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TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 164



Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

THE ON THE SPOT ISSUE

BEARS SAFE FROM DOGS
SEE PAGE 7



Ray Solano *news@smdp.com*

UNITED FRONT: **Protesters gathered outside of Santa Monica Car Wash & Detailing on Monday claiming unfair labor practices.**

Suit says local carwashes mistreat employees

BY SEAN FITZ-GERALD
Special to the Daily Press

PICO BLVD A lawsuit has been filed against three area carwashes on behalf of employees who say they were not paid proper wages and were denied breaks.

The Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund (MALDEF) held a demonstration in front of Santa Monica Car Wash & Detailing on Pico Boulevard on Monday to announce the specifics of the case.

According to the lawsuit, a family of carwash owners failed to pay wages, provide meal breaks and rest periods, pay wages of terminated or resigned employees, comply with itemized employee wage statement provisions, reimburse work expenses and abide by fair competition law.

State law requires that employees get a meal break after no more than five hours of work or that they receive compensation for the day the meal is not provided, according to the suit, which alleges that management at the car washes prohibited meal breaks or delayed them past the five hour cut-off without compensation.

The three car washes — Millennium Car Wash at 2454 Lincoln Blvd. in Venice; Santa Monica Car Wash & Detailing at 2510 Pico Blvd. in Santa Monica; and Bubble Bee Car Wash at 2711 Del Amo Blvd. in Lakewood — are owned by Bijan, Edna and Kambiz Damavandi. The lawsuit was filed against the Damavandis on behalf of four employees — or "carwasheros," as they call themselves — and other employees similarly situated.

Bijan, Edna and Kambiz Damavandi could not be reached for comment regarding this article.

Plaintiffs Esteban H. Carmona, Marcial H. Carmona, Anselmo Levya and Pedro Cruz were present at the demonstration, along with MALDEF representatives and various advocacy groups.

"This country … has a long history of stepping over the civil rights of Latino employees and failing to pay them mininum wage," said Victor Viramontes, national senior counsel for MALDEF. "But today four workers are stepping forward to say that that history — that many thought to be intransigent and unchangeable — will be changing and to set out for a new future."

Maria Elena Durazo, executive secretary-treasurer of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, denounced the "pattern of abuse that still exists in the carwash industry."

Durazo said the primary reason carwash owners think they can abuse workers is because of their immigrant status.

"The good news is that we have courageous immigrant workers who are fighting back and standing up for their rights," she said. "MALDEF, who has always defended the rights, in particular of Latinos, but of all people in this country … are also stepping up in a very big way."

Durazo acknowledged the advocacy groups that were present at the demonstration — the hotel workers' unions, the Teamsters, janitors, the steel workers' union,

SEE SUIT PAGE 9

City Council to move on Pico Library

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

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

SEE CONSENT PAGE 10

Report: Expo Line woes could cause derailments

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES California officials say the recently opened light rail line that connects downtown Los Angeles with the city's Westside must be reinspected because a key section contains a serious design flaw that could cause trains to derail, the Los Angeles Times reported.

The section in question is a downtown junction that links the Expo Line, which will eventually reach Santa Monica, with the Blue Line, which takes riders through South Los Angeles to Long Beach.

The Times reported Sunday that Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority records show Blue line trains could derail at the junction, which contains a sharp curve. They could also go off the tracks farther down the line because of equipment damage they could suffer negotiating that turn, the newspaper said.

About 140 train trips are made along the Blue Line each day.

MTA officials say they have modified the

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, May 22, 2012

Making decisions
City Council Chambers
1685 Main St., 5:30 p.m.
The City Council will convene to discuss the future of nativity scene displays in Palisades Park and City Hall's finances. The council will also proclaim May 2012 as Mental Health Awareness Month and Older Americans Month in the city of Santa Monica. For more information, call (310) 458-8411.

Bingo!
Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club
1210 Fourth St., 7 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Please join the Woman's Club for a 1980s themed night in support of Planned Parenthood's Los Angeles health services, education and advocacy efforts while participating in the wildest game of Bingo you've ever played. The event will include a taco bar, raffle, auctions, prizes and of course Bingo Boy. For more information, call (213) 284-3300.

May mischief
Ocean Park Library
2601 Main St., 3:30 p.m. & 4:30 p.m.
Come on down to the Ocean Park Library and celebrate the merry, merry, month of May with Mr. Jesse and all of his wonderful puppet pals. For more information, call (310) 458-8681.

Wednesday, May 23, 2012

Calling all boomers
Santa Monica Civic Auditorium
1855 Main St., 9 a.m. — 1 p.m.
A new range of services and products has grown as baby boomers enter their 50s and 60s. The changing needs of this demographic is fueling emerging industries that produce everything from modern scooters, websites for mature users, job banks for older workers or online dating services for seniors. WISE & Healthy Aging and the city of Santa Monica are collaborating to launch this first-time event, dubbed Boomers & Beyond Action Expo, during "Older Americans Month" to help raise awareness of the services available to older adults in our communities. For more information, call (310) 394-9871.

Thursday, May 24, 2012

The apotheosis
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m.
Architectural historian Dana Hutt will give a lecture on the work of Ray Kappe, a Southern Californian architect whose work has been described as "the apotheosis of the California wood house." Kappe, renowned for his efforts as an educator at Cal Poly Pomona and as a founder of the Southern California Institute of Architecture, recently donated his architectural archive to the Getty Research Institute — where it is now housed in special collections. Admission to the lecture is free and all ages are welcome. Seating is limited and available on a first-come basis. For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

Let's get digital
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6 p.m.
Abby Stokes and the Santa Monica Public Library present "Is This Thing On?" — an introduction to everything digital. Stokes, the author of "Is This Thing On?: A Computer Handbook for Late Bloomers, Technophobes, and the Kicking and Screaming," plans to show those who are resistant to technology how convenient and beneficial the digital world can be. The event is presented free to the public and is open to all ages. Seating is available on a first-come basis. For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

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

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

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



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CITYWIDE

Click it or ticket

Santa Monica police officers kicked off the summer Click It or Ticket seat belt enforcement campaign Monday, meaning more cops will be on the lookout for those who are not buckled up when driving.

The SMPD joins other state and local law enforcement agencies in an effort to help save lives. According to public safety officials, seat belts are the most effective life-saving equipment inside a vehicle.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in 2010 nationally, 61 percent of the 10,647 passenger vehicle occupants who were killed in traffic collisions overnight were not wearing their seat belts at the time of the fatal collisions, compared to 42 percent during the daytime hours.

"Too many drivers and passengers on the road at night are not wearing their seat belts, and it all too often ends in tragedy," said SMPD Lt. Jay Trisler. "Our goal is to save more lives, so the Santa Monica Police Department will be out enforcing seat belt laws around the clock."

Seat belt use saves thousands of lives across America each year with NHTSA statistics showing that in 2010 alone, seat belts saved an estimated 12,546 lives nationwide. Yet, too many motorists may need a tough reminder. In 2010, 22,187 vehicle occupants were killed in motor vehicle collisions, according to NHTSA, and 51 percent of them were not wearing seat belts at the time of the fatal collision.

Younger motorists and men are at particular risk. Data shows that among teen and young adult motorists and their passengers in 2010, ages 18-34, who were killed in traffic collisions, 61 percent were not buckled up at the time of the collision – the highest percentage of any age group. The number jumps to 66 percent when just men in this age group are included.

While this year's Click It or Ticket enforcement mobilization runs from May 21 through June 3, motorists should know that officers are out enforcing seat belt laws year-round.

The total cost for a first-time ticket is at least $142.

KEVIN HERRERA

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SHUTDOWN ON PICO

Doug Olmedo *news@smdp.com*

A gas leak behind Gilbert's restaurant Monday forced safety officials to close Pico Boulevard near 26th Street temporarily while the leak was worked on. A number of businesses and residences in the area were evacuated as a precaution.

L.A.'s Old Chinatown ponders a future with Wal-Mart

JOHN ROGERS
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES On the surface, a big Wal-Mart store might seem out of place in the midst of the old-fashioned curio shops, the little dim sum eateries and the colorful lanterns and pagodas that make up one of the oldest Chinatowns in the United States.

But then so does the Catholic church that offers Sunday Masses in Croatian. Or the one that performs them in Italian. Not to mention the imposing statue of French hero Joan of Arc that stands just a stone's throw from the one of modern China's founding father, Sun Yat-Sen.

When Wal-Mart announced plans earlier this year to open one of its outlets on the fringes of Old Chinatown, alarm bells went off in some quarters. The local city councilman pushed successfully for a moratorium on opening large stores in downtown, although Wal-Mart got around that by pulling its permits before the ordinance took effect.

Several business owners, meanwhile, expressed concerns that Wal-Mart, known for its cheap prices on everything from tires to toys, would put them out of business and lead to the destruction of the area's ambience.

Overlooked in much of the debate was that Chinatown wasn't always Chinatown. Over the years, it has also been Frenchtown and Little Italy, and a portion of it was once home to a Croatian community. Evidence of the latter is 102-year-old St. Anthony's Croatian Catholic Church, located just up the hill from where the Wal-Mart would go.

More recently, Chinatown's population has seen an increase in Hispanics, who now make up about a quarter of the square-mile area's 11,000 residents.

It's a square mile that displays the city's famous diversity and multicultural history to a remarkable degree, says Los Angeles writer Lisa See, who has drawn extensively from her own family's Chinatown history for such books as "On Gold Mountain" and the 2009 best seller "Shanghai Girls."

"We as a city, I think, don't pay much attention to that history or that diversity, but once you cover it up it's gone for good," added See, acknowledging she frets about the impact a generic Wal-Mart will have on the culturally rich area where she spent hours as a child playing in her family's store.

Wal-Mart spokesman Steve Restivo says the store won't be one of those gigantic supercenters the company is famous for but a much smaller "neighborhood market" about one-fifth the size. Those markets typically sell groceries, fresh produce and such other items as pharmaceuticals, deli foods, stationery and dry goods.

He noted the store, scheduled to open next year, is going into a building that has been vacant for years. The Chinatown loca-

SEE **CHINATOWN** PAGE 10

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Fate of trailer park

Editor:

This Wednesday, a special meeting of the Planning Commission will consider whether the Village Trailer Park on Colorado Avenue should be closed or not (agenda item 5-A).

Roughly, for those still not knowing of it, here is the story of this park:

From the early 1950s, various people seeking to live in Santa Monica spent thousands of dollars – all the money they had, in many cases – to buy compact, efficient-living, now rare and uniquely-built trailer homes on 109 rent-controlled pad sites in what was earlier an awesomely beautiful, nearly four-acre treed property, unobtrusively nestled in the city's old east end.

A future-thinking town, aware that these homes are part of its rich wartime history, and also part of its declining housing stock for those of low income, in '88, by action of its City Council, in seeking to protect that resource, zoned the land mobile home use only.

As years passed, the park's owner and management company (it is alleged) variously abused these homeowners, and opportunistically, as some died off, effected the removal of nearly half of the trailers and the fine trees on the land.

By '06, an ambitious-seeming developer had come along and plans had begun to end the park so money could be made constructing some large buildings on the land, once residents and their trailer homes had been removed from it.

At first, City Hall apparently said, "No, you can't just ignore our zoning wisdom, break the legal space-rental agreements you have with your home-owning residents, offering them in the process nothing for their purchase costs and accrued home worth, and then simply seek to toss them into our already crowded streets like that!"

'Yes, we can!' said the owner/developers' astute lawyer.

Fearing the expense of a suit, city officials thought again, and agreed to consider the planned development.

Five more years passed, yet more trailers were destroyed, and mostly silence prevailed about laws being violated and harms being caused, to both lives and to City Hall's housing-zoning aims.

Then the development agreement design plan morphed some and park residents were brought closer to facing the loss of their homes and savings and a forced relocation to places nothing like or at all equal to what their tarnished, but still beautiful park afforded them.

Finally, a City Hall review of the progressed plans for the development was begun. That review, this Wednesday, should tackle some serious concerns.

Years back, it became clear that traffic volume in this small city was becoming a problem. Since bigger buildings generally mean more people coming to them, and more vehicles generally needed to bring those people to those buildings … . Maybe see you at the meeting.

David Latham
Santa Monica

Looking at Lincoln

Editor:

I live in an apartment house on Lincoln Boulevard. Lincoln could definitely use some more trees to help dissipate the CO2 hanging in the air from all the traffic.

No one really wants to walk down Lincoln if they can help it. Aside from the pollution, the street is filthy with debris that is never removed and litter that is constant, which is only addressed by a couple of businesses per block and certainly not City Hall or any ongoing litter brigades.

Don't spend money trying to spiff up this mini highway; just pick up the ever present trash and crap and run the street cleaning trucks more frequently. Get businesses to do a better clean up job in front and around their properties through enforcement.

Killeen Pilon
Santa Monica



After the Bell

Merv Hecht — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Past, present, future

MOST INVESTORS ARE FAMILIAR WITH the hackneyed phrase, "past performance is no guarantee of future performance." That's the "cover your backside" sentence that professional advisors put in their recommendation advisories. They do that because they spend a lot of time talking about the past, and trying to figure out from the past what is going to happen in the future.

But in fact it's only the future that an investor is interested in, not the past. And, to put it more bluntly, looking at the past is not a very good methodology for predicting the future. Investment indicia are constantly changing, and as the ancient Greek philosopher once said, "you can't dip your toe into the same river twice."

Of course, no one wants to take investment advice from Greeks right now.

Many investors have become weary of trying to predict the future at all, and just put their money into bonds to receive a fixed, predictable return. That used to be a pretty good strategy from a psychological point of view: no risk, no worry. But with interest rates well below inflation, as Warren Buffet recently wrote, an investment in bonds today is a guaranteed way to lose money over time. And Warren had something similar to say about gold: if you buy a gold brick now and hold it for 10 years, at the end of the 10 years all you have is the same gold brick. Your only hope for a profit is that some bigger fool thinks it's worth more.

Others put their investment dollars into the S&P index, known at the SPY. That gives them the same up or down performance as the stock market in general because it's a basket of 500 of the leading public stocks. Some commentators claim that this investment has, historically, out-performed most of the expensive investment advisors that are picking individual stocks. The only problem with it is that you never know how much investment dollars you will have from time to time, because you never know if the market will go up or down.

Because of that uncertainly, some investors opt to forget the market and put their money into income producing real estate. One reason to do that is because, absent major vacancies, real estate produces a pretty stable source of income, and while the underlying value might go up or down, the income can stay pretty much the same. And over time, real estate does tend to protect against inflation.

That's a good argument, but the downside of investing most of your investment capital into real estate is that it's not liquid. And just when you need another $50,000 or so for a payment on college tuition is when the real estate market is down and you don't want to sell — or interest rates are way up and you don't want to refinance.

So I take a middle ground. I keep liquid by investing in the market, but I use the assets that I purchase to produce a stable income, and I do not depend primarily on the sale of appreciated stocks to generate my profits. I do this by writing options.

There are two kinds of options that I write to achieve this goal. One is the sale of covered calls. I look for a company that is fairly stable in a market that is stable, and has public stock that pays a dividend to hedge against inflation. An example of this is Proctor & Gamble (PG). Over the past year the stock has moved up and down between $58 to $68 a share, somewhat more change than one would like, but not bad considering the extremes of the market during that time period.

At the moment the stock is in the middle of that range, about $64. It pays a dividend equal to a 3.5 percent yield, probably better than the current rate of inflation. It's in a stable market — consumer goods — and it sells both in the U.S. and internationally, which is a good diversification for stability.

So I buy 1,000 shares for $64,000 (or less, depending on cash on hand). At the same time I sell 10 calls. There are a lot of potential calls I can sell. I want to select the earliest date that will give me a reasonable premium since the sooner I earn the money the less risk I have, but a strike price (the price I agree to sell at) that is enough above my cost to show an additional profit.

In this case I select the October $67.50 calls. That's further out than I prefer to go, but I need to give the buyer that much time in order to receive almost $1 in premium, for a total of a bit under $1,000.

The net result of this is that I own the stock and receive a nice dividend. Someone pays me $1,000 (and I can do that twice a year, for a total of $2,000 a year — an additional 3 percent or so on my investment), and nothing special happens unless the stock goes up to $67.50 and is purchased from me. And I don't mind selling it at that price over the next five months and taking that nice profit. Meanwhile, I've raised my return from 3.5 to 6.5 percent.

The other strategy I follow on a regular basis is to sell what are called "put spreads." For example, I have believed for some time that Apple stock will not drop below 10 percent in any three month period. So I sell a put at about 10 percent below current market value. The "put" is a contract under which I agree to buy the stock if it drops below the "strike price" we agree upon. In exchange for my agreement, I am paid a premium, which in this case on 10 puts can be quite large, around $8,000.

But I don't want to take the risk of buying 1,000 shares of Apple stock, even if it drops, because it's too expensive and would require too much of my capital. So to protect myself I buy a protective position 10 points below the sales position, and pay out about $6,500. Now I have a potential profit of $1,500 on these two positions, but my potential loss in the worst case, if the stock drops about 15 percent in the next three months, is only $10,000 ($1,000 per point) less the $1,500 I received, or a net $8,500. This is an amount that I could afford to lose in a bad scenario.

But there are ways to even avoid that loss if things go poorly. And in my next column I will give some examples of this strategy, because I realize people find it complicated, and will explain the additional methodologies available to recover from the unlikely case where the put spread ends up in a loss.

For information about **MERV HECHT** and more details on the strategies and stocks he writes about in this column, visit his website at DoubleYourYield.com.

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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Honoring Memorial Day

FROM THE DAWN OF TIME, MEN WHO died in battle have been recognized as heroes by the society they fought for.

America has set aside this coming weekend to honor the men and women who have given their lives to found our country, to fight to preserve its way of life, and to bring democracy to other countries.

For most of us this coming weekend means barbecues, a four-day weekend and the traditional start of summer. Retailers have used this weekend as a reason for people to spend money on a new barbecue, redo the landscaping in a backyard, and to buy new summer outfits.

I will be going away this weekend for four days, during which I will be disconnected from the Internet, my cell phone, and the stresses of regular society. I'm going to the mountains of Malibu to celebrate the weekend with 300 other men. There will be workshops teaching people how to tie-dye and seminars on how to engage my aura.

This weekend in the mountains is about getting back in touch with what it means to be a man in a society that has conflicting messages for men. On the one hand men are expected to be strong, silent, powerful, forceful, and determined in their goal seeking. The strong man goes after what he wants. He is aggressive in business and he is sexually assertive. We look to the mythic to set the standard for the average. We use the warrior ethic as the ideal of what a man should be.

On the other hand, we hamstring men when we tear down the most successful among us. We look for the sexual indiscretions and financial improprieties so we can bring the top man down off his pedestal, and so that we, who don't measure up, may feel a sense of moral superiority.

But for me, my weekend in the mountains is not about hierarchies, whether they are financial, educational, social, or military. This weekend is about being one of many. When 300 men gather and they are all volunteers, it is an interesting experience to witness how much they can do and how little friction there really is.

I was never in the military, so I have no standard by which to measure how this unorganized group of men compares with a strict hierarchy of the military. I do know that I find the camaraderie and the friendships made to be highly satisfying.

I imagine that for those who were in the military and have felt the pressures of combat, their sense of camaraderie must be so much stronger, their friendships deeper, and their love for one another greater. Which means that their feelings of loss must be greater also.

This coming weekend as Woodlawn Cemetery holds ceremonies to remember those lost in combat, veterans and families will gather to honor and remember their fallen fellows.

That is the real point of this weekend. This weekend is about remembering what it took to found our nation, and what it takes to protect our nation, but also about the individuals who sacrificed their lives for those of us still living.

So this coming weekend as we enjoy our hamburgers and corn on the cob, as we lay on the beach and work on our tans, I urge you to take a moment and reflect on those who have sacrificed for us.

If you are an active duty service member, or you are a vet, I want to thank you for the work you've done, and let you know that I am sorry for the loss of your fellows. Whether you are or were a general or a buck private, whether you saw front-line combat or stayed on a base in Kansas, the role you played was needed and appreciated.

To all the service members let me just say thank you, you are not forgotten.

DAVID PISARRA is a family law attorney focusing on father's rights and men's Issues in the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or (310) 664-9969.

The Q Line

Trimming the fat

City Hall revealed last week that it expects to be operating with a $4.6 million deficit by 2016.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
What do you think city officials should consider cutting to close the projected gap and why?

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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Highs and Lows of the Criminal Justice System – Drug Offenses

One of my clients recently commented to me that she was very thankful that our criminal justice system afforded her an opportunity to help her kick her nasty drug habit. Her comments got me thinking about how often the criminal justice system is denigrated and maligned by a large majority of the population (and a large majority of those who go through the system) for the inability to rehabilitate and treat offenders in order to prevent a reoccurrence or repeat offense. Despite this widely held sentiment, there is a much better track record of success when it comes to the system's approach to drug offenses. California law makers and prosecutorial agencies decided long ago that it is far better to treat drug offenders than to punish them. This is a precarious and often delicate relationship because while no one wants to condone drug use, virtually everyone realizes that harsh punishments more often than not simply breed recidivism. This article will focus on two ways to combat drug use through the criminal justice system: DEJ and Prop 36.

California's drug laws maintain a close relationship with the electorate of California. That is to say that as popular feelings and opinions on drugs softens, so too do the laws criminalizing drug possession. For example, California Penal Code Section 1000, more commonly known as DEJ (Deferred Entry of Judgment), and the passage of Proposition 36, reflects California citizens' collective sentiment that drug offenders should be given every available option to seek treatment and stop using drugs before a court imposes jail or prison.

DEJ is covered by Penal Code Section 1000 and applies to cases where a person is caught in possession of a controlled substance, smoking device, or even alcohol. The basic principle behind DEJ is that is an offender in possession of a controlled substance (i.e. cocaine, methamphetamine, ecstasy or a pipe, etc.) may enter a guilty plea, stay clean, take drug treatment classes, and then have the guilty plea withdrawn and the case dismissed after an 18 month period. Note that even if the underlying offense is dismissed some employers and licensing agencies may still pursue administrative action. DEJ only applies to cases where the controlled substance is for personal use (meaning not a sales case) and where the offender is first determined to be eligible. Moreover, if an offender violates DEJ and defies a court's orders the judge may enter the guilty plea and sentence the offender accordingly.

In order to be found eligible for the DEJ program it must be demonstrated that: 1) There are no prior convictions for any offense involving controlled substances, 2) The offense charged did not involve a crime of violence or threatened violence, 3) There is no evidence of a violation relating to narcotics or restricted dangerous drugs, 4) The defendant's has not previously violated probation or parole, 5) The defendant has not been placed on DEJ within 5 years of the offense date, and 6) The defendant has no prior felony conviction within five years. If all of these requirements are satisfied, then a person is eligible for DEJ and has the opportunity to earn a dismissal.

Similar to DEJ, Proposition 36 was passed by California voters in November 2000 as a legislative means to allow drug offenders to receive probation with treatment rather than incarceration. For practical purposes, Prop. 36 is a secondary option to get addicts and users treatment when DEJ and/or other programs have failed to get people the help that they so desperately need. A user is ineligable for probation under Prop. 36 if they have a prior felony "strike" within five years, if in the same case they have been convicted of a non-drug related felony or misdemeanor, if they were in possession of a firearm while under the influence, and/or if they have twice failed Prop. 36 or continuously refuses treatment.

A person sentenced to Prop. 36 will complete drug treatment classes, counseling, and whatever other courses are deemed appropriate by the court. The offender will also submit to urine or blood testing as well. Upon successful completion of the Prop. 36 program the case is not automatically dismissed as is the case with DEJ; however, one can petition to the court to dismiss the action with a showing that they have successfully completed the program and gone above and beyond what was required.

The DEJ and Prop. 36 programs can work wonders for drug users and offenders. It is often quite refreshing to see someone enter the program as a downtrodden, distraught, and disheveled drug addict and exit the program clean, sober, and enlightened about the many dangers of drug use. I will never forget the look of happiness, joy and relief that filled my client's face when the judge congratulated her on her progress and then dismissed her case. There was applause from the small audience in the courtroom, and my client felt as though she had accomplished something positive rather than felt the shame of having committed a crime. It was refreshing to both of us that the criminal justice system actually helped and truly served the interests of justice.

If you or anyone you know has been arrested for a drug related offense or any other misdemeanor or felony offense contact criminal defense attorney and former prosecutor Jacob Glucksman through The Legal Grind immediately to preserve your rights!

THIS COLUMN WAS PREPARED BY JACOB GLUCKSMAN, A CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY. HE CAN BE REACHED THROUGH THE LEGAL GRIND AT 310-452-8160 OR REFERRAL@LEGALGRIND.COM

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

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

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

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

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

THURSDAY
12:00-2:00pm Immigration and Family Law with Attorney Galorah Keshavarz (By appointment only)
4:00-5:00pm (By appointment only) Chapter 7 and 13 Bankruptcy, Debt Negotiation and Personal Injuries cases with Attorney and Legal Grind founder Jeffrey J. Hughes

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

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Officials identify suspect, driver in bus shooting

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Officials on Monday identified a bus driver and the man suspected of fatally shooting him in West Holllywood over the weekend in what is believed to be the first on-duty murder of an operator in the transit agency's history.

Anthony Chambers, 41, of Los Angeles, was booked late Sunday for investigation of murder and remained held on $1 million bail, sheriff's investigators said. It wasn't immediately known if he had retained an attorney.

No motive has been given for the shooting, which happened early Sunday when Chambers and the bus driver were believed to be the only people on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority bus. The shooting occurred just blocks from the route of the Amgen Tour of California bicycle race.

Rick Jager, a spokesman for the Los Angeles County transit agency, identified the driver as Alan Thomas, 51, of Los Angeles. Thomas, who was married, worked for MTA for five years, Jager said.

MTA officials said they can't recall another murder of an on-duty driver in the agency's nearly 20-year history or with its predecessor, Southern California Rapid Transit District.

The bus was equipped with video cameras but it was unclear if they recorded the incident.

The vehicle, which was on its regular run through a neighborhood on the busy Santa Monica Boulevard, appeared to have stopped alongside a curb just before Thomas was attacked, authorities said.

Witnesses told investigators they saw Chambers climb out a window and run down the street. He was arrested soon after.

Two firearms were recovered and a suspicious package was found on the bus but it wasn't determined to be an explosive device, authorities said.

A makeshift memorial of candles and flowers has been left at the shooting site and grief counselors were available for MTA employees.

MTA drivers are given training to deal with unruly passengers or potentially violent situations, Jager said.

"They are trained to either to diffuse it or call in," he said. "Don't aggravate it or escalate it. This is an absolutely unfortunate situation."

STATE BRIEFS

SACRAMENTO

Senate approves regulations for self-driving car

State lawmakers are anticipating the day when self-driving vehicles navigate California's roads guided by radar and GPS systems instead of human hands on the steering wheel.

The state Senate approved a bill Monday that would establish safety and performance standards for what are known as "autonomous" vehicles.

SB1298 by Sen. Alex Padilla also would allow the self-guiding vehicles on streets and highways, as long as a licensed driver is aboard. The bill passed 37-0 and goes to the Assembly.

Padilla, a Democrat from Los Angeles, says the vehicles can reduce accidents caused by human error.

Nevada and Florida have enacted similar laws. Padilla's office says bills also are pending in Arizona, Hawaii and Oklahoma.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES

State: School districts hit finance crisis

The California Department of Education says a record number of school districts are in financial dire straits this year, with a dozen facing insolvency.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson said Monday that 188 districts have received either negative or qualified financial ratings from the state.

That's up 45 from a year ago, and up 61 from earlier in the 2011-12 academic year.

County education offices have had to step in to oversee 12 districts that either do not have money to finish this school year or to make it through the 2012-13 year.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Four arrested after man's beating at Dodger Stadium

A minor fender bender in a Dodger Stadium parking lot over the weekend led to the beating of a driver and the arrest of four people more than a year after a San Francisco Giants fan was left with brain damage after an attack on opening day, police said Monday.

The latest attack occurred Sunday, when the victim, a man in his 20s, had a collision with another driver and three other men pinned him down, police said.

The other driver kicked and hit the victim in the head and face while he was on the ground, police Sgt. David Armas said.

"It was just a minor fender bender that just got totally out of hand," he said.

The victim, whose name was not released, had scrapes and cuts to his face, but his injuries were not life-threatening, Armas said. A woman in the victim's car who is eight months pregnant was not hurt, but she was examined at a hospital as a precaution, he said.

The four men, all in their 20s, were arrested for investigation of assault with a deadly weapon. They were not immediately identified.

AP

LOS ANGELES

Man killed when struck by CHP car in San Diego

A pedestrian has died after being struck by a California Highway Patrol cruiser on a San Diego freeway.

The man was killed late Saturday on Interstate 8. His name hasn't been released.

UT San Diego says the man, believed to be a transient, ran from the center divider directly into the path of the CHP car. The officer attempted to swerve and avoid a collision, also hitting his brakes, but wasn't successful.

AP

Former appraiser in L.A. County is charged

GREG RISLING
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Corruption charges were filed Monday against a former Los Angeles County appraiser as part of an investigation into influence peddling claims involving the assessor's office.

Scott Schenter, 49, was arrested in Beaverton, Ore., and charged with 60 counts, including falsifying accounts and records. If convicted, he could face up to 33 years in prison. He was being held on $1.5 million bail.

A phone listing could not be immediately found for Schenter, and it could not be determined if he had a lawyer.

Schenter is accused of unlawfully lowering property values by more than $170 million while he worked for the assessor's office from 1988 to 2011.

He secured campaign contributions from the owners of homes and businesses — some in Beverly Hills and Pacific Palisades — for Assessor John Noguez, authorities said.

District Attorney Steve Cooley said he doesn't believe Schenter's actions were isolated, and the investigation is ongoing. Cooley's investigators searched Noguez's home and office last month. Noguez has denied any wrongdoing.

The arrest of Schenter was part of an investigation launched last year by Cooley's public integrity unit into allegations that property values had been reduced for wealthy clients of Ramin Salari, a tax consultant and campaign contributor to Noguez.

"The magnitude of Schenter's suspected betrayal of public trust is almost inconceivable," Cooley said in a statement.

Salari's attorney, Mark Werksman, denied any wrongdoing by his client and suggested Schenter may have been a rogue employee.

"This demonstrates how dysfunctional and how problematic the assessor office was," Werksman said. "Mr. Salari was trying to advocate on behalf of his clients to get property assessment reductions. He did so lawfully, and all the reductions he got were justified by the appraisals and the comparables for the properties in question."

The reductions were discovered by Schenter's supervisor in January 2011, authorities said.

Schenter told the Los Angeles Times last month that he secretly reduced the assessed taxable value on high-priced homes in West Los Angeles by tens of millions of dollars, hoping the homeowners would contribute to Noguez's 2010 campaign.

Senate votes to ban bear, bobcat hunting with dogs

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. The state Senate voted Monday to ban the use of dogs to hunt bears and bobcats, a practice the bill's author compared with shooting animals in a zoo.

State Sen. Ted Lieu, D-Torrance, introduced the legislation after a California fish and game commissioner posed for photos with a mountain lion he killed during a legal hound hunt in Idaho.

Before the vote, Lieu described the practice in which packs of dogs chase the animals until they are exhausted and climb trees, holding them until the hunter arrives.

"It's been likened to shooting a bear at a zoo," Lieu said. "It's simply not fair."

He also noted that dogs are sometimes injured or killed and called the practice inhumane and unsportsmanlike.

The Senate passed SB1221 with a 22-15 vote and sent the bill to the Assembly, despite objections by Republican lawmakers.

Sen. Ted Gaines, R-Roseville, said hunting is in danger of following logging and gold mining to the list of endangered activities in the state.

"It is an attack on rural California," he said of the legislation.

Sen. Tom Berryhill, R-Modesto, said he saw no difference between using dogs to hunt bears and hunters' use of dogs to point out and flush pheasant. He also argued that California needs the $400,000 generated annually by hunting fees as it struggles with a massive budget deficit.

The use of hounds to tree bears is a practice dating back hundreds of years across the U.S. and Europe.

Sen. Doug La Malfa, R-Willows, said shooting treed bears is more humane because a clean shot results in fewer wounded bears that can then escape.

Lieu said two-thirds of states already ban the use of hounds to hunt bears.

Between 1,500 and 1,800 bears are killed by hunters each year in California, with less than half tracked with dogs, according to state wildlife officials. The state has a black bear population estimated at about 30,000, up from about 10,000 in the 1980s.

California has an estimated 70,000 bobcats. It issued about 4,500 tags to hunt bobcats last year. About 11 percent of the bobcats were killed with the use of dogs.

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Having fun like the kids, without kids, at Disneyland

SOLVEJ SCHOU
For The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. Disneyland is not just for sugar-soaked kids. Consider, all you grown-up women out there, going for a gals' day out.

That's exactly what my childhood friend Joanna and I, both of us in our 30s, recently did instead of heading to the beach or shopping. Did we channel our inner princesses? Nope. Did we regress to a state of childlike delight and strategically map out rides to conquer? Oh yes. That included diva posing in front of the Sleeping Beauty Castle and trying on, not buying, Minnie Mouse ears.

As girls growing up in Los Angeles, Joanna Sondheim and I regularly spent birthdays and field trips with friends at Disneyland, in nearby Anaheim. Gap-toothed, dimpled and short, I loved the rides, treats and general theme park mayhem. As years went by, though, Disneyland's appeal for me faded, along with my patience for long lines and pricey mementos.

When Joanna, visiting from New York, at first suggested — insisted, really — that we visit Disneyland, I balked. What? No! I eventually relented, and those five hours we spent at the park turned out to be just as fun as my childhood memories, albeit with a self-aware edge.

A day at Disneyland as grown women means being prepared, but also not spending too much money, besides the entrance fee.

We packed our own sandwiches and granola bars, resisting the temptation to devour loads of amusement park food, except for a container of mango slices, bottles of water and the obligatory sugary churro, which we split in half. That Disneyland sugar fix, for me, at least, defies age.

Necessary prep included wearing a wide-rimmed sunhat and sunglasses, carrying a cross-body bag complete with hand sanitizer and tissues, plus literally drenching my body in sunscreen. The days of frolicking freely for hours on Main Street, U.S.A., just beyond the park's entrance gates, as a little girl, under the blazing hot sun, were long over.

Instead, Joanna and I stuck to shady spots and marveled at the street's quaint store signs and clusters of barber shop quartets singing in unison. There's something comforting, as Joanna said, about Main Street's turn-of-the-20th-century inspired shops, from ice cream parlors to the Victorian-themed Plaza Inn, that pre-date our tech-heavy, cell phone and social media savvy era. The park itself, created by director, animator and entrepreneur Walt Disney, opened in 1955, and Main Street was modeled after his childhood hometown, Marceline, Mo. It all still resembles a real-life animated movie. Unfortunately, we couldn't track down staffers dressed in Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, Donald Duck or Goofy costumes to take photos with us.

Despite Joanna and I being there on a non-holiday Wednesday, families, tweens in coordinated Disney-centric outfits and sparkly-eyed kids packed the park in droves.

We first hit favorites Haunted Mansion and Pirates of the Caribbean in New Orleans Square, west of Adventureland. It turns out lines for those rides are much shorter in the morning. We lucked out, zipping through to experience Haunted Mansion's creepy shimmering ghosts and Pirates of the Caribbean's smoke-filled pirate fights, now with a Johnny Depp-as-Jack Sparrow robot lookalike, from the movie franchise of the same name, har-dee-har-har-ing throughout. The rides, though they felt shorter than during childhood, were just as thrilling.

Even the onset of adulthood can't mute the excitement of screaming one's lungs out on a roller coaster. We rode the rickety wooden Big Thunder Mountain Railroad in Frontierland, and Tomorrowland's dark, sleek Space Mountain, with its zippy turns, while making faces and yelling like teenage horror movie fans. It helped to use the park's complimentary FASTPASS service, which allows guests to get a free timed ticket for certain rides and avoid the lines when you return at the designated hour. Joanna downloaded to her iPhone the mobile app MouseWait to keep track of real-time wait times. The high-speed rollercoaster Matterhorn Bobsleds was closed for renovation — set to reopen June 14.

By the time of our last stop in the afternoon at pink, princess-y Fantasyland, we started to feel the pull of theme park exhaustion. Lines stretched into longer waits. The sun felt stronger, and children's cries seemed to increase. Surprisingly, neither of us became dehydrated or cranky.

I still felt a sweet pang of nostalgia going on Mr. Toad's Wild Ride and Peter Pan's Flight, both quick rides generally geared to those 10 and under. The glittering lights and London tableau spread out below our pirate galleon during Peter Pan's Flight reminded me of Disneyland's creativity, still artfully maintained.

When Joanna and I left the park at 4 p.m., just the right time to avoid a nighttime exodus of folks, we were a bit tired, but happy and grateful, no matter our age, to be young at heart.





Ray Solano *news@smdp.com*

MARCHING: **Workers claim that the owners of a local car wash mistreat their employees.**

SUIT
FROM PAGE 1

Clergy & Laity United for Economic Justice, and others — but encouraged more support.

"I would call on the Santa Monica City Council to step up and defend and protect these workers within Santa Monica," Durazo said. "We are here to send the message that [carwash owners] cannot continue to act this way."

MALDEF staff attorney Nicholas Espiritu explained that the employees have taken action not only for themselves but for all workers at all three carwashes owned by the Damavandis.

"The plaintiffs have come here today to ask that the California courts provide them restitution for all their back wages and also injunctive relief — to ensure that their employers do not continue to exploit workers in this fashion," Espiritu said.

Oscar de la Torre, founder and director of the Pico Youth & Family Center and board member of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, elucidated that the achievement gap in schools is related to the income cap in the workplace.

"We cannot support industries that perpetuate poverty and poverty wages," de la Torre said. "That's exactly what we're trying to rectify here today."

It is imperative that carwash owners recognize the rights of the workers, said Cruz, who claims he was sometimes forced to work 60 hours a week but was only paid for 40.

"My lunch break time was not respected, and sometimes I would only get $250 a week," Cruz said. "Every worker has rights, and we deserve to have dignity."

news@smdp.com

EXPO
FROM PAGE 1

junction to make it safe.

"We believe we've solved the safety issues," said Vijay Khawani, the MTA's executive officer of corporate safety. "If we see trends that are negative, we will notify the Public Utilities Commission and identify a plan to address those problems."

Michelle Cooke, who heads the California Public Utilities Commission's rail safety division, said the PUC is satisfied with those modifications for now but that the junction needs to be reinspected regularly and that those inspections must continue indefinitely.

She said the special inspection program is required because "non-standard" repairs were made to correct the design flaw.

The PUC required such inspections in exchange for allowing the Expo Line to open last month.

The Times said the junction's tight turn involves a design that had never been approved for MTA passenger travel before and that agency officials had urged the independent contractor who built it to replace it after they saw it was causing excessive wear to the rails, as well as to the wheels of Blue Line cars rolling over those rails.

But rebuilding the junction would have cost at least $1 million and disrupted Blue Line operations, so modifications were made.

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CONSENT
FROM PAGE 1

CITY HALL The City Council will have the opportunity Tuesday to allocate $6.9 million to fulfill a promise to the Pico Neighborhood 20 years in the making — the building of the Pico Branch Library.

The library, originally approved in May 2009, will be based in Virginia Avenue Park. It was one of the priority projects for Santa Monica's Redevelopment Agency before that entity was killed by the state.

In response, City Hall found funds in the Capital Improvement Program budget to build the library.

Officials recommend awarding a building contract to R.C. Construction Services, Inc., a California-based company, in the amount not to exceed $6,915,020.

That firm beat out 12 others for the project, and offered a middle-of-the-pack cost estimate for how much it would take to build the library.

Staff selected the company because it had recently completed three other library projects and had experience in eco-friendly building and high-tech modeling.

The contract amount includes the $6,190,382 base bid, a 10 percent contingency and another $105,600 for a rainwater harvesting system.

The contract makes up the bulk of the $8,910,331 consent agenda, which includes a water main replacement and a new reporting tool for the Big Blue Bus.

WATER MAIN

City Hall plans to invest over $1 million to improve Santa Monica's sewage system by replacing approximately 3,500 feet of decayed piping with new, larger pipes.

The proposed project would be the first of two that targets the biggest problem areas in what is kindly called the "wastewater collection system," a 150-mile network of pipes that run throughout the city.

SEE **CONSENT** PAGE 12



CHINATOWN
FROM PAGE 3

tion was selected, Restivo said, after Wal-Mart determined the area was lacking in stores that sell fresh food.

Whatever the store's impact on Chinatown, it won't mark the first time downtown's Chinese community has been reshaped or reinvented.

Old Chinatown, as it's now known, was actually New Chinatown when it welcomed the public on June 25, 1938, with a gala party attended by, among many others, Hollywood's first Chinese-American movie star, Anna Mae Wong.

Often overlooked in accounts of that opening day, however, was that New Chinatown was built from the ground up to replace OId Chinatown, which was razed to make room for another LA landmark, historic Union Station.

An entire neighborhood of thousands of people occupying buildings dotting more than a dozen streets was packed up and moved lock, stock and wok to the middle of what was then Little Italy and Frenchtown.

"They had no property rights, so it was easy to move them," Fenton Eng, administrator of the Chinese Historical Society of Southern California, says dryly, adding that laws allowing Chinese immigrants to become U.S. citizens and own property were still several years away.

As the Chinese moved in, the Italians and French moved out, although remnants of their time there remain, including St. Peter's Italian Catholic Church and the statute of Joan of Arc that stands just outside Pacific Alliance Medical Center, which until 1989 was known as French Hospital.

From behind the counter of K.G. Louie's, the large curio shop his grandfather opened during that 1938 celebration, Donald Liu sees still another change coming. The younger generation of Chinese families like his, the ones that built Chinatown, are moving on to Monterey Park and several other Asian-majority suburbs just east of Los Angeles.

"And I see more Hispanic folks moving in, especially at the school across the street," Liu, 62, who still lives in Chinatown, said between ringing up sales on items like small jade and wood carvings and other Chinatown memorabilia for the tourists.

Across the street and down an ally known as Chung King Road still other changes are afoot. Several art galleries, some with lofts and most all featuring contemporary work by non-Asian artists, have moved onto the alley during the past 10 years.

"It's slightly turning into an artist-gentrified type of community," says Eng.

Not that he, Liu or others who know the area's history are worried about its Chinese cultural heritage disappearing entirely.

"I think it will remain the Chinese cultural center of Los Angeles," said Liu. "Anytime there's a demonstration or celebration, it takes place here."

He and others do worry that Wal-Mart could drive out many of the small businesses, including scores of tiny shops run by recently arrived ethnic Chinese immigrants from countries like Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia. They hawk everything from T-shirts and CDs to cheap underwear and shoes.

"If Wal-Mart opens, a lot of small stores will close," said Ocean Li, who operates a tiny herbal shop not far from where the Wal-Mart would go. Jordan Ma, who runs a small gift shop around the corner from the Wal-Mart site, says the same thing.

"But whatever they do, they'll do," he said. "The people don't have a voice."

The Chinatown Chamber of Commerce has given its blessing to the project, noting Wal-Mart will bring scores of permanent jobs to the community and might also drive traffic to surrounding businesses.

"I personally don't buy the argument that it will bring new people to Chinatown or help to revive Chinatown," says See, whose family history in Old and New Chinatown dates to the 19th century and whose relatives still have stores in Chinatown, although not close to the Wal-Mart.

"I think when people go to a place like Wal-Mart or Costco it's a destination in and of itself, and by the time you walk out the door after you're done you're so exhausted you just need to go home and lie down on your couch," the author says.

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Rendering courtesy City of Santa Monica

SLEEK: **An artist's view of what the inside of the forthcoming Pico Library will look like.**

CONSENT
FROM PAGE 10

Staff recommends Mike Prlich & Sons, Inc. for the job. The company bid $949,975 for the work, over $200,000 less than its next highest competitor.

Mike Prlich & Sons, Inc. has done projects recently in other nearby cities.

The $1,044,973 contract includes a 10 percent contingency.

BIG BLUE BUS

The City Council is likely to approve the purchase of a computer tracking tool for the Big Blue Bus system that would make it easier for employees to gather and use information about the bus fleet.

The Big Blue Bus already uses systems developed by Trapeze Inc. to track maintenance, operations, employee information and accounting.

The ViewPoint system, also created by Trapeze, would connect the three other products so that all of the information could be accessed at the same time.

That would make it easier to make reports for BBB purposes as well as fulfill reporting requirements for the Metropolitan Transit Authority and state agencies, according to the staff report.

The new system will cost no more than $772,015 over the next seven years, but only $480,000 of that will come from the current budget.

REPAVING

The famous and infamous Marvin Braude Bikeway may get a new paint job if the City Council approves an item meant to improve safety for bicyclists and pedestrians.

Officials recommend spending $470,338 to repave a parking lot at 2030 Ocean Ave. that has fallen into disrepair and at the same time put new striping and signage on the bike path.

They hope to finish the work before the massive summer crowds descend on Santa Monica's beaches.

Beach-goers are forced to cross directly over the bicycle path when heading toward the beach from the parking lot, which the staff report notes has been the cause of "unsafe conditions and mounting community complaints."

New signage to guide beach visitors, bicyclists and pedestrians would make the whole situation safer, according to the report.

The work would be an extension of City Hall's annual paving project, which involved two contracts, one to Excel Paving for construction and another to Civil Source for construction management.

Both were awarded in September 2011.

Officials also recommend that the City Council defer repaving and maintenance of a stretch of Second Street between Colorado Avenue and Wilshire Boulevard where Parking Structure 6 is being demolished and rebuilt.

GOODBYE, GANGWAY

Staff recommends that the City Council reject two bids for the construction of an emergency gangway for the Santa Monica Pier.

The bids by Mallcraft, Inc. and John S. Meek Co., Inc. were between $300,000 and $700,000 higher than staff's $1.2 million estimate.

The proposed emergency gangway is a retractable aluminum gangway and a floating dock anchored to the sea floor as well as a hoist.

In the event of an emergency, people on the pier could go to the floating dock and be picked up by waiting boats. The dock would be able to hold between 200 and 300 people and allow for two boats to dock at once to assist in an evacuation, according to the report.

GRANT

In a bright spot of fiscal news, the state of California is offering $39,724 to pay for a new system to track information about hazardous waste generation and regulation.

The Santa Monica Fire Department deals with permitting, inspecting and collecting fees from approximately 300 businesses in the city that deal with chemicals, have above or below-ground storage tanks or generate hazardous waste.

A 2008 law required that the SMFD report that data electronically to the California Environmental Reporting System by 2013.

The grant money will help pay for the computer software, hardware and training needed for the new reporting requirements.

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Theme parks opening new attractions, coasters

MITCH STACY
Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. The first phases of a reimagined Fantasyland at Florida's Walt Disney World, the new Cars Land at California's Disneyland based on the "Cars" movies, and Universal Studios Hollywood's new Transformers ride top the list of new attractions at theme parks across the country in 2012.

And thrill ride enthusiasts won't be disappointed, with at least 20 new roller coasters debuting at parks from Maryland to California.

Disney says the renovation and new construction at Fantasyland inside the Magic Kingdom in Florida is the largest expansion project in the park's 40-year history, doubling the size of the current Fantasyland. Part of it — including one of what will eventually be dueling Dumbo rides and the rethemed Barnstormer family roller coaster — opened in April.

Much of the construction is still in the middle stages, but Disney says most of the new elements will be open in time for the winter holidays this year, with the rest opening later. It's going to include new "attract-areas" — immersive mini-parks that include attractions, restaurants and retail — built around the stories of "Snow White" and "Beauty and Beast," as well as a new dark ride based on the adventures of "The Little Mermaid."

Replacing Snow White's Scary Adventures in Fantasyland will be Princess Fairytale Hall, where visitors will be able to interact with all the Disney princesses.

"The opportunity to greatly expand and relaunch Fantasyland, which has been largely unchanged since 1972, is just a huge opportunity," Tom Staggs, chairman of Disney Parks and Resorts, told The Associated Press earlier this year. "Every time I go down and look at the progress in construction I get more excited about it."

Industry consultant Dennis Speigel said the Fantasyland expansion with detail-oriented areas immersing guests in Disney-themed worlds is expected to pay dividends for years, much like the hugely successful Harry Potter mini-park at Universal Orlando, where visitors feel like they've been dropped right into meticulously decorated movie sets.

"It's a big deal," Speigel, president of Cincinnati-based International Theme Park Services, said of the Fantasyland project. "It's the largest expansion ever in the history of the park. The last number we heard is that it's approaching $500 million....Parks have realized it takes more than a Space Mountain by itself or one ride and attraction. It has to have a combination of all the elements now."

In June, Disneyland California Adventure is opening Cars Land, replicating the town of Radiator Springs from the movies, including a race-course ride and two other new little-kid-friendly attractions.

Universal Studios Hollywood in Los Angeles is expected to debut the new Transformers ride — a dark ride with motion-simulator vehicles inspired by the science fiction action film — on Friday (May 25), with gates opening early Memorial Day weekend (starting at 7:30 a.m. Saturday) due to expected interest in the ride. On May 8, Universal Orlando introduced a daily interactive character parade and nighttime pyrotechnics show celebrating Universal's 100 years of making movies. A new 3-D ride based on the "Despicable Me" movie will open at Universal Orlando sometime this summer.

In April, SeaWorld Orlando opened a new attraction centered on sea turtles, including a first-of-its-kind 360-degree domed theater showing a 3-D movie about the endangered creatures. Legoland, which opened in October in central Florida, is renovating and reopening an existing water park at the site in time for the summer season.

Busch Gardens Tampa Bay this spring rolled out an elaborate ice show called "Iceploration," which features everything from bombastically costumed skaters to real live exotic birds flying around the indoor theater. The show tells the story of a kid who, with the help of his wise grandfather, puts down his electronic devices and discovers the natural wonders of the world. And entering the cool indoor theater for the 30-minute show will undoubtedly be a welcome respite for park visitors in the heat of the Florida summer.

The International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions trade group reports 135 new attractions opening this year, including water parks, rides and shows, spokeswoman Colleen Mangone said. Among those are 20 new roller coasters.

"It's almost like timing is everything," Mangone said. "And in 2012 we're seeing short-term and long-term projects coming to fruition at the same time, which certainly should create some great thrills at amusement parks."

Among the new coasters debuting are Manta at SeaWorld San Diego, which will simulate underwater flight; and Superman-themed launch coasters at Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in Vallejo, Calif., and Six Flags Magic Mountain in Valencia, Calif. Six Flags Great America in Gurnee, Ill., introduces a new coaster called X-Flight, in which two riders sit side-by-side with their feet dangling, experience a 12-story drop and turn upside down five times.

Hersheypark in Hershey, Pa., introduces a 200-foot-tall coaster called Skyrush, which will reach speeds of 75 mph and includes five zero-G airtime hills. Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., opened the 210-foot-tall Wild Eagle coaster in March. Busch Gardens Williamsburg in Virginia unveils a half-mile-long indoor-outdoor coaster called Verbolten.

Apocalypse at Six Flags America in Largo, Md., is a 100-foot-tall stand-up coaster, and the Stinger at Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom in Allentown, Pa., is a scorpion-themed boomerang-style coaster that features six inversions and face-to-face seating.

Based on attendance trends and season-pass sales, Speigel said the theme park industry is expected to see 7 percent growth or more this year, which is much better than expected. He attributes it to the number of new attractions, an improving economy, pent-up demand and other factors.

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Some air travelers forced to fly solo, even on family trips

SCOTT MAYEROWITZ
AP Airlines Writer

NEW YORK If you're flying this summer, be prepared to kiss your family goodbye at the gate. Even if they're on the same plane.

Airlines are reserving a growing number of window and aisle seats for passengers willing to pay extra. That's helping to boost revenue but also making it harder for friends and family members who don't pay this fee to sit next to each other. At the peak of the summer travel season, it might be nearly impossible.

Buying tickets two or more months in advance makes things a little easier. But passengers are increasingly finding that the only way to sit next to a spouse, child or friend is to shell out $25 or more, each way.

With base fares on the rise — the average roundtrip ticket this summer is forecast by Kayak.com to be $431, or 3 percent higher than last year — some families are reluctant to cough up more money.

"Who wants to fly like this?" says Khampha Bouaphanh, a photographer from Fort Worth, Texas. "It gets more ridiculous every year."

Bouaphanh balked at paying an extra $114 roundtrip in fees to reserve three adjacent seats for him, his wife and their four-year-old daughter on an upcoming trip to Disney World. "I'm hoping that when we can get to the counter, they can accommodate us for free," he says.

Airlines say their gate agents try to help family members without adjacent seats sit together, especially people flying with small children. Yet there is no guarantee things will work out.

Not everyone is complaining.

Frequent business travelers used to get stuck with middle seats even though their last-minute fares were two or three times higher than the average. Now, airlines are setting aside more window and aisle seats for their most frequent fliers at no extra cost.

"The customers that are more loyal, who fly more often, we want to make sure they have the best travel experience," says Eduardo Marcos, American Airline's manager of merchandising strategy.

For everybody else, choosing seats on airline websites has become more of a guessing game.

To travelers who haven't earned "elite" status in a frequent flier program, flights often appear full even though they are not. These casual travelers end up paying extra for an aisle or window seat believing they have no other option.

But as flights get closer many of the seats airlines had set aside for those willing to pay a premium do become available — at no extra cost.

"Airlines are holding these seats hostage," says George Hobica, founder of travel site AirfareWatchdog. "The seat selection process isn't as fair as it used to be."

Airlines are searching for more ways to raise revenue to offset rising fuel costs. In the last five years, they have added fees for checked baggage, watching TV, skipping security lines and boarding early.

Now they are turning to seats.

Since last summer, American, Delta Air Lines, Frontier Airlines and United Airlines have increased the percentage of coach seats requiring an extra fee. Some — like those on Delta, JetBlue Airways and United — come with more legroom. Others, including those on American and US Airways, are just as cramped but are window and aisle seats near the front.

Allegiant Air and Spirit Airlines go one step further, charging extra for any advanced seat assignment. On Spirit, passengers who aren't willing to pay the extra $5 to $15 per flight, are assigned a seat at check-in. The computer doesn't make any effort to keep families together.

"It gets really difficult, unfortunately, because all you end up with is a lot of one-sies and twosies," says Barry Biffle, Spirit's chief marketing officer. "If you want to sit together, we would highly encourage you to get seat assignments in advance."

Delta just launched a discounted "Basic Economy" fare on certain routes where it competes with Spirit that doesn't include advance seat assignments.

"Airlines have to be careful. They can only push this so far before they risk incurring the wrath of customers or the government," says Henry Harteveldt, co-founder of Atmosphere Research Group.

Summer brings passengers traveling in larger groups and fewer empty seats. Last July and August, a record 86.4 percent of seats were filled by paying customers. Planes will be "slightly fuller this year," says John P. Heimlich, chief economist at the industry's trade group, Airlines for America. Add in seats occupied by off-duty airline staff and passengers who redeemed frequent-flier miles, and on many flights there won't be a spare seat.

On a July flight from Dallas to San Francisco on American, a recent search showed only 28 of 144 coach seats available for passengers unwilling to pay extra. Of those, 21 were middle seats. There were five spots where a couple could sit together; groups of three or more were out of luck.

It was dramatically different for elite frequent fliers. They could pick from 75 seats including nine rows with four or more seats together.

Another flight — New York to Los Angeles on Delta — offered its most loyal fliers almost twice as many seats for free: 111 versus 60.

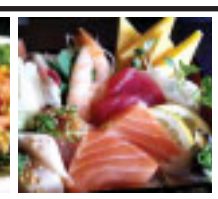
Booking through sites such as Expedia, Orbitz and Travelocity can add complications. If somebody inadvertently selects an elite seat or one requiring a fee, airline reservation systems won't hold a seat for him. Passengers should confirm selections with the airline.

For those unable to find two or more adjacent seats, new seat assignments can be snagged for free starting five days before departure as some elite fliers are upgraded to first class. Another block of seats is released 24 hours in advance when online check-in starts. Finally, gate agents can sometimes put families in seats set aside for disabled passengers or ask others to move.

If a young child is separated from his or her parent, "we just have to get it done" says Frontier spokeswoman Lindsey Carpenter. "Usually, people are pretty accommodating."

If all else fails, see if nearby passengers are willing to switch. There might actually be some chivalry left on planes. If not, offer to buy them a drink.

LUNCH SPECIALS

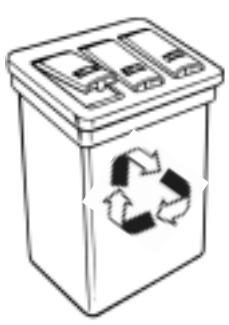

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NBA

It's a learning process for Clippers

BY BETH HARRIS
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES The Los Angeles Clippers were swept out of the playoffs, ending a season to remember and build on for the much-maligned franchise.

At 40-26, they had their first winning record since 2005-06, also the last time the team made the playoffs. With Chris Paul and Blake Griffin leading the way, the Clippers were exciting to watch as they led the Pacific Division for much of the season. Fans came out in droves, leading to a string of sellouts at Staples Center dating to February 2011, and making the team a popular draw away from home.

"It was the start of something very good here," second-year coach Vinny Del Negro said.

Against Memphis in the first round, the Clippers showed no quit and won their first Game 7 on the road to advance to the second round. San Antonio's experience and depth proved too much to overcome in a 4-0 series sweep, although the Clippers went down fighting when they might have previously folded with Paul, Griffin and Caron Butler limited by injuries.

"This is just going to make us hungrier," said Paul, who had 23 points and 11 assists but twice missed shots that would have tied the game in the closing seconds on Sunday night. "We got work to do. We're going to come back next season ready to go."

Paul's presence boosted the Clippers' credibility following his arrival a couple weeks before the lockout-shortened season began in December after the Lakers made an ill-fated run at acquiring the five-time All-Star. He helped them to the best regular-season winning percentage in franchise history, and just their second playoff series win since 1976 when they beat Memphis.

Not to mention his influence in changing the culture of the team and its perception in Los Angeles, where the Lakers have long ruled because of their tradition and championships.

"We're not in the second round of the playoffs without Chris Paul," Del Negro said. "I can't say enough about how much he's brought to the team, organization and the city."

Chauncey Billups arrived just before Paul, giving the Clippers two veteran guards with shot-making and play-making abilities.

Billups went down with a torn left Achilles' tendon in early February. But he stuck around on the bench, providing guidance and a steadying influence on the younger Clippers, many of whom had never before been in the playoffs. The front office brought in veteran Kenyon Martin on a one-year deal, and he was part of a stellar supporting cast that outscored Memphis and San Antonio's reserves in the playoffs.

"Losing Chauncey was a difficult blow that put a lot of pressure on Chris and Blake for sure," Del Negro said.

Paul and Griffin gave the Clippers their first two starters in the All-Star game since 1976. Griffin can sign a five-year contract extension worth up to $95 million this summer.

"I haven't given it one ounce of thought," he said. "I'll get to that when it comes."

Both Paul and Griffin were banged up throughout the playoffs, and Butler played with a broken hand. Paul played with a strained right hip, while Griffin had a sprained right knee, an injured left hip and got stitches for a cut lip on Sunday night. Griffin credited Paul with helping him improve in his second full season.

"From day one, it's been great," Griffin said. "Not only from the way he plays on the court. It's when he comes and talks to you about a certain situation, you learn through his eyes. I learned a lot from him this season."

Griffin plans to spend the offseason expanding his game beyond dunking, working on improving his shooting and free throws, which were a liability for the entire team.

"I need to improve in a lot of areas," he said.

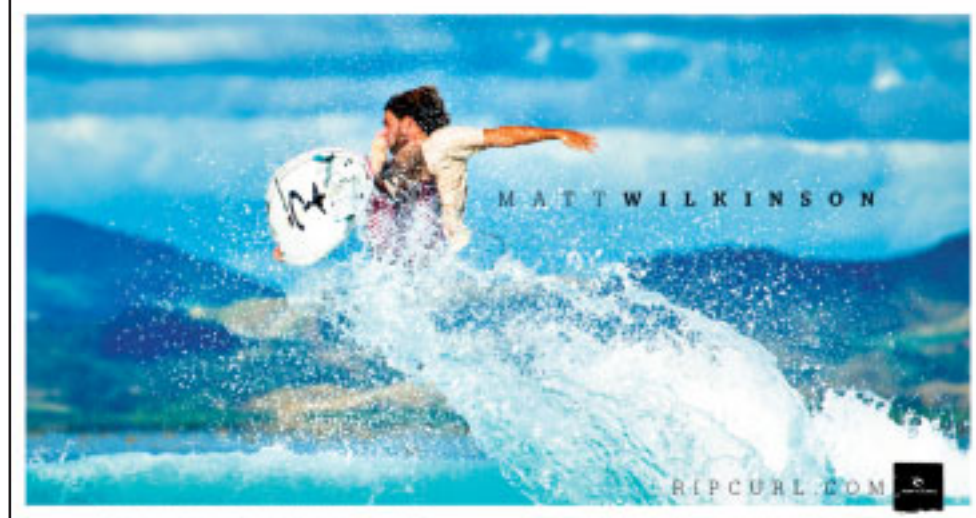
As a team, the Clippers figure to make offseason moves, adding the kind of shooters around Paul that he had when he played for New Orleans.

"That will help ease the strain," Del Negro said.

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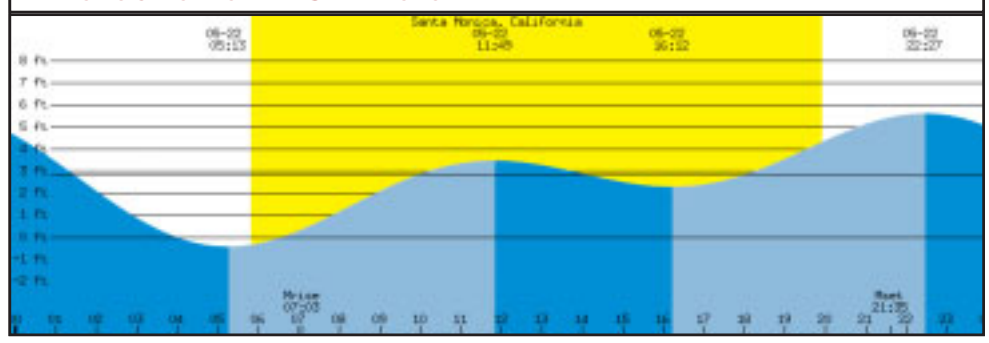
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TIDE FORECAST FOR TODAY IN SANTA MONICA



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **May 16, 2012**

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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 -- 5
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 38 / 21
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Los Alisos creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	F	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	F	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	A+
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A	A+
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 21672 Malibu Rd.	A	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	A+
Surfrider Beach (breach location) - daily.	F	F
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A	A+
Corbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	B	A+
Pena Creek at Los Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	F	F
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	ns	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17208 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	A+

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

MOVIE TIMES

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

Call theater for information.

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

Marvel's The Avengers (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
1:40pm, 5:00pm, 8:30pm

Dictator (R) 1hr 23min
2:05pm, 4:40pm, 7:10pm, 9:30pm

Dark Shadows (PG-13) 1hr 53min
1:30pm, 4:05pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Girl in Progress (PG-13) 1hr 30min
1:55pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 9:40pm

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

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

Battleship (PG-13) 2hrs 11min
12:30pm, 3:45pm, 7:00pm, 10:10pm

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

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

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

Dark Shadows (PG-13) 1hr 53min
11:20am, 2:00pm, 4:55pm, 7:50pm, 10:30pm

Five-Year Engagement (R) 2hrs 04min
12:50pm, 4:00pm, 7:10pm, 10:15pm

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

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, 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're available tonight, Sag

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You make a strong effort to keep or make peace. You still could get the cold shoulder. Remember that there are other fish in the sea. Postpone any interactions for a while. Tonight: Do some price comparison first.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You are likely to go overboard in anything you do. You cannot help yourself right now. You spread a lot of caring around, which allows many people to feel more comfortable with you. Tonight: Your treat.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You simply know what to do. Your very nature expresses your caring to others. Yet at the same time, you cannot force a child or loved one to open up. This person is going to be the way he or she is. A hunch could pay off. Tonight: Your wish is someone's command.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Continue your low profile, and you'll get results. Others will be forced to come forward and express their feelings. You know what you are doing and why. Still, others are confused. A domestic matter cannot continue as it has. It needs to be handled. Tonight: Do your thing.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Zero in on your priorities, especially if they involve others. Meetings work well today, and others are highly responsive. Tomorrow it might not be the same story. Touch base with a dear friend who always gives you key feedback. Tonight: Continue with friends and crowds.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ You might want to take a stand and handle an issue. By making a call or doing some research, you might find out how right-on you are about an instinct. Someone really does care about you, and lets you know it. Tonight: Don't get uptight about money. It won't help.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You could be more negative than you realize. Others try to help you break out of this mold. Soon you will walk back out into a world with more sunshine. Let your friends help. Tonight: Break past self-imposed restrictions.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Though you are comfortable with one-on-one relating, you might need to pull back some and get a different perspective. You most likely feel uncomfortable with a key person you deal with often. Tonight: Talk and chat over dinner.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Others keep coming to you, and you might be sure that your door is a revolving one today. Know that you might need to establish limits, as your friends and others continue to interrupt you. You can say nicely what you need to. Tonight: Now you're available.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Get your errands and other such matters done quickly. You find that you would appreciate a long lunch with a friend or going out midday to do something you have wanted to do. A parent, older friend or boss could be difficult. Be nice. Tonight: Take care of yourself first.

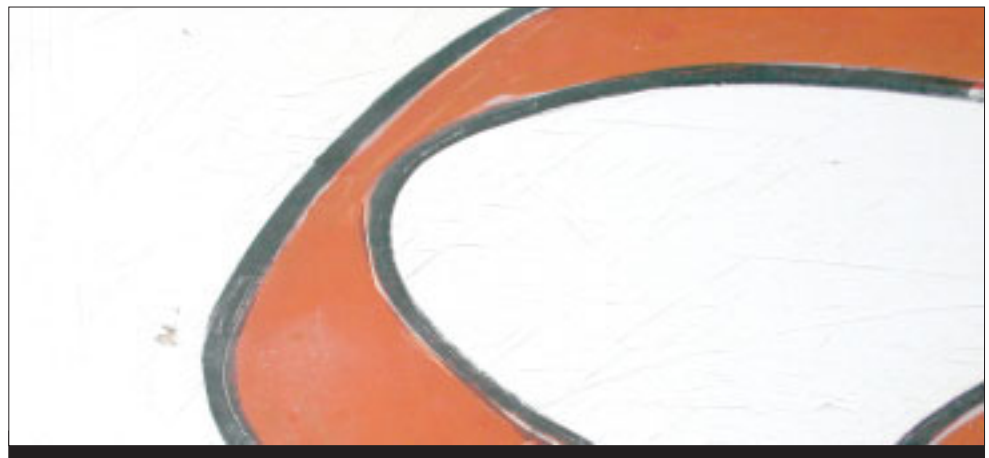
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ You aren't always as playful as today, which might be good. On the other hand, holding yourself back would be a mistake. Build fun plans into the day; get together with a favorite person. Tonight: As if there were no tomorrow.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Stay centered and know when to pull back and relax. Others are unusually demanding and encourage you to cocoon and not get caught up in the uproar that surrounds you. Stay on top of calls. Good news could be heading your way. Tonight: Stay close to home.

Happy birthday

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

You express a kinder, more feeling quality this year, but you are no one's fool. You will establish strong boundaries. Your relationships will benefit as a result. Communication allows greater flexibility and trust. Friends, family and loved ones love being with you. Your charisma soars. If you are single, you attract someone who could be quite significant to your life's history. If you are attached, with so much going on this year, you could be a touch self-centered. Be sensitive to your sweetie. He or she might have a strong reaction to the new you. You might be surprised at how different each GEMINI you meet is.



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



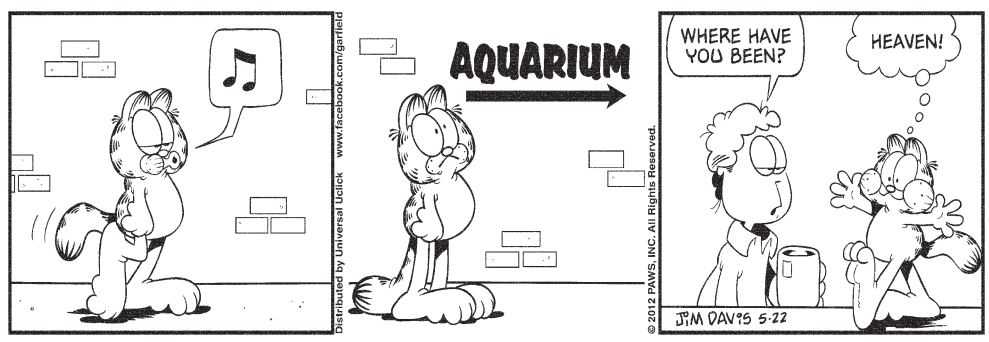
Strange Brew
By John Deering



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 ★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Wild
6 Nuisances
11 Make blank
12 Parcel out
13 No. 1 hit for The Doors
15 Director Spike
16 Lawn material
17 Church seat
18 Havana native
20 News summary
23 Lawns
27 Infamous czar
28 Quaker's pronoun
29 Army doc
31 Make amends
32 Linger
34 Maximum amount
37 Slump
38 Golf peg
41 No. 1 hit for Mariah Carey
44 When expected
45 Pigeon perch
46 Tiny sounds
47 Stopped

DOWN

1 Plummeted
2 Pennsylvania port
3 Fury
4 Cigar remnant
5 Abates
6 Busy time at the bank
7 North Pole worker
8 Marina spot
9 Ripped
10 Hearty dish
14 Unruly crowd
18 "Be quiet!"
19 Well-dressed
20 Crater part
21 Genesis name
22 Scoundrel
24 Letter after pi
25 Mafia head
26 Take to court
30 Redeems, as a check
31 Sock pattern
33 Flock father
34 On the roof of
35 Single
36 Time founder Henry
38 Rocker Rundgren
39 Border
40 Looked over
42 Recipe amount
43 Golfer Hogan

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

Yesterday's answer

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

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					■	47				

5-22

DAILY LOTTERY

Mega Millions
Draw Date: 5/18
3 11 22 34 49
Meganumber: 1
Jackpot: $16M

Super Lotto Plus
Draw Date: 5/19
4 13 15 26 46
Meganumber: 2
Jackpot: $20M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 5/21
5 14 15 22 35

Daily 3
Draw Date: 5/21
MIDDAY: 3 6 7
EVENING: 0 3 8

Santa Anita
Draw Date: 5/21
1st: 08 Gorgeous George
2nd: 11 Money Bags
3rd: 01 Gold Rush
RACE TIME: 1:40.98

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

■ **Questionable Strategy:** Robert Strank, 39, was arrested in Beavercreek, Ohio, in April and charged with trying to rob the Huntington Bank. According to police, he had approached the bank's counter but become ill and asked a teller to call 911 to summon medics. There were conflicting news reports about when medics arrived to treat Strank, but there was agreement that Strank recovered and subsequently presented the same teller his pre-written holdup note demanding cash. He was arrested in short order.

■ Britain's ITV1 television network announced plans in April to accept "prop placements" to blend into production of its new reality talent show in which actors compete for the lead role in the musical "Jesus Christ Superstar." The network said, for example, that it was seeking coffee machines, which piqued the interest of the De'Longhi brand manager, who offered its top-of-the-line Magnifica ESAM4200 and, according to its public relations firm, suggested perhaps interrupting the play's climactic song "The Crucifixion" while Jesus savors a cup brewed from the Magnifica. An April report in London's The Independent noted that the opera's composer, Lord Andrew Lloyd Webber, was on board with the idea, but that the original lyricist, Sir Tim Rice, called it "tasteless" and "tacky."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1915 – Three trains collide in the Quintinshill rail crash near Gretna Green, Scotland, killing 227 people and injuring 246; the accident is found to be the result of non-standard operating practices during a shift change at a busy junction.

1926 – Chiang Kai-shek replaces communists in Kuomintang China

WORD UP!

belabor
\ bih-LEY-ber \ , verb;
1.
To explain, worry about, or work more than is necessary.

ARITHMO™
CrossMath + × − ÷

– Arithmo Crossmath – Reclaim Your Brain

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

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

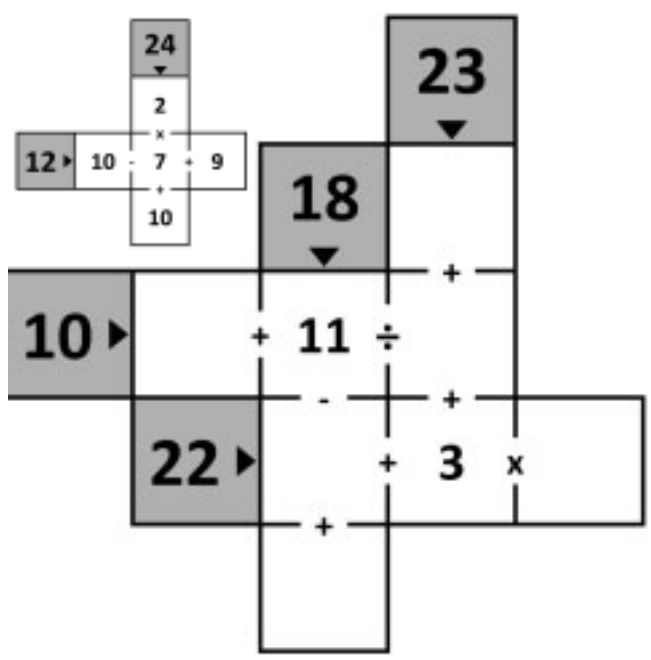
• Remember to multiply or divide before you add or subtract.

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

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

4, 6, 9, 9, 11, 11

Solution for Task 297



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Employment

Assisted Living community is looking for part time dishwasher for its kitchen. Fingerprint background check and pre employment drug test required. If interested come to 2107 Ocean Ave. to fill out an application. EOE

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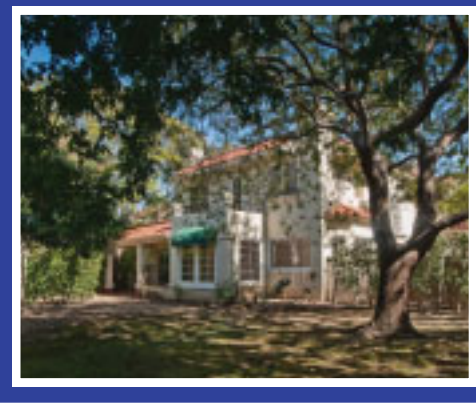
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In Escrow

17,250 +/- Square Foot Lot

$4,200,000

North of Montana
Vintage Treasure





Average Price of **ALL** Santa Monica Single Family Homes From **ALL** agents in **ALL** companies Listed for Sale As of Mid May 2012		
Santa Monica Canyon	=	$2,587,833
North of Montana	=	$4,175,826
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$2,353,571
South of Wilshire	=	$1,053,000
Sunset Park	=	$1,179,182
Ocean Park	=	$1,721,700
Statistics updated every Monday		

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