, May 22, the City Council will vote whether to ban the nativity scenes or allow them to continue for a 58th year in the park along Ocean Avenue. The Liberty Council, a nonprofit law group representing the nativity interests, has proposed a system that would allow everyone an opportunity to present their faith (or lack thereof) in a positive light as long as it doesn't attack the other religions.

In response to that proposal, City Attorney Marsha Moutrie is quoted in the May 10 Daily Press as saying, "I don't think we can require people to 'be nice,' because we can't censor content except in a very, very limited way."

Yet her recommendation to the City Council a few months back was to ban the nativity scenes entirely from the park. How can you say that you can't censor the atheists content except in a "very limited way" while recommending an unlimited censor of the nativity side by a complete ban?

Furthermore, City Hall already hosts a permanent winter display in Palisades Park called Gestation 3. It's a circular-shaped wooden sculpture designed so that the sun sets in its center only on winter solstice, which is celebrated by atheists as a pagan holiday. The City Council cannot deny nativity scenes for two weeks in December while at the same time continuing to endorse a year-round winter solstice display paid for in part by City Hall.

If this issue interests you, please come to the City Council meeting to have your voice heard before the vote.

Eric Cooper
Santa Monica

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Laughing Matters

Jack Neworth

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Landlords gone wild

OVER THE YEARS I'VE WRITTEN ABOUT dozens of "colorful" local characters. Perhaps none was more "eccentric" than Lawrence Kates, the former co-owner of the then Santa Monica Shores. (Apparently, eccentric is what you're called if you're a bit nuts and very rich.)

As it happens, I was working as a security guard at the Shores the very night in 1979 that rent control passed. Mr. Kates was slightly agitated (if you consider screaming into the phone as slight) as he shouted at me threatening to demolish the towers and "make it a giant parking lot."

Obviously he didn't "level the buildings" as promised, but he did purposely hold apartments off the market for years hoping to bully the city into rescinding rent control (as he had done in Thousand Oaks). It didn't work here but it left the Shores with over 150 vacancies when hordes of prospective tenants were dying to move in.

Things reversed abruptly, however, when fire codes required sprinkler systems and quick cash was needed. Seemingly, the building filled up in weeks. Among the new "tenants" was Mel Gibson. I chatted with Mel numerous times in the elevator and he was exceedingly charming. (Fortunately, my being Jewish didn't come up in the conversations.)

Many don't remember that rent control failed on its first attempt in 1978. In defense of Kates, shortly afterwards he was on the Michael Jackson KABC radio show urging landlords to stop gouging tenants with rent increases, which was disastrous, especially to those on fixed incomes. Kates warned that if they continued the rent control movement would likely return.

But many landlords gouged away while the gouging was good. That's why, when rent control passed in 1979, the law used 1978 as the "base rent" period. (Kates was eccentric but also prophetic.)

Fast forward to 1999. As reported in the L.A. Times, Kates and his partners had bought the Shores for approximately $14 million in 1971. In 1999 they sold it for a Santa Monica apartment building transaction record at a whopping $95 million. Not a bad return, eh?

But back to rent control. As in all things political, the pendulum constantly swings. Starting with vacancy de-control, the pendulum currently seems to be swinging so far back this way I feel like ducking.

Numerous renters have e-mailed me with horror stories about their landlords. While the majority of landlords may be perfectly fair, the few who are bullies need to be mentioned. (At least this isn't a repeat about Romney's dog on the car roof.)

In two cases landlords filed unlawful detainers against long-term tenants (one senior-citizen couple who'd been there for 30 years) for items like "missing closet doorknobs." (I couldn't make this stuff up.) And both landlords have previous tenant harassment complaints and were sanctioned not to set foot on their own properties for five years (since elapsed)!

Imagine the panic-stricken tenants desperately trying to obtain a lawyer to avoid eviction. In one case, after a court date was set, the landlord withdrew the complaint. No harm, no foul? You decide.

Months later the same unrelated landlords each filed another unlawful detainer. Again the tenants faced eviction even though they were always current with their rent. But again, at the last minute the cases were withdrawn by the landlord. Harassment? (To a tenant fearing homelessness, it sure must feel like it.)

SOME LANDLORDS REFUSE TENANT REQUESTS FOR IMPROVEMENTS EVEN WHEN THE TENANT IS WILLING TO PAY FOR IT.

Speaking of the pendulum ... in 2007, the California Supreme Court ruled that Santa Monica's anti-harassment ordinance violated an owner's ability to go to court. Therefore a landlord can file unlawful detainers and give three or 30 day notices without limit. Yes, they can still be sued for malicious prosecution, but that's a little like saying I can still be a point guard for the Lakers. (That last-second three point shot by Steve Blake against OKC? Hey, I could have missed that shot just as easily as he did.)

There have been cases where landlords or their resident managers have harassed tenants seeking repairs, "It's clear you're not happy here, why don't you move?" One manager often told tenants they "should be on meds." (Manager or psychiatrist?)

Some landlords refuse tenant requests for improvements even when the tenant is willing to pay for it. And yet, the manager of such a building was so brazen that he added a room addition to his unit without a building permit! (I'm told he is no longer there.)

Many landlords are actually eager to go to court as the value of a rent control unit going fair market far outweighs litigation costs. Meanwhile, most tenants, desperate to keep a roof over their head, are at the mercy of legal aid. Something seems terribly unfair.

As for Kates, last I heard he had filed for bankruptcy, at least temporarily frustrating investors. I gather, however, he's still quite rich. So I'm assuming he's still called eccentric.

JACK can be reached at jnsmdp@aol.com.

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Your column here

Lee Hamilton

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Is this really the best we can do?

AS YOU KNOW IF YOU PAY ATTENTION to national affairs, the United States faces a perfect fiscal storm at the end of this year. A confluence of deadlines and policy triggers unlike anything I can remember in a half-century of public life will produce massive budget cuts and serious tax increases amounting to a 3.5 percent hit on the nation's GDP.

At least, it will if Congress and the White House don't act. It would be, as Princeton economist Alan Blinder put it recently in The Wall Street Journal, "a disaster for the United States." So surely it must be all hands on deck in Washington, right?

You know where I'm going with this. A rational government would be in high gear, yet what do we see? The House has worked for roughly a third of 2012 so far, and will be out of Washington campaigning or tending to constituents for half the remaining weeks of the year. The Senate, meanwhile, has been working on several bills, but the two houses are largely ignoring the coming fiscal meltdown.

The looming crisis is a result partly of bad timing — the tax cuts enacted under George W. Bush are due to expire and Congress faces yet another vote on raising the debt ceiling —and partly a result of earlier decisions to defer hard decisions. The temporary payroll tax cut, which members of Congress went to the mat over just a few months ago, will expire. Unemployment benefits are due to be cut back. And, of course, the failure of the congressional "supercommittee" to agree on a deficit-cutting deal has triggered $1.2 trillion in spending cuts. Those cuts are scheduled to go into effect starting at the turn of the year.

Most commentators in Washington agree that Congress and the president will eventually act. A few optimists hope for a "grand bargain" that would resolve Democrats' and Republicans' differences over taxes, spending and entitlements. But the consensus in Washington seems to be that policy-makers will dither until after the November elections. Then, in a desperate scramble — with a lame-duck Congress and either a lame-duck or a new president — they'll find some way of postponing the hard decisions for yet a few more months.

There is a very real cost to this delay. It's not a good time to be anyone dependent on the federal budget, and that includes millions of people and 28 percent of the American economy. Pentagon planners and transportation program managers have no idea what their budgets will be. Federal contractors don't know if funds will be available to pay them. People receiving unemployment benefits have to worry they'll run out soon. Every taxpayer faces an increase in income taxes.

Nobody knows if we will be able to pay our debts as a country, and everyone involved in the financial markets has to worry about what happens if Congress, by its inaction, allows the economy to contract sharply. The uncertainty will surely erode the confidence of markets and investors, and even worse, of business people. As PIMCO's Mohamed El-Erian recently wrote in The Washington Post, "[P]rolonged political inaction is likely to encourage companies to postpone building plants and purchasing equipment and to discourage them from hiring."

A CONFLUENCE OF DEADLINES AND POLICY TRIGGERS UNLIKE ANYTHING I CAN REMEMBER IN A HALF-CENTURY OF PUBLIC LIFE WILL PRODUCE MASSIVE BUDGET CUTS AND SERIOUS TAX INCREASES AMOUNTING TO A 3.5 PERCENT HIT ON THE NATION'S GDP.

We've never quite had a situation like this, where so clearly ahead lies a fiscal crisis with enormous implications, yet Congress cannot enact a comprehensive annual budget and blithely assumes that its leaders and the White House will eventually get around to acting — but meanwhile, its members will go home on recess. If the CEO of a major enterprise saw problems of this magnitude looming, it's hard to imagine he'd call his employees together and tell them all to go on vacation.

Reducing the deficit is difficult, but can't we get our political leaders to act before we go over the fiscal cliff? The only way to do it in a sluggish economy is by raising taxes and cutting spending. Both are unpopular, and our leaders can't seem to summon the courage to confront hard choices even as we move inexorably closer to a fiscal reckoning. It all makes me wonder if the skeptics who say our government cannot work are right.

LEE HAMILTON is director of the Center on Congress at Indiana University. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

The Q Line

QUIET SKIES

There's a proposal making the rounds at City Hall that would pay flight schools to take some of their lessons elsewhere to keep the area around Santa Monica Airport quiet, something residents have been demanding for years.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think it's fair to pay flight schools to limit operations at SMO or is this not the solution for keeping the noise down?

Contact **qline@smdp.com** before **Friday at 5 p.m.** and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. You can also call **310-573-8354**.


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Report: Fewer homes foreclosed upon in April

ALEX VEIGA
AP Real Estate Writer

LOS ANGELES National foreclosure trends took a positive turn in April, as the number of homes seized by banks declined and fewer properties entered into the foreclosure process.

But state-level data point to potentially more home repossessions ahead in Florida and many of the 25 other states where courts are required to sign off on foreclosures.

All told, the number of U.S. homes taken back by lenders in April declined 7 percent from March, the third consecutive monthly decline, foreclosure listing firm RealtyTrac Inc. said Thursday. Home repossessions fell 26 percent versus April last year.

The number of homes that lenders placed on the foreclosure path last month also declined, falling 4 percent from March and 2 percent from April 2011, the firm said.

While the figures suggest foreclosure trends are improving nationally, state data tell a different story.

"You absolutely have a tale of two different types of foreclosure trends happening across the country," said Daren Blomquist, a vice president at RealtyTrac.

The divide comes down roughly between the 26 states where courts play a role in the foreclosure process and places like California and the other 23 states where the process generally moves quicker because judges are not required to sign off on foreclosures.

Last year, foreclosure activity, as measured by the number of homes receiving foreclosure-related notices, slowed sharply as lenders grappled with allegations that they had been processing foreclosures without verifying documents.

A $25 billion settlement reached in February between the nation's biggest mortgage lenders and state officials has since cleared the way for banks to take action on unpaid mortgages.

In California, Arizona, Nevada and many other so-called non-judicial foreclosure states, foreclosure activity has been declining because they didn't build a huge backlog of pending foreclosure cases last year.

In contrast, the slower foreclosure process in states like Florida, New Jersey and Pennsylvania helped build a logjam of pending foreclosure cases that now has lenders playing catch-up.

As a result, foreclosure activity in all the judicial foreclosure states combined jumped 15 percent versus April last year. Taken together, non-judicial states saw foreclosure activity fall 29 percent, RealtyTrac said.

While 27 states recorded increases in the number of homes entering the foreclosure process last month, it appears the properties represent largely homes where borrowers missed payments for two or three years, and lenders are now getting around to taking action against them.

"The good news there, is we don't see a lot of evidence that there are a lot of new people who are just not making their payments who are entering foreclosure," Blomquist said.

The Mortgage Bankers Association reported on Wednesday that the percentage of mortgages that were one payment past due as of March 31 declined to the lowest level since mid-2007. While the share of home loans that were at least three months past due at the end of the first quarter fell to the lowest level since the end of 2008.

Home loans taken out at the peak of the housing boom continue to comprise the majority of problem loans. In the first quarter, some 60 percent of all mortgages past due 90 days or more, or in foreclosure, were originated between 2005 and 2007, the MBA said.

Meanwhile, banks are increasingly agreeing to short sales rather than foreclosing on homes. In a short sale, the bank agrees to accept less than what the seller owes on their mortgage.

In the first three months of this year, short sales grew while foreclosures declined. Short sales are now on pace to outnumber sales of bank-owned homes in California, Arizona and 10 other states, RealtyTrac said.

That could help slow the pace of home repossessions, which are on pace to be just over 700,000 this year. Last year, about 1 million homes ended up foreclosed-upon.

All told, foreclosure-related notices were reported on 188,780 U.S. properties last month, the lowest monthly total since July 2007, RealtyTrac said. That's a decline of 5 percent from March and down 14 percent from April last year.

Lenders took back 51,415 homes and began the foreclosure process on 97,665 homes last month.





Museum gets big gift to build shuttle exhibit

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES The California Science Center said it has raised nearly half of the $200 million needed to build a permanent exhibit for the space shuttle Endeavour.

The museum recently received a donation from the Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Oschin Family Foundation that will allow it to start the design phase of the project. The museum didn't disclose the amount of the gift, citing an agreement it made with the foundation.

"This is a huge boost. It gives a vote of confidence for the project" museum president Jeffrey Rudolph said Wednesday.

Rudolph spent the past year fundraising and still has halfway to go to fulfill the museum's goal. The museum has received gifts from private foundations, corporations and individuals, but Rudolph said the latest donation was "very significant and truly transformative."

The museum introduced the foundation at an event Thursday that was attended by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa,

When the display opens in 2017, it will be called the Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center in memory of a real estate developer and astronomy enthusiast, and will feature Endeavour in a vertical position, as if it's ready to launch.

Until then, Endeavour will be housed in a temporary exhibit currently under construction. It is slated to be bolted to the top of a modified jumbo jet and arrive in Los Angeles in late September.

Since NASA retired the shuttle fleet last year, technicians have been busy prepping the shuttles to their final destination as museum pieces. Atlantis remained in Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Last month, Discovery wowed crowds by swooping over the nation's capital before landing in Virginia where it will go on display at the Smithsonian Institution's hangar at Dulles International Airport. Several weeks later, the prototype shuttle Enterprise sailed over the Statue of Liberty and past the skyscrapers along Manhattan's West Side before touching down at Kennedy Airport. It will be towed by barge next month to New York City's Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum.

Rudolph said he expected the same fanfare when Endeavour arrives at the Los Angeles International Airport. Details are still being worked out, but Rudolph said he expects the shuttle to fly over the Hollywood Sign and other landmarks. Current plans call for towing Endeavour from the airport to the museum near downtown — a move that will require taking out traffic lights and closing streets.

STATE BRIEFS

LOS ANGELES

Teacher aide arrested in lewdness case

Los Angeles Unified School District authorities say an elementary school teacher's aide has been arrested for investigation of alleged lewdness with children.

The school district said Thursday that Jorge Dominguez, who has worked at Gratts Elementary School near downtown Los Angeles since 2004, will be fired immediately.

Dominguez is a temporary teacher's aide at the school, where he also worked as an after-school program aide and coach.

The district says it is unknown whether the alleged victims were students at the school.

A Los Angeles police spokesman says no further details about Dominguez's arrest were immediately available.

A district statement calls the alleged acts horrifying and sickening and says counselors will be on hand for children and parents.

It was not immediately known whether Dominguez had a lawyer.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

Military: No sign of its material on hot rocks

The military says there's no indication that any of its material got onto beach rocks that caught fire and badly burned a Southern California woman.

Orange County authorities say the rocks from a beach near the Camp Pendleton Marine base ignited in the pocket of the woman's cargo shorts on Saturday.

She's hospitalized with third-degree burns to her leg.

Denise Fennessy of the county's environmental health division said Thursday that field tests indicated phosphorus on the rocks.

Pendleton spokesman Capt. Barry Edwards says there's no evidence that material from training exercises was involved, but the base will cooperate if county authorities ask for assistance.

AP

SAN DIEGO

Navy ship arrives at port after collision

The U.S. Navy amphibious assault ship USS Essex arrived to cheers in San Diego Bay on Thursday, 24 hours after it collided with a refueling tanker in the Pacific when the warship's steering apparently failed.

Families of the ship's crew celebrated as the big ship pulled in after the crash that resulted in no injuries or fuel spills.

Andi Farquhr, wife of a 36-year-old sailor, said her husband called her from the ship and said something bad had happened. She said he told her there was a collision but gave no details.

"I'm pretty sure it was scary," Farquhr said.

Lt. Beth Teach said the Essex sustained damage to its starboard aircraft elevator, catwalks and lifeboats on aft portions of the ship. Damage shown to reporters included broken railings, crumpled lifeboats and scrapes along the elevator in a span of several dozen feet.

The USNS Yukon tanker had structural damage to its flight deck, lifeboats and davits, the arm-like structures that hold the lifeboats, Teach said.

AP

Kate Bransfield



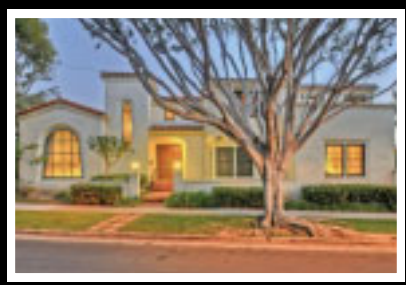
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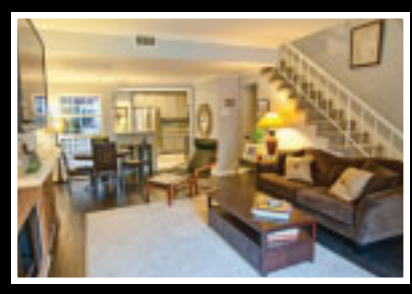
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Highways Performance Space and U-N-M-A-R-K-E-D present the world premiere of "PATTY — a PoP! Musical Event" inspired by the mythic histories of Patty Duke and Patty Hearst. Featuring an all-female cast of 15, "PATTY" is equal parts religious revival, dance-pop concert, fashion show and theatrical installation. Tickets: $15 general admission, standing room only includes free cocktail; $30 VIP admission, assigned seating, two cocktails and a schwag bag. For more information: (310) 315-1459.

A Central Works Method Play

Main Library, Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium, 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

SUNDAY, 2 P.M.

Santa Monica Public Library presents Theatre Dybbuk's reading of the darkly comic play "A Man's Home: An Ode to Kafka's 'Castle.'" Written and directed by Aaron Henne, "A Man's Home" examines the nature of power and authority and is inspired by Franz Kafka's novel "The Castle," which ends mid-sentence. A land surveyor, known simply as "K," arrives at a remote, nameless village where a mysterious and foreboding castle looms. Authorities in the castle refuse to admit K until he encounters a mysterious figure haunting the halls and corridors of an endless maze. The play was developed using the central works method, in which the playwright, director and actors collaborate on the script's development. Free admission. Seating is limited and available on a first-arrival basis. Tickets available one hour prior to the program. For more information: (310) 458-8600.

Pacific Sirens: Music of Lou Harrison & Terry Riley

First Presbyterian Santa Monica, 1220 Second St.

SUNDAY, 6 P.M.

This season finale concert is a musical "afterword" to the Getty Center's Pacific Standard Time festival. Both composers — Lou Harrison and Terry Riley — contributed in different ways to the counter culture associated with postwar California. Tickets: $35 general; $15 student. For more information: (213) 483-0216.

Courtesy of Santa Monica Cultural Affairs. Sign up to receive The Palette weekly via e-mail at www.smgov.net/arts.

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Men redefining 'manly' — and not just for laughs

LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

NEW YORK May, it turns out, is a manly month, and a funny one at that.

The Mother's Day flowers are barely wilted and already there's a heavy male energy in the air — of the wry, ironical, comedy variety — in new books and movies ahead of dad's day June 17.

We've got "Mansome" from the "Super Size Me" dude, Morgan Spurlock. And "Man Made: A Stupid Quest for Masculinity" from Time magazine's Joel Stein. And "Dan Gets a Minivan: Life at the Intersection of Dude and Dad," from humorist-at-large Dan Zevin.

Why, when it comes to the discourse on masculinity, is the conversation routinely rolled around laughs? Where, exactly, does all the funny lead? Does it help redefine a new masculinity, make it easier for men to talk about this stuff?

We went straight to the source, the funny guys themselves and some of their foils, the unintentionally funny, to see if they could get serious about the burning issues facing MANkind today.

MORGAN SPURLOCK

In his latest com-doc, Spurlock takes on male grooming, enlisting the mother lode of funny guys: Judd Apatow, Paul Rudd, Zach Galifianakis and "Arrested Development" brothers Jason Bateman and Will Arnett, both of whom are executive producers.

And Morgan Spurlock thinks the point is?

"Men are in a position now where we're being marketed to and targeted in the same way that women have for decades, where suddenly men aren't good enough. Suddenly you're too fat. Suddenly your skin's too ugly, you don't have enough hair. All those same types of things that were told to women to let you know you were inadequate unless you tried X, Y or Z are now the same types of tactics that are being used on men, all in this effort to try and push this commodification of manhood."

So is that a good thing? For men, that is.

"I'm sure it's good for somebody, but for men in general? Shouldn't men want to take care of themselves? Sure. Should they spend a gazillion dollars? Probably not."

JASON BATEMAN

In Spurlock's movie, he and Arnett — spa robes on — compare shaving technique, get side-by-side pedicures and facials, take a soak together and try to keep the manly talk light.

What does Jason Bateman think is funny about manhood?

"The men who are speaking about it or presenting it are trying to avoid embarrassment and taking the subject, or themselves, too seriously."

Asked to get serious for just a sec, Bateman admits he doesn't have an answer for what it means to be a man.

"I try to be the best man I know how to be, which is just to kind of listen to myself and make the decisions that I'm instinctually drawn to make as opposed to having any sort of premeditated agenda, or any sort of strategy. I'm just trying to be honest and human, if that means being confident in one moment, then I'm that. If that means letting vulnerability show because I'm feeling vulnerable, then doing that. It's nice to be able to show it and feel it all."

JOEL STEIN

Never an outdoorsman, always anxious, Stein did something he never thought he would when his wife got pregnant: He freaked out because the baby was a boy.

There would be camping trips and footballs to throw! So he decided to make a book out of a manly bucket list to overcome his fears and generally effete way of doings things. He did a 24-hour shift with Los Angeles firefighters. He knocked back Scotch, went hunting and survived three days of Army boot camp.

So what'd he learn? What does being a man mean to Joel Stein?

"I think being a man today means less than it used to. It will always mean less than it used to. Don Draper (of '60s 'Mad Men' fame) seems like such a man. He says no to things, but if you remember those segments in the first season or two where they show his dad, and his dad was like coming home and just beating the heck out of his wife and his kids. It was like, 'Oh, men were even scarier before Don Draper.' They're always going to be scarier the further you go back. Being a man these days? It's still some version of being able to stick up for yourself and people around you, and it's still about being self-sufficient in every way."

DAN ZEVIN

Zevin lived in Brooklyn as a stay-at-home dad of two. And wrote a book about it.

He eventually left Aloof Hipster Dad in his Brooklyn playground and moved to suburban Larchmont, where he worships at Costco and posts to YouTube interviews he does from his minivan. A balloon-twisting party clown was a recent subject.

What surprised Dan Zevin about staying home with his kids?

"I thought it was going to be easy. I really thought it was going to be like I will continue to have this cool Brooklyn lifestyle and be a freelance writer and see my friends and go to cafes and do my work, my creative work, but the only difference is I'll just have a couple of kids in tow, you know, and I found out that it's hard. It's not so easy. There are great parts of it but it's not so easy and I think that moms have probably had that one figured out for generations and generations."

SHAWN DAIVARI

He's an Iranian-American pro wrestler living in Las Vegas. In "Mansome," he acknowledges he's one hairy guy. He began body shaving when he started wrestling at 15 and realized some of his new profession's biggest stars did the same thing.

Daivari demonstrates his head-to-toe shaving routine on camera, with help from a buddy for the scariest hair of all: The Back Hair.



MOON
FROM PAGE 3

lows an 8,500-mile path. Viewing, from beginning to end, lasts about two hours. The ring phenomenon lasts as long as 5 minutes depending on location.

Outside this narrow band, parts of the West, Midwest and South — and portions of Canada and Mexico — will be treated to a partial eclipse. The Eastern Seaboard will be shut out, but people can log online to sites such as the Slooh Space Camera, which plans to broadcast the event live.

A ring eclipse — technically called an annular solar eclipse — is not as dramatic as a total eclipse, when the disk of the sun is entirely blocked by the moon. As in a total solar eclipse, the moon crosses in front of the sun, but the moon is too far from Earth and appears too small in the sky to blot out the sun completely.

"A bright ring around the sun at mid-eclipse is still pretty cool," Geoff Chester of the U.S. Naval Observatory said in an email.

Asia is abuzz over the event. In Japan, cable cars will run early to give tourists an unobstructed view from the mountains. Ferries will make special trips so that others can enjoy the scene offshore. The Taipei Astronomical Museum will open its doors at dawn while Hong Kong's Space Museum will set up solar-filtered telescopes outside its building on the Kowloon waterfront.

The last time this type of eclipse was seen in the U.S. was in 1994. This year's solar show offers ringside seats at 33 national parks along the eclipse path including the Grand Canyon and Bryce Canyon. A partial eclipse can be viewed from another 125 national parks.

For die-hard sky gazers, six U.S. locations will see the moon cover about 95 percent of the sun's diameter. They include the Petroglyph National Monument, Redwoods National Park, Lassen Volcanic National Park, Canyon de Chelly National Monument, Zion National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

Wherever you are, do not look directly at the eclipsed sun or you can get a serious eye injury. Wear specially made protective glasses that can be bought online or create your own contraption by punching a small pinhole in a cardboard box.

If you buy special eyewear, you can recycle it. Two weeks later, Venus will crawl across the face of the sun — a rare occurrence known as the "transit of Venus" that will also require viewers to take precaution.

Veteran eclipse chaser Jay Pasachoff has traveled to remote corners of the globe to see the moon take a bite of the sun. This time, the Williams College astronomer will travel to New Mexico with his students to collect data.

Sunday's event will be his 14th ring eclipse and 55th solar eclipse overall. So what does someone who has seen it all look forward to?

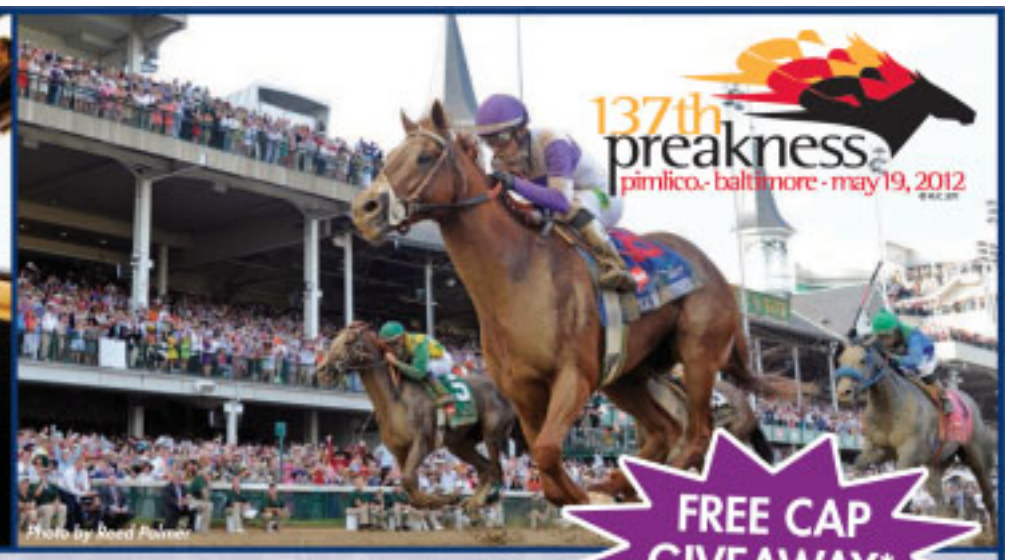
Seeing "the symmetry of a ring of sunlight around the dark silhouette of the moon," Pasachoff said in an email.

The next ring eclipse won't be visible in the U.S. for more than a decade — October 2023.

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CRIME WATCH
BY DAILY PRESS STAFF



$31K in Apple computers, phones recovered

Crime Watch is a weekly series culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, AT 4:15 A.M.,
Santa Monica police officers on routine patrol responded to the Apple Store on the Third Street Promenade after they received a report that someone set off the store's burglar alarm. When officers arrived, they found one of the front glass doors broken out and a large sledgehammer lying on the ground. During an interior check of the store, officers could see that many items that are usually on display were missing. Surveillance video showed four suspects – two African-American men and two African-American women, all in their 20s – stealing items. Three of the suspects fled north on foot while another ran south on the promenade. Officers searched the area and found a bag hidden behind a wall at 233 Wilshire Blvd. containing several Apple computers and phones valued at approximately $31,000. During their investigation, officers said they saw a tan colored Chevy Impala driving by the scene with two black women in the front seats. Officers stopped the car and saw two black men hiding in the backseat. The women were wearing clothing that matched the clothing worn by the suspects in the surveillance video. Further evidence linking the four to the crime was allegedly found inside the vehicle. Officers placed all four suspects under arrest for conspiracy to commit a crime. The suspects were identified as: Markeishia Harris, 19, a transient; Orenthal Sanders, 19, of Los Angeles; Aaron Sanders, 18, of Los Angeles; and a 17-year-old resident of Los Angeles. The minor was transported to a juvenile hall facility with no bail. Bail was set at $20,000 for Harris and Aaron Sanders. Orenthal Sanders was held without bail because of a prior juvenile warrant.

SATURDAY, MAY 12, AT 11:12 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 2100 block of Delaware Avenue regarding a report of two suspicious people loitering outside a home and talking loudly about being sold bad drugs near the corner of 22nd Street and Delaware. When officers arrived, they made contact with one of the men. While speaking with him, officers learned that he had a no-bail warrant for a narcotics charge. He was placed under arrest. During a search, officers said they found a baggy of methamphetamine and a glass pipe. The suspect was transported to the Santa Monica Jail and booked for violation of probation and the warrant. He was identified as Michael Patrick Sammut, 40, a transient. No bail was set.

SATURDAY, MAY 12, AT 8 P.M.,
Officers responded to the 1600 block of 10th Street regarding a report of a suspicious man who was looking into parked cars. When officers arrived, they allegedly saw the man take several things out of his pockets and place them on the ground. As officers got closer they found some glass vials containing pot and some cash on the ground. The suspect at first denied knowing anything about the marijuana or the cash. When the officers pressed him further, the suspect allegedly admitted that the stuff was his. He was placed under arrest for possession of marijuana for sale. He was identified as Candido Valdez, 40, a transient. His bail was set at $20,000.

FRIDAY, MAY 11, AT 1:26 A.M.,
Officers responded to the emergency room at Saint John's Health Center regarding a report of a patient trying to commit healthcare fraud. When officers arrived, they made contact with a social worker at the hospital who said the patient provided documentation belonging to someone else. During the investigation, officers learned that the suspect was in possession of a forged California driver's license and Social Security card. Further, the suspect had used the forged information to obtain services from a clinic in Venice and was now trying to obtain similar services using a different name at Saint John's, police said. The suspect was cleared of any medical condition and placed under arrest for forgery. He was identified as Faruq Arshad, 36, of Inglewood, Calif. His bail was set at $20,000.

FRIDAY, MAY 11, AT 11:30 A.M.,
Officers responded to the Wells Fargo branch on the 2400 block of Wilshire Boulevard regarding a report of a man trying to cash a forged check in the amount of $2,800. When officers arrived, the suspect was still inside the bank. He was taken into custody without incident. Officers spoke with the bank manager, who confirmed the check was forged, police said. The suspect was placed under arrest for trying to cash a fake check. He was identified as Michael Morgan, 52, of Los Angeles. His bail was set at $20,000.

THURSDAY, MAY 10, AT 4:50 A.M.,
Officers were on routine patrol on the 1400 block of the Third Street Promenade when they saw a man standing at a payphone. Officers asked the man if he needed any help. The man told officers that he had tried to overdose on meth the day before and needed medical attention. Officers asked if they could search the man. He allowed them. During the search, officers said they found a baggy containing meth. He was placed under arrest and transported to jail. Once at the jail, officers said they found a folded dollar bill on the rear floorboard where the suspect was sitting. Inside the dollar bill was a white, powdery substance that was later determined to be cocaine. The suspect was eventually booked for possession of meth and cocaine. He was identified as Michael James Reiling, 23, a transient. His bail was set at $10,000.

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news@smdp.com

Editor-in-Chief **KEVIN HERRERA** compiled these reports.





GO WHERE THE WORLD GOES

Santa Monica College
No. 1 in Transfers for the 20th Straight Year





BUDGET
FROM PAGE 1

cent of the overall budget. It's manageable, but steps will have to be taken to bring spending in line with revenues, said City Manager Rod Gould.

To address the problem, City Hall is looking at fee increases and spending reductions.

"It would be easy to say that it's a small amount and it can be absorbed in time and we don't need to worry about it," Gould said. "I do worry about it. If we don't take steps now, it will grow and then we'll be faced with the kinds of decisions that most cities have been facing for five years."

Overall, Santa Monica has fared better than the rest of the state since the recession hit in 2008.

According to a staff report, a diversified tax base and strong economy has helped City Hall bounce back, something reflected in a report released Wednesday by the Convention & Visitors Bureau that showed a record $1.39 billion spent in Santa Monica by visitors last year.

The biggest hit to the municipal pocketbook was the death of the Redevelopment Agency, a construct that used tax money to pay for big building projects in the city.

Over 400 agencies were dissolved in Feb. 1 when the California Supreme Court ruled two state laws constitutional. One upheld the Legislature's ability to ax the agencies, while the other invalidated a provision that would have let them stay open if they sent some money to the state.

That burdens City Hall with an approximate $7.2 million in unreimbursed money to 30 administrative and project employees who were previously paid by the agency, an expense that can be paid through money set aside for "economic uncertainty."

Those employees will be carried through the two-year budget cycle, at which point City Hall will try to find other places for those employees in the existing organization.

"We would like to avoid laying people off at the end of that period," Gould said.

There will also be approximately $21 million worth of projects that City Hall has decided to fund despite the loss of the Redevelopment Agency, including the Colorado Esplanade, Pico Library, Early Childhood Education Center and synchronization of the traffic signal system.

City Hall has identified $12.5 million in funding over the next two fiscal years to help pay for those projects, but the rest still has to be worked out.

Redevelopment is still very fluid. The oversight agency has not approved the spending plan that City Hall put forward this year, a document that would then have to be approved by the state.

That means things could get much worse if either agency decides that some of the projects officials chose to spend money on do not come up to state standards. That would force city officials to dig deeper into the General Fund, which helps pay for police, fire, street repaving and other basic services.

"It changes every day," said Gigi Decavalles-Hughes, City Hall's finance director. "We can't make any guesses right now."

City Hall can take a guess at how much it will cost to maintain those facilities snatched from the RDA chopping block, however.

Best estimates say that City Hall will be on the hook for $4 million a year to maintain and operate the Palisades Garden Walk, Pico Library and Colorado Esplanade.

The last big hit came from payments to the California Public Employee Retirement System, commonly called CalPERS.

That agency's board announced in March that municipalities would have to pay more for their employees' pensions because of a drop in returns on its investments, which in Santa Monica amounted to a $2.8 million increase overnight.

That picture could get worse as well because the organization did not hit municipalities with the total cost all at once, Gould said.

Solutions to the problem won't come into effect in the immediate future.

Last year, City Hall chose to adopt a two-year budget that spanned from July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013.

Very few changes will be made to the 2012-13 half of that budget to address the structural issues, but officials will be looking at ways to pare down the 2014-16 budget, Gould said.

City Hall already took steps to reduce annual payments to CalPERS by $800,000 by putting a big down payment on money owed to the agency. It will try to do that again this year with an $8 million payment that would win another $600,000 per year in ongoing savings.

City Hall will try to raise revenue rather than just avoid spending, however.

Staff proposes an increase in landscape inspection and plan check fees, permit fees and development related fees. Most other fees will keep up with inflation, Gould said.

The City Council is expected to take up the budget discussion at its meeting Tuesday, May 22.

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SOFTBALL
FROM PAGE 3

ing to face the winner of the Maranantha/Dos Pueblos game, which was also played on Thursday. The result of that game was not available at presstime.

"I knew Santa Monica would be a good offensive team," said La Quinta head coach Jeff Madeau. "We're just happy to make the playoffs."

The experience may prove particularly beneficial for a young Samohi team that has just one senior, Ricard.

Head Coach Debbie Skaggs was pleased with the win, but was realistic about what the win means going forward.

"It gets us going in a positive direction," Skaggs said, "but we still have a lot of work to do.

She pointed out that Garcia wasn't on her game on the mound, but was effective with her fastball throughout.

Garcia used her fastball to record 6 strike outs in four innings pitched. She was relieved by freshman Whitney Jones, who completed the game.

The win gives Samohi momentum as they head to the second round, something that sits well with Garcia and Co.

"We have such a young team," she said. "This gives us a little confidence.

"I'm excited for Tuesday."

daniela@smdp.com

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BATHROOMS

FROM PAGE 1

has not yet gotten through the design process after neighbors complained about the proposal and sent the bathroom design back to the drawing board.

At 14 stalls for each of the seven completed units, the cost comes out to $50,700 per stall.

For reference, an actual gold-plated toilet fabricated by the Inax Corp. that debuted during Japan Week at the World Expo in Shanghai, China in 2010 cost between $20,000 and $40,000 according to Investorspot.com.

City Hall signed on to replace eight bathrooms that lined its beaches because of a class action lawsuit filed against the California Department of Parks and Recreation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The suit claimed that the bathrooms provided by State Parks and the cities that run the facilities for the agency weren't up to snuff under the law. City Hall signed onto a consent decree put forward by the state that protected it from future litigation until at least 2016.

City Hall found eight facilities, each about 30 years old, that needed major help to qualify as accessible under ADA.

The original plan was to completely rebuild seven facilities and fix up one more. Initial building estimates from construction company CWS came in at $4.4 million, and the project was under way with an expected completion date of 2010.

That didn't happen.

Although a few opened in 2011, this will be the first time that Santa Monica has started a summer with most of its toilets intact, said Martin Pastucha, director of Public Works.

"It's a difficult environment to work in," he said. "There are marine elements, weather elements and the moisture element affects all of the materials."

It didn't help that sewer systems work on gravity, making the sea-level bathrooms a challenge of physics as well as building supplies.

The initial building estimate was more than originally anticipated, but the costs began to mount further when staff discovered problems that went far deeper than accessibility.

After the first restroom opened, problems with sewer backups began to emerge, possibly spurred by increased use at the improved facility.

Normally, the bathrooms would see use during the day and, if there was a blockage, it wouldn't impact the functioning of the toilets because they would have all night to drain.

"There was no reason, no history showing backups or anything else that led us to believe there was a problem with the sewer lines," Pastucha said.

To fix it, three other companies were hired to inspect and replace the sewer laterals and existing water mains.

Though the project was expensive — with more costs expected for the eighth and final restroom — it was an important step to give disabled visitors, and everyone else, access to clean restrooms, city officials said.

"It's important to the commission that all of the public facilities are fully accessible as well as restaurants and shops and so forth," said Christopher Knauf, a member of the Santa Monica Disabilities Commission.

The last bathroom is expected to open in 2013.

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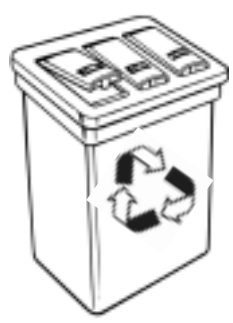
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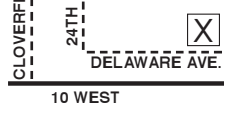


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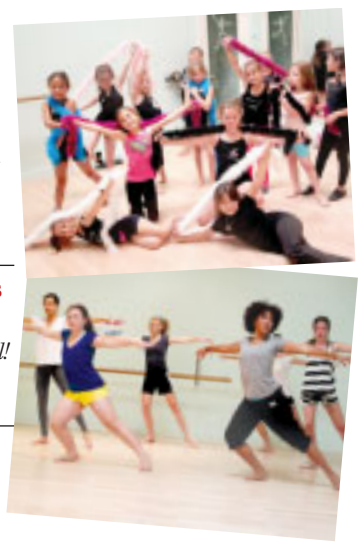


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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SANTA MONICA ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD

DATE/TIME: May 21, 2012, 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Council Chambers, (wheelchair accessible)
Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street

PROPERTIES:
ARB 11-346, 1621 Franklin Street: Residential
ARB 12-109, 1700 Ocean Avenue: Hotel
ARB 12-037, 717 Euclid Street: Residential
ARB 12-123, 2201 Pico Boulevard: Library
ARB 12-125, 1344 4th Street: Retail
ARB 12-128, 1621 Lincoln Boulevard: Auto Repair
ARB 12-141, 723 Euclid Street: Residential
ARB 12-150, 3020 Santa Monica Boulevard: Auto Dealership
ARB 12-157, 530 Pico Boulevard: Hotel
ARB 12-124, 1418 3rd Street Promenade: Retail
ARB 12-179, 520 Colorado Avenue: Residential

More information is available on-line at http://santa-monica.org/planning/planning-comm/arbagendas.htm or at 310/458-8341 en espanol tambien). Plans may be reviewed at City Hall during business hours. Comments are invited at the hearing or in writing (FAX 310-458-3380, e-mail planning@santa-monica.org, or mail Santa Monica Planning Division, 1685 Main St., Rm. 212, Santa Monica, CA 90401). The meeting facility is wheelchair accessible. For disability-related accommodations, please contact 310-458-8701 or TTY 310-450-8696 a minimum of 72 hours in advance. All written materials are available in alternate format upon request. Big Blue Bus lines, 2, 3, Rapid #3, 7, & 9 serve the Santa Monica Civic Center and City Hall.

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Census shows whites lose U.S. majority among babies

HOPE YEN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON For the first time, racial and ethnic minorities make up more than half the children born in the U.S., capping decades of heady immigration growth that is now slowing.

New 2011 census estimates highlight a historic shift underway in the nation's racial makeup. They mark a transformation in a country once dominated by whites and bitterly divided over slavery and civil rights, even as it wrestles now over the question of restricting immigration.

"This is an important landmark," said Roderick Harrison, a former chief of racial statistics at the Census Bureau who is now a sociologist at Howard University. "This generation is growing up much more accustomed to diversity than its elders."

The report comes as the Supreme Court prepares to rule on the legality of Arizona's strict immigration law. Many states are weighing similar get-tough measures as fewer Hispanics are opting to enter the U.S. due to the weak economy.

"We remain in a dangerous period where those appealing to anti-immigration elements are fueling a divisiveness and hostility that might take decades to overcome," Harrison said.

As a whole, the nation's minority population continues to rise, following a higher-than-expected Hispanic count in the 2010 census. Minorities increased 1.9 percent to 114.1 million, or 36.6 percent of the total U.S. population, lifted by prior waves of immigration that brought in young families and boosted the number of Hispanic women in their prime childbearing years.

But a recent slowdown in the growth of the Hispanic and Asian populations is shifting notions on when the tipping point in U.S. diversity will come — the time when non-Hispanic whites become a minority. After 2010 census results suggested a crossover as early as 2040, demographers now believe the pivotal moment may be pushed back several years when new projections are released in December.

The annual growth rates for Hispanics and Asians fell sharply last year to just over 2 percent, roughly half the rates in 2000 and the lowest in more than a decade. The black growth rate stayed flat at 1 percent.

The immigrants staying put in the U.S. for now include Narcisa Marcelino, 34, a single mother who lives with her two daughters, ages 10 and 5, in Martinsburg, W.Va. After crossing into the U.S. from Mexico in 2000, she followed her brother to the eastern part of the state just outside the Baltimore-Washington region. The Martinsburg area is known for hiring hundreds of migrants annually to work in fruit orchards. Its Hispanic growth climbed from 14 percent to 18 percent between 2000 and 2005 before shrinking last year to 3.3 percent, still above the national average.

Marcelino says she sells food from her home to make ends meet for her family and continues to hope that one day she will get a hearing with immigration officials to stay legally in the U.S. She aspires to open a restaurant and is learning English at a community college so she can help other Spanish-language speakers.

If she is eventually deported, "it wouldn't be that tragic," Marcelino said. "But because the children have been born here, this is their country. And there are more opportunities for them here."

Of the 30 large metropolitan areas showing the fastest Hispanic growth in the previous decade, all showed slower growth in 2011 than in the peak Hispanic growth years of 2005-2006, when the construction boom attracted new migrants to low-wage work. They include Lakeland, Fla.; Charlotte, N.C.; Atlanta; Provo, Utah; Las Vegas; and Phoenix. All but two — Fort Myers, Fla., and Dallas-Fort Worth — also grew more slowly last year than in 2010, hurt by the jobs slump.

Pointing to a longer-term decline in immigration, demographers believe the Hispanic population boom may have peaked.

"The Latino population is very young, which means they will continue to have a lot of births relative to the general population," said Mark Mather, associate vice president of the Population Reference Bureau. "But we're seeing a slowdown that is likely the result of multiple factors: declining Latina birth rates combined with lower immigration levels. If both of these trends continue, they will lead to big changes down the road."

William H. Frey, a demographer at the Brookings Institution who analyzed the census data, noted that government debates over immigration enforcement may now be less pressing, given slowing growth. "The current congressional and Supreme Court interest in reducing immigration — and the concerns especially about low-skilled and undocumented Hispanic immigration — represent issues that could well be behind us," he said.

Minorities made up roughly 2.02 million, or 50.4 percent of U.S. births in the 12-month period ending July 2011. That compares with 37 percent in 1990.

In all, 348 of the nation's 3,143 counties, or 1 in 9, have minority populations across all age groups that total more than 50 percent. In a sign of future U.S. race and ethnic change, the number of counties reaching the tipping point increases to more than 690, or nearly 1 in 4, when looking only at the under age 5 population.

The counties in transition include Maricopa (Phoenix), Ariz.; King (Seattle), Wash.; Travis (Austin), Texas; and Palm Beach, Fla., where recent Hispanic births are driving the increased diversity among children. Also high on the list are suburban counties such as Fairfax, Va., just outside the nation's capital, and Westchester, N.Y., near New York City, where more open spaces are a draw for young families who are increasingly minority.

According to the latest data, the percentage growth of Hispanics slowed from 4.2 percent in 2001 to 2.5 percent last year. Their population growth would have been even lower if it weren't for their relatively high fertility rates — seven births for every death. The median age of U.S. Hispanics is 27.6 years.

Births actually have been declining for both whites and minorities as many women postponed having children during the economic slump. But the drop since 2008 has been larger for whites, who have a median age of 42. The number of white births fell by 11.4 percent, compared with 3.2 percent for minorities, according to Kenneth Johnson, a sociologist at the University of New Hampshire.

Asian population increases also slowed, from 4.5 percent in 2001 to about 2.2 percent. Hispanics and Asians still are the two fastest-growing minority groups, making up about 16.7 percent and 4.8 percent of the U.S. population, respectively.

Not everybody is wild about flocking to Facebook

ANICK JESDANUN
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK Don't try to friend MaLi Arwood on Facebook. You won't find her there.

You won't find Thomas Chin, either. Or Kariann Goldschmitt. Or Jake Edelstein.

More than 900 million people worldwide check their Facebook accounts at least once a month, but millions more are Facebook holdouts.

They say they don't want Facebook. They insist they don't need Facebook. They say they're living life just fine without the long-forgotten acquaintances that the world's largest social network sometimes resurrects.

They are the resisters.

"I'm absolutely in touch with everyone in my life that I want to be in touch with," Arwood says. "I don't need to share triviality with someone that I might have known for six months 12 years ago."

Even without people like Arwood, Facebook is one of the biggest business success stories in history. The site had 1 million users by the end of 2004, the year Mark Zuckerberg started it in his Harvard dorm room. Two years later, it had 12 million. Facebook had 500 million by summer 2010 and 901 million as of March 31, according to the company.

That staggering rise in popularity is one reason why Facebook Inc.'s initial public offering is one of the most hotly anticipated in years. The company's shares are expected to begin trading on the Nasdaq Stock Market on Friday under the ticker symbol "FB". Facebook is likely to have an estimated market valuation of some $100 billion, making it worth more than Kraft Foods, Ford or Disney.

Facebook still has plenty of room to grow, particularly in developing countries where people are only starting to get Internet access. As it is, about 80 percent of its users are outside U.S. and Canada.

But if Facebook is to live up to its pre-IPO hype and reward the investors who are clamoring for its stock this week, it needs to convince some of the resisters to join. Two out of every five American adults have not joined Facebook, according to a recent Associated Press-CNBC poll. Among those who are not on Facebook, a third cited a lack of interest or need.

If all those people continue to shun Facebook, the social network could become akin to a postal system that only delivers mail to houses on one side of the street. The system isn't as useful, and people aren't apt to spend as much time with it. That means fewer opportunities for Facebook to sell ads.

Lee Rainie, director of the Pew Internet & American Life Project, says that new communications channels — from the telephone to radio, TV and personal computers — often breed a cadre of holdouts in their early days.

"It's disorienting because people have different relationships with others depending on the media they use," Rainie says. "But we've been through this before. As each new communications media comes to prominence, there is a period of adoption."

Len Kleinrock, 77, says Facebook is fine for his grandchildren, but it's not for him.

"I do not want more distractions," he says. "As it is, I am deluged with email. My friends and colleagues have ready access to me and I don't really want another service that I would feel obliged to check into on a frequent basis."

Kleinrock says his resistance is generational, but discomfort with technology isn't a factor.

After all, Kleinrock is arguably the world's first Internet user. The University of California, Los Angeles professor was part of the team that invented the Internet. His lab was where researchers gathered in 1969 to send test data between two bulky computers —the beginnings of the Arpanet network, which morphed into the Internet we know today.

"I'm having a 'been-there, done-that' feeling," Kleinrock says. "There's not a need on my part for reaching out and finding new social groups to interact with. I have trouble keeping up with those I'm involved with now."

Thomas Chin, 35, who works at an advertising and media planning company in New York, says he may be missing out on what friends-of-friends-of-friends are doing, but he doesn't need Facebook to connect with family and closer acquaintances.

"If we're going to go out to do stuff, we organize it (outside) of Facebook," he says.

Some people don't join the social network because they don't have a computer or Internet access, are concerned about privacy, or generally dislike Facebook. Those without a college education are less likely to be on Facebook, as are those with lower incomes. Women who choose to skip Facebook are more likely than men to cite privacy issues, while seniors are more likely than those 50-64 years old to cite computer issues, according the AP-CNBC poll.

About three-quarters of seniors are not on Facebook. By contrast, more than half of those under 35 use it every day.

The poll of 1,004 adults nationwide was conducted by GfK Roper Public Affairs and Corporate Communications May 3-7 and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.9 percentage points.

Steve Jones, a professor who studies online culture and communications at the University of Illinois at Chicago, says many resisters consider Facebook to be too much of a chore.

"We've added social networking to our lives. We haven't added any hours to our days," Jones says. "The decision to be online on Facebook is simultaneously a decision not to be doing something else."

Jones says many people on Facebook try to overcome that by multitasking, but they end up splitting their attention and engaging with others online only superficially.

Arwood, 47, a restaurant manager in Chicago, says she was surprised when colleagues on an English-teaching program in rural Spain in 2010 opted to spend their breaks checking Facebook.

"I spent my time on break trying to learn more about the Spanish culture, really taking advantage of it," she says. "I went on walks with some of the students and asked them questions."

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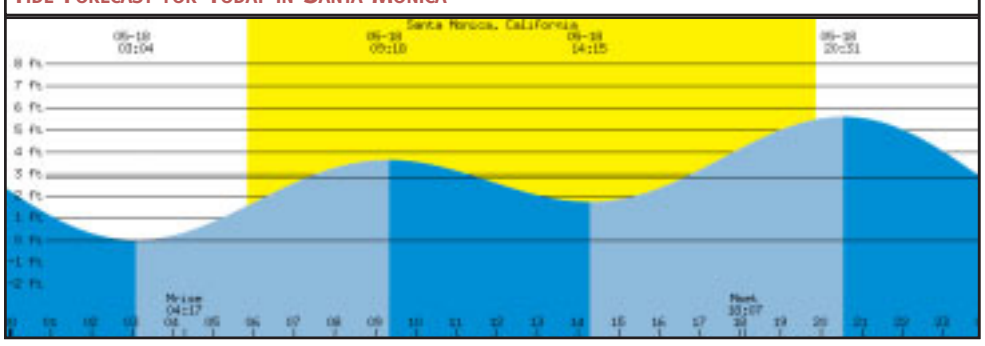
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QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 8
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 8
- Number of wet days -- 12
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 31 / 37
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 8 / 0

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Chiller -- von Furstenberg Family Foundation (Groundwork Family Foundation) simplehuman LAcarGUY SMM

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Las Alisos creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	A+
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	A+
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	F	F
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A	A+
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach.	A+	A+
Pearce State Beach at creek mouth.	D	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pearce Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	A	A+
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	D	A+
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	A+
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	A+
Big Rock Beach at 19640 PCH stairs.	F	A+
Pena Creek at Los Tunos County Beach.	A+	A+
Topanga Canyon.	A+	A+
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	F	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	A+
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	ns	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Potrero Canyon storm drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	A+
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	D
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A	A+
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	B	A+
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	B	C
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A	F
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	A+
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A+	D
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	A+
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	A+
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	A+
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A+	A+
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	A	B
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	A	F
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	A+
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	A+
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	A+
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	A+

LEGEND

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

HORSE RACING

Horses with chance against Derby champ in Preakness

RICHARD ROSENBLATTT
AP Sports Writer

All eyes will be on Kentucky Derby winner I'll Have Another when an 11-horse field lines up for the $1 million Preakness Stakes at Pimlico Race Course on Saturday. A victory, and I'll Have Another will have a chance to become the first Triple Crown champion in 34 years if he goes on to win the Belmont Stakes next month in New York. But a whole bunch of 3-year-olds are out to spoil the party. Some are taking another shot after losing in the Derby, and others, known as "new shooters," skipped the Derby, have fresh legs and are looking to pull an upset.

Here's a look at five horses with a shot to defeat the Derby winner in the second leg of the Triple Crown.

BODEMEISTER

He was the morning-line favorite in the Derby, and he's the morning-line choice in this one, too. Why? Because he's fast, and the 1 1/4-mile Derby distance was just a little too far for him to carry all that speed. The Preakness is a sixteenth-of-a-mile shorter, plus Bodemeister won't be pressured early like he was in the Derby by Trinniberg and Hansen, who are not entered. It probably doesn't hurt that his trainer, Bob Baffert, has won the Preakness five times in 11 tries. Mike Smith is back to ride, and look for the Hall of Fame jockey to put his colt in front right out of the No. 7 gate.

CREATIVE CAUSE

This gray colt is quite familiar with I'll Have Another. He lost to him by a nose in the 1 1/8-mile Santa Anita Derby, and finished fifth — three lengths behind two weeks ago in the 1 1/4-mile Derby. However, Creative Cause beat I'll Have Another last year in the Best Pal. He also owns a win over Bodemeister in the 1 1/16-mile San Felipe. If jockey Joel Rosario can position Creative Cause in striking position turning for home, the colt would have another chance to show he can finish strong. It didn't happen in the Derby, but the slightly shorter distance may be a positive.

TIGER WALK

One of the new shooters in the field, he's competed in a trio of graded-stakes races this year. In his last start, the son of Tale of the Cat finished a non-threatening fourth in the Wood Memorial. He was fourth in the Gotham and third in the Withers before that. Tiger Walk has a tendency to lose ground around the turns so trainer Ignacio Correas will fit the colt with blinkers Saturday in an effort to keep him more focused. He'll also have a new rider in Hall of Famer Kent Desormeaux — a two-time Preakness winner very familiar with the Pimlico racing surface. Long odds at 30-1, but he's a hometown horse owned by Kevin Plank's nearby Sagamore Farm.

COZZETTI

Nowadays, it's wise not to discard the chances of horses trained by Dale Romans. He won last year's Preakness with Shackleford, and watched as Dullahan finish a strong for third in the Derby two weeks ago. While his top 3-year-old is sitting out the Preakness, he's sending out this gray colt with hopes of pulling off a surprise at 30-1. Earlier in the week, this maiden winner who likes to come from behind worked five furlongs in a fast 58.80 seconds over a muddy track at Churchill Downs, and Romans said, "He's fresh, and he's going to have to run fast" on Saturday, especially leaving from the outside No. 11 post. He was fourth in the Arkansas Derby, 9? lengths behind Bodemeister, in his last start.

WENT THE DAY WELL

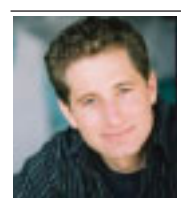
A troubled trip that ended with a speedy finish in the Derby gives Went the Day Well fans hope for an upset. The same team that won last year's Derby with Animal Kingdom only to finish a half-length behind Shackleford in the Preakness is confident their Spiral Stakes winner is ready to win a Classic. The New York-bred colt broke poorly from the No. 13 post under jockey John Velazquez, got caught in traffic through the first turn, but rallied in the stretch to close from ninth and 10 lengths back, to fourth and 2? lengths behind the winner. In a smaller field, look for Velazquez to avoid early trouble breaking from the No. 5 post and emerge as a major threat down the stretch.

YOUR WEEKEND *Just Got Funnier!*

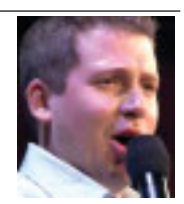
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MOVIE TIMES

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

Diary of a Country Priest (NR) 1hr 55min
7:30pm

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

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

Dictator (R) 1hr 23min
11:45am, 2:15pm, 4:45pm, 7:00pm, 9:20pm

Dark Shadows (PG-13) 1hr 53min
12:30pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm, 9:30pm

Girl in Progress (PG-13) 1hr 30min
11:55am, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

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

Marvel's The Avengers (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
11:15am, 2:45pm, 6:15pm, 9:30pm

Battleship (PG-13) 2hrs 11min
10:35am, 1:40pm, 4:50pm, 8:00pm, 11:00pm

Pirates! Band of Misfits (PG) 1hr 28min
11:30am, 2:05pm, 4:30pm

Dictator (R) 1hr 23min
11:00am, 1:20pm, 3:40pm, 6:00pm, 8:20pm, 10:40pm

Think Like a Man (PG-13) 2hrs 02min
7:00pm, 10:00pm

Dark Shadows (PG-13) 1hr 53min
10:45am, 1:45pm, 4:45pm, 7:45pm, 10:45pm

Five-Year Engagement (R) 2hrs 04min
10:30am, 1:35pm, 4:40pm, 7:45pm, 10:50pm

Marvel's The Avengers 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
1:00pm, 4:20pm, 7:45pm, 11:00pm

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

Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (PG-13) 1hr 58min
1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:55pm

First Position (NR) 1hr 30min
1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:35pm

Samaritan (NR) 1hr 30min
1:00pm, 3:10pm, 5:30pm, 7:50pm, 10:10pm

Mansome (PG-13) 1hr 24min
1:20pm, 3:30pm, 5:40pm, 8:00pm, 10:10pm

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

Battleship (PG-13) 2hrs 11min
12:15pm, 3:30pm, 6:50pm, 10:00pm

Hunger Games (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
11:55am, 3:30pm, 7:00pm, 10:30pm

What to Expect When You're Expecting (PG-13) 1hr 40min
11:40am, 12:40pm, 2:30pm, 3:35pm, 5:25pm, 6:30pm, 8:15pm, 9:30pm, 11:00pm

Bernie (PG-13) 1hr 35min
11:30am, 2:10pm, 4:50pm, 7:35pm, 10:20pm

Marvel's The Avengers 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
11:45am, 3:15pm, 6:45pm, 10:00pm

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

You are the party, Cancer

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You become more aware of what you have to offer. Be sure to maintain your needs as well. Your budget could become an area for scrutiny. Wearing rose-colored shades might be fun, but it could cause a fiscal disaster. Tonight: Enjoy yourself without breaking the bank.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You smile, and others cannot help but respond. Do you have your wish list nearby? If so, you might want to zero in on a coveted item. Others seem only too happy to pave the way. Your creativity will come into play. Tonight: Paint the town red.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ A lot might be going on around you, especially in your community or workplace. You might only be seeing one facet of a situation. Know that this trait is neither all good nor all bad. Tonight: Not to be found.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Zero in on what you feel is important. You have a tendency to sell yourself short or become insecure. You'll do such a great job at covering up your feelings that you might not even know how you really feel. Go for what you want. Tonight: You are the party.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Events seem to naturally unfurl in a positive manner. You'll step up to the plate, but be aware that your finances could come into play. This situation could cost you. A partner could be confused or viewing a monetary situation very differently. Tonight: You are the lead player.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You might have difficulty staying anchored. A key person in your life might not mean to be so vague -- he or she is just hard to pin down to get answers. Let your imagination run wild. Tonight: Relax to a good movie.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Your awareness of others and their expectations sometimes could cause you angst. Recognize your limits and what you are willing to do. Others tend to be unpredictable at this juncture. Curb your anger. Tonight: Dinner with a loved one.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You need to allow your mind to wander a little more. You often are a source of unusual ideas that seem to satisfy many people who have a difference of opinion. A friend could be pushy and wants you to spend more time with him or her. Tonight: Where your friends are.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You might want to rethink your plans with an eye to clearing up as much as you can in order to enjoy yourself. You come from a place of strength and understanding. Schedule a late lunch; you could find it very relaxing. Tonight: Whatever soothes your soul.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You might want to try to do something very different than the way you typically do, so take a risk and do just that. You will enjoy the excitement and change of pace. Your imagination leads the way. Tonight: Continue the fun.

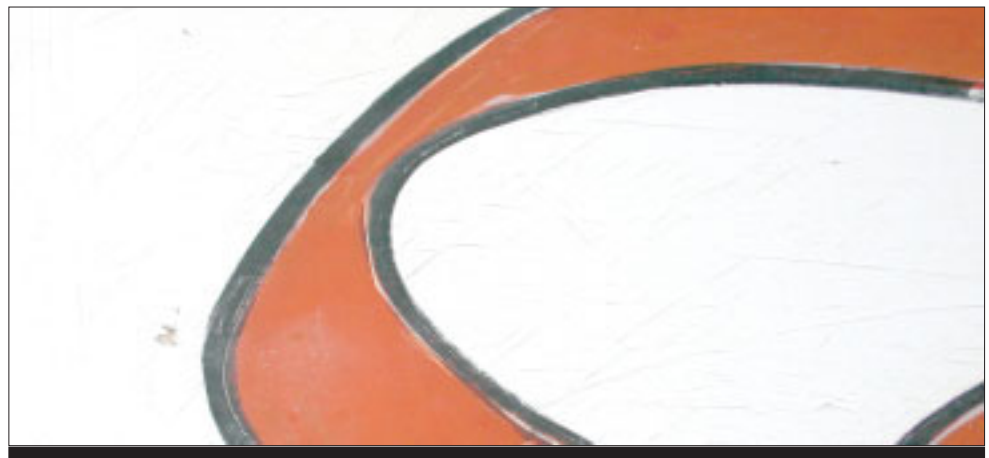
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ If you can take the day or part of the day off from your routine, do. You could find that the change not only reinvigorates you but also impacts a close loved one. In this freeing atmosphere, you'll discover a new vitality. Tonight: Close to home.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Your words have power. How you decide to integrate an important matter could make someone very comfortable, or just the opposite. As you claim your power, recognize the impact you would like to have here. Tonight: Join your friends.

Happy birthday

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

This year you seem more integrated into the social scene than before. Your personality emerges even more and draws many special people toward you. If you are single, the world is your oyster. Have fun choosing the most suitable partner for you. If you are attached, curb a tendency to be a little too me-oriented. Your partner needs your time and attention. Travel and/or education could play a major role in your decision-making process. You are grounded, practical and charismatic this year. Your creativity weaves in and out of issues, plans and important relationships. Use this time well. Don't go to battle with a fellow TAURUS. He or she is as willful as you are.

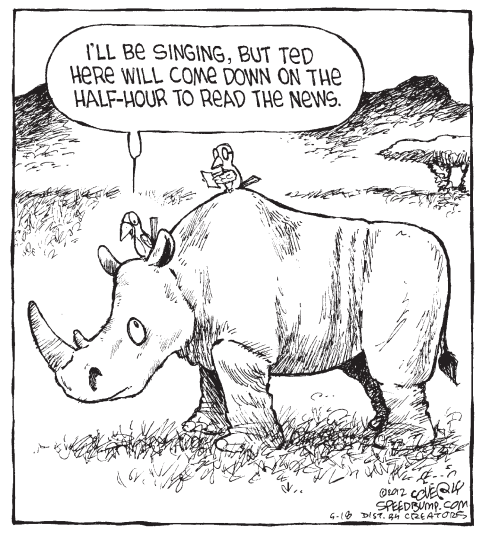


MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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

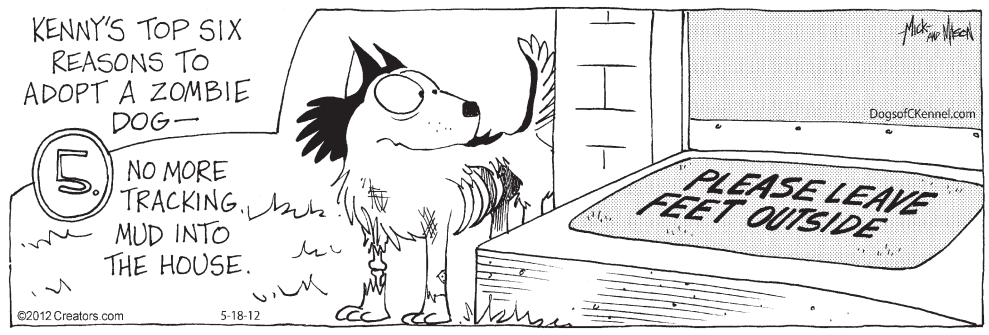
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



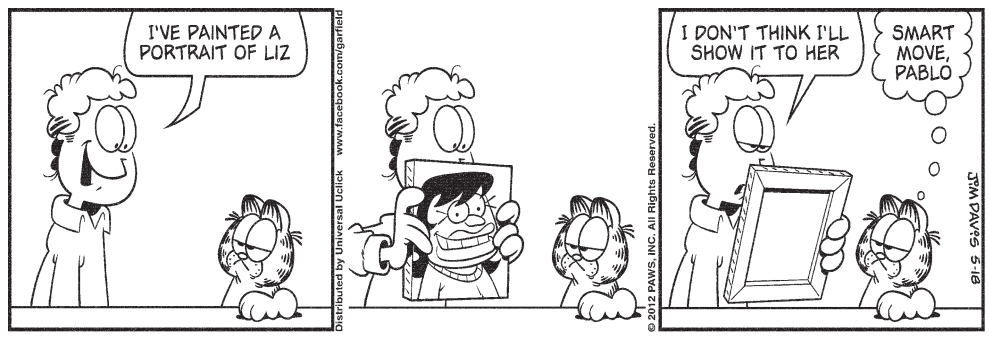
Strange Brew
By John Deering



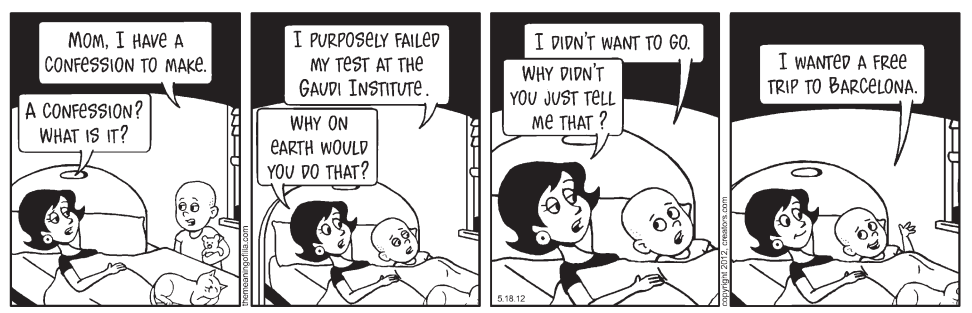
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



Sudoku

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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

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

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Dull routine
6 Expert at forging
11 Allude
12 Secret supply
13 Banded rock
14 Burglar's bane
15 Buddy
16 Biblical region
18 Building wing
19 Try the tea
20 Actor Cariou
21 Match parts
23 Director Arcand
25 Squeak stopper
27 Stellar cat
28 Bender
30 Overcook
33 "— Hear a Waltz?"
34 Course goal
36 King of France
37 Sophocles play
39 Habit inhabitant
40 Swagger-ing
41 Seething
43 Mermaid's home
44 Debussy work
45 Comfy spots
46 Future flowers

DOWN

1 Bordeaux bunch
2 Entertain
3 Patsy Cline song
4 Take in
5 Basest portion
6 Surgeon's tool
7 Niger neighbor
8 Beatles song
9 Low cards
10 Swagger-ing fellows
17 Assist
22 Knight's title
24 Colo. neighbor
26 Sub-atomic particles
28 Comfort
29 Cochlea setting
31 Beat decisively
32 Frisco team
33 Evil spirit
35 Train supports
38 Informal talk
42 "Norma —"

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	10
11					■	12				
13					■	14				
15			■	16	17					
18			■	19			■	20		
21			22	■	23		24			■
■	■	25		26	■	27			■	■
■	28				29	■	30		31	32
33			■	34		35	■	36		
37			38				■	39		
40					■	41	42			
43					■	44				
45					■	46				

5-18

ARITHMO™

CrossMath + × − ÷

– Arithmo Crossmath – Reclaim Your Brain

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

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

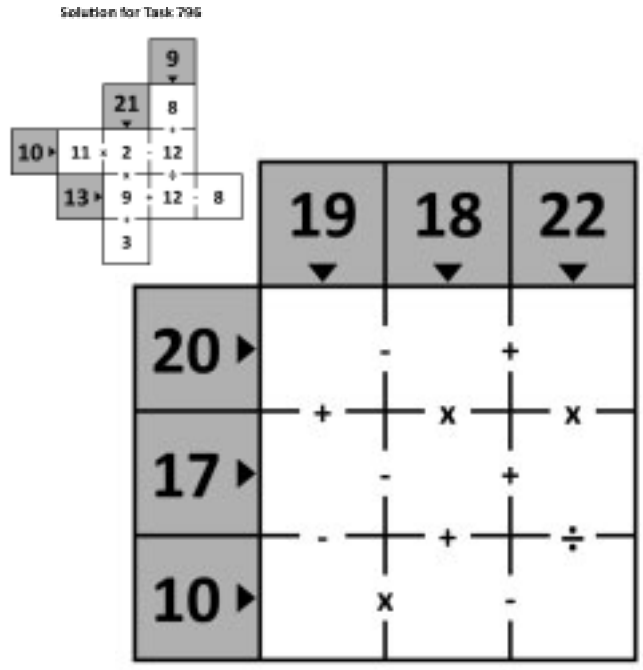
• Remember to multiply or divide before you add or subtract.

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

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

Solution for Task 796



DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS — Draw Date: 5/15
10 11 12 14 24
Meganumber: 6
Jackpot: $12M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS — Draw Date: 5/16
9 15 17 24 35
Meganumber: 18
Jackpot: $18M

Fantasy 5 — Draw Date: 5/17
10 13 14 36 38

DAILY 3 — Draw Date: 5/17
MIDDAY: 7 2 5
EVENING: 1 2 5

SANTA ANITA PARK — Draw Date: 5/17
1st: 07 Eureka
2nd: 12 Lucky Charms
3rd: 04 Big Ben
RACE TIME: 1:48.56

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

■ The Marine Wounded Warriors Battalion at Camp Lejeune, N.C., generally enjoys excellent support from the community, but in an April report of the Government Accountability Office, Marines complained of a "petting zoo" environment in which civilian charities and advertisers use the battalion to seek out "poster" faces and bodies that "looked the part" of wounded veterans, such as those severely burned or missing limbs. Warriors who suffer post-traumatic stress or brain injuries often appear outwardly "normal" and are likely to be ignored by the support organizations, thus setting a "bad tone" among the wounded.

■ Not Your Classic Perps: (1) In October, Dr. Kimberly Lindsey, 44, a deputy director of the Centers for Disease Control's Laboratory Science, Policy, and Practice Program Office, was charged with two counts of child molestation and bestiality involving a 6-year-old boy. (2) In April, Yaron Segal, 30, a post-doctoral researcher at a physics lab at MIT, was arrested upon arriving in Grand Junction, Colo., after arranging with a woman online to have sex with the woman's underage daughter (an adventure that was the product of a law enforcement sting). (Two weeks later, Segal was found dead in his jail cell of an apparent suicide.)

TODAY IN HISTORY

1993 - EU - riots in Nørrebro, Copenhagen caused by the approval of the four Danish exceptions in the Maastricht Treaty referendum. Police opened fire against civilians for the first time since World War II and injured 11 demonstrators. In total 113 bullets are fired.

1995 - Shawn Nelson, 35, goes on a tank rampage in San Diego.

WORD UP!

omphalos
\ OM-fuh-luhs \ , noun;
1. The central point.
2. The navel; umbilicus.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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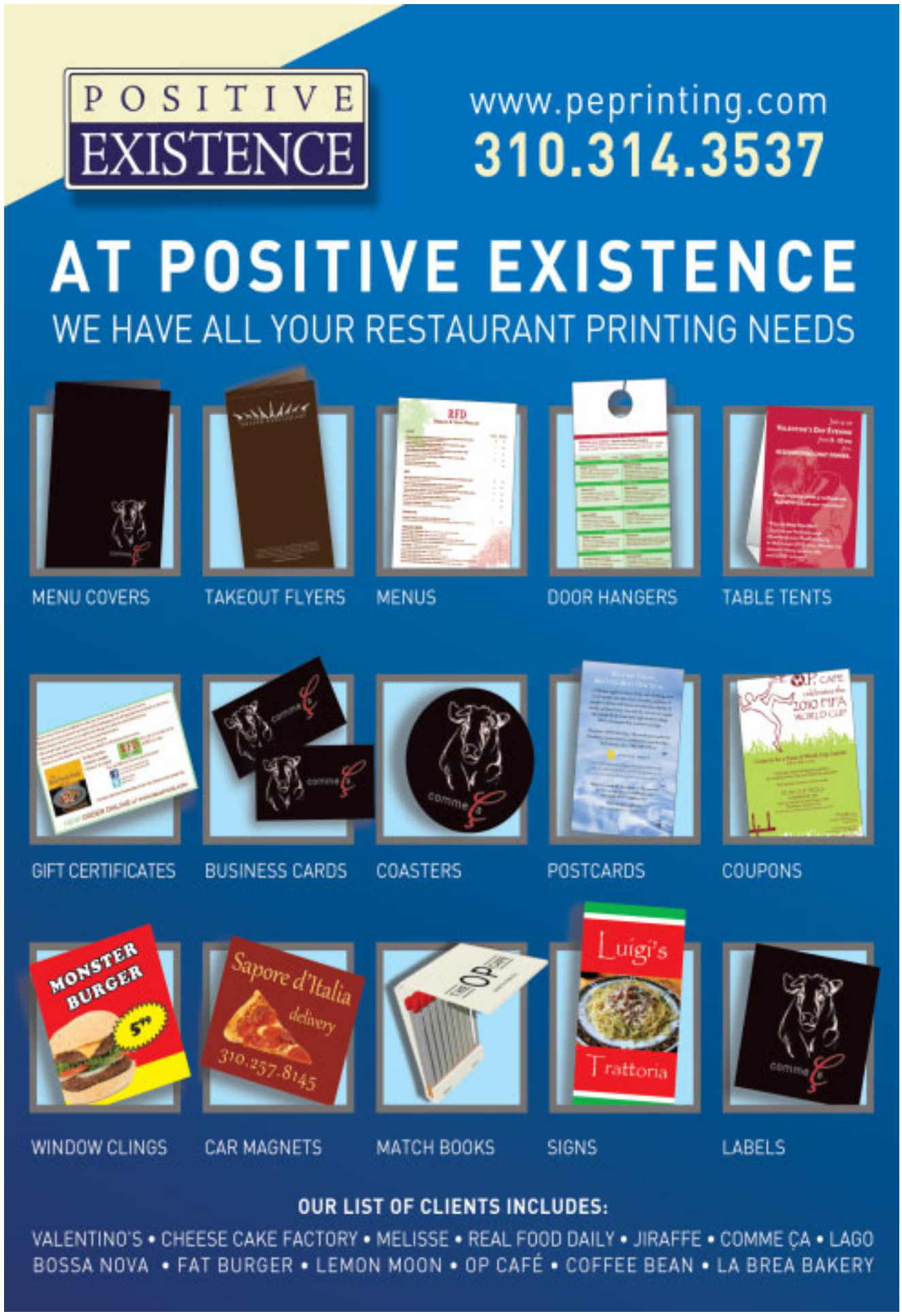
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FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2012053051 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 03/26/2012 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as LUCKIE PIERRE ENTERTAINMENT, LUCKIE PIERRE MANAGEMENT & RECORDINGS. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: DOUGLAS GRAHAM KURZNER 100 N SYCAMORE AVE STE 11 LOS ANGELES CA 90036. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:DOUGLAS GRAHAM KURZNER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 03/26/2012. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 04/27/2012, 05/04/2012, 05/11/2012, 05/18/2012.

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