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TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2014
Volume 13 Issue 163

# Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

IT'S A MYSTERY
SEE PAGE 10

THE GRILLING OVERLOAD ISSUE

# $1.77M consent covers seismic upgrades, HVAC

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
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.

**CITY HALL** Tonight, City Council will consider spending $1,770,665, more than half of which would go to HVAC system upgrades at City Hall.

Earlier this year, City Hall announced plans to evaluate all the buildings in the city that have not undergone proper seismic retrofitting. Degenkolb Engineers will likely get a $91,524 contract to identify "older buildings and structures that are subject to collapse during a seismic event and the aftershocks that follow. "

The process should take less than six weeks. Required changes could be costly to building owners.

**WATER CLEANER**

There's nothing worse than manganese and iron in your water. That's why council will likely pay $133,000 to the Olin Corporation for sodium hypochlorite, which is used to remove

SEE CONSENT PAGE 5








## MAIN STREAM

Matthew Hall *matt@smdp.com*

**The first Mainopoly: A Taste of Main event drew crowds to the 19 participating restaurants on Sunday. The event, a fundraiser supporting Summer Soulstice and Heal The Bay, used themes from the popular board game to encourage participants to sample food from Main Street restaurants.**

**Participating businesses included: Enterprise Fish Co., Tsukiji Sushi Sen, Rick's Tavern, Areal, Finn McCool's, Panini Garden, Lula Cocina, Mexicana, 3 Twins Ice Cream, Sunny Blue, Basement Tavern at The Victorian (official after party), Manchego, The Galley, Peet's Coffee & Tea, Pressed Juicery, RAWvolution, Kafe K, Beyond 02, M Street Kitchen, Stella Barra and 220 Fitness.**


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# What's Up Westside

## OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

**Tuesday, May 27, 2014**

**Promoting justice in times of conflict**
Santa Monica College, Humanities & Social Science Lecture Hall 165
1900 Pico Blvd., 11:15 a.m.
Dr. Annie Bird will present a free lecture: "Promoting Justice in Times of Conflict." Seating is on a first-arrival basis. Dr. Bird, who will discuss her work on developing policies and strategies to promote and support transitional justice, is a policy advisor in the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO). An SMC alumna and former Dale Ride intern, SMC student trustee, and Associated Students (AS) director of student services, Dr. Bird has taught courses on foreign policy analysis at the London School of Economics and in international organizations at UC Berkeley. Dr. Bird's talk wraps up SMC's Global Connections Lecture Series for spring 2014. For more information, call (310) 434-4303.

**Write it right**
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 12 p.m.
Inspiration, guidance, direction and support for writers.

**Poster perfect**
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 PCH, 3:15 p.m.
Local students who submitted entries for this year's Sustainable Santa Monica Student Poster Contest will be honored. There will be an awards ceremony and even refreshments.

**Game day**
Ocean Park Library
2601 Main St., 3:30 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.
Play with Legos and various board games during this weekly meeting. For more information, visit smpl.org.

**Go green**
Santa Monica Bundy Campus
3171 Bundy Dr., Los Angeles, 4 p.m.
Join this Sustainable Works Workshop and learn how to save money and positively impact your family, community and ultimately the planet. For more information, visit smpl.org.

**Learn Excel**
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 6 p.m.
This introductory class will cover how to format cells and manipulate data to create simple spreadsheets. Seating is first come, first serve. Intermediate level. For more information, visit the reference desk or call (310) 434-2608.

**Strike a pose**
Montana Library
1704 Montana Ave., 7 p.m.
Come to the library and get the endorphins flowing. You'll be laughing, stretching gently, clapping, breathing, and relaxing. Join the fun. For more information, visit smpl.org.

**Fellowship artist talk**
Annenberg Beach House
415 Pacific Coast Highway, 6:30 p.m.
Local science fiction author Charles Yu — the city's first fellow in the literary category — will read from his work.
Choreographer Donna Sternberg and Cynthia Ling Lee will show excerpts and discuss recent performances, and visual artists Helen K. Garber and Doni Silver Simons will talk about their images, their interests and their process. Tickets are free but space is limited and reservations are required. If you would like to attend, reserve online. Plan to arrive by 6:15 p.m. to retain your reservation. Late seating, even for reservation-holders, is not guaranteed. To adjust or cancel your reservation for this event, e-mail beachhouse@smgov.net. For hours, events and more, visit annenberg-beachhouse.com, or call (310) 458-4904.

**Wednesday, May 28, 2014**

**Lowering your risk for dementia**
Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium, Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m.
Research suggests that a variety of hereditary, medical and lifestyle factors may impact an individual's risk for getting dementia. This presentation overviews the current understanding of risk factors for dementia and steps you can take to try to lower your risk for future cognitive problems. Joshua Grill, Ph.D., is an adjunct assistant professor in the department of neurology at the Mary S. Easton Center for Alzheimer's disease research at UCLA. This program is presented in association with the Alzheimer's Association. This program is free and all ages are welcome. Space is limited and on a first-arrival basis. For special disabled services, call library administration (310) 458-8606 one week prior to the event.

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

# CRIME WATCH
BY MATTHEW HALL

## Busted with brew

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

### TUESDAY, MAY 20
Officers responded to a transient loitering in front of a women's restroom, blocking the entrance at 1803 Lincoln Blvd. at 7:50 p.m. When officers arrived they found the homeless man slumped over and asleep. He smelled of alcohol and had blood-shot eyes and very poor coordination. The man had an open and empty can of beer near his person. He was identified as Allan Dale Hanson, 43, and arrested for public intoxication. His bail was set at $250.

### MONDAY, MAY 19
Officers responded to the 1200 block of Wilshire Boulevard on a domestic violence call at 7:42 p.m. Upon arrival they met with the victim, who shares that she and her boyfriend have been together for four years. He became upset with her because he wanted to spend the day with her and she had other things to do. An argument ensued and she left. She came back to the area because that's where they sleep. Her boyfriend saw her on the corner and walked up behind her and hit her several times in the face. He told her to leave the area or he would kill her. She left to call the police and he fled the area. He was later found by officers at 12th Street and California Avenue and arrested. The suspect was identified as Cory Joseph Nakano, 44. Bail was set at $50,000.

### SUNDAY, MAY 18
A radio call came into police dispatch at 4:58 p.m. about a half-naked man in the streets, yelling. Officers responded to the area of Main Street and Ocean Park Boulevard where they observed a man in his underwear, with his shirt inside out, running into traffic yelling and causing a hazard. Officers made contact with him and saw that he was exceptionally intoxicated. Omar Barahora, 19, from Moreno Valley, was arrested for public intoxication. Bail was set at $250.

### SATURDAY, MAY 17
Officers responded to a radio call of a shoplifting suspect in custody at the Rite Aid store located at 2412 Pico Blvd. at 12:45 p.m. When the officer arrived the security agent told her that the suspect had been seen in the toothpaste isle concealing various packages of toothpaste in the jacket he was wearing. The suspect exited the store without paying for the toothpaste. The suspect was stopped outside of the store by the security agent and escorted back inside the store where the security agent made a private person's arrest of the suspect for petty theft. Upon searching the suspect, they found 12 packages of toothpaste on him totaling $92.68. Stanley Norris Green was arrested for petty theft. Bail was set at $1,000.

matt@smdp.com




# Council preview: Hazards, trains and automobile parking

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

**CITY HALL** Talk surrounding the incoming Expo Light Rail is sounding more active. Tonight City Council will discuss plans for controlling traffic around rail line.

Once complete, likely in early 2016, Expo will make three stops in Santa Monica, connecting the city by the sea to Downtown Los Angeles.

"In order to ensure that future train operations can meet the needs of both the City of Santa Monica and Metro, both in terms of train and street traffic operations, specific design and construction activities are required," city officials said in a report.

Expo wants, for instance, to permanently remove the left turn lane on northbound Fifth Street at Colorado Avenue.

Expo and City Hall also wants to make sure that trains run in five-minutes intervals in each direction. Trains will have to be coordinated with city-owned traffic signals.

Further, in order to achieve those five-minute intervals, traffic signals might need to be programmed to hold up traffic so that the train can make it through an intersection without stopping.

"(Expo) would design, construct and install the necessary infrastructure," city officials said.

City Hall will tie traffic signals on Colorado at Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh streets and Lincoln Boulevard to the train's system.



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*
**BUILD IT: Work on the Expo Line continues.**

#### RESIDENTS WANT PARKING RESTRICTIONS

Residents of Bay Street have petitioned City Hall to restrict parking for out-of-towners in their neighborhood. As a result, city officials are suggesting that portions of Bay, Grant, Pacific, and Pearl streets between Lincoln Boulevard and 10th Street become preferential parking zones. Two hour parking will be allowed between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. and will be prohibited overnight for anyone without a permit.

Residents say that workers from businesses on Pico and Lincoln boulevards are parking on their streets. Likewise, they said, students from Santa Monica High School and Santa Monica College are hogging residential street parking.

"The current regulations on Bay, Grant and Pacific streets are unusual in that they are only on one side of each street," city officials said. "The regulations on the north side of the street were approved in 2002 when regulations were established on both sides of Lincoln Boulevard and both sides of Pico Boulevard. The north side-only regulations appear to be a compromise as there was a reluctance to establish stringent regulations on other residential streets in the vicinity in the Coastal Zone, specifically on the west side of Lincoln Boulevard. The one-side of the street regulations are now in place on all three blocks."

#### HAZARD PLAN

Council will consider an updated hazard mitigation plan required by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The last one was approved in 2004. The new one will take into account organizational changes at City Hall and will include new mitigation actions intended to limit the loss of life in an emergency.

DAVE@smdp.com

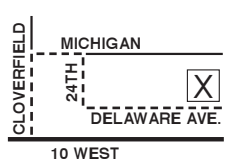


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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

### What's up with the City Council?

**Editor:**

Council member Bob Holbrook is mistaken in his assumption that the City Council representatives of Santa Monica are virtually volunteers.

The fact is, every member on the City Council is paid a salary of roughly $13,000 a year for a part-time job. For many people, that represents a full-time salary for a full-time job while they struggle to get by in today's economy.

Where does this money come from to pay them? It comes from the coffers of the tax payers in Santa Monica. Ergo, this makes the City Council members represented as employees to the citizens of Santa Monica as their employers. Anytime an employee fails to honor their employer's commands, they need to be relieved of their duties and dismissed from their position.

While the Santa Monica City Council is elected by the people, they need to be for the people who live here. With past and recent events displayed by the City Council this has not been the case.

They are an embarrassment to the people they represent in Santa Monica. The political machine that runs this city is broken; that much is certain and the citizens are tired of it.

Many times, the City Council has turned a deaf ear to the voices of the people of Santa Monica perverting their wishes for their own agendas. They need to be held accountable for their actions.

Finally, the City Council did the right thing when it was confronted with the overwhelming signatures against the Bergamot project.

The City Council is a bizarre, amalgamation from Joseph Heller's "Catch 22" of Colonel Cathcart, Lieutenant Colonel Korn and Lieutenant Milo Minderbinder, paraphrasing their dialogue; "What's good for the syndicate, is good for you;" "they've got to learn to like it" and "all you have to do is be our pal. Say nice things about us. Tell the folks at home what a good job we're doing. Like us."

Kafkaesque, to say-the-least.

**Whitney Scott Bain**
Santa Monica






## Your column here

**Bill Fordes** Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# Give us a great park

**THE ESSENCE OF ANY GREAT CITY IS A** great park. Take a stroll through Central Park in NYC and immerse yourself in the community of natives, tourists, visitors. Go to Munich and walk in the English gardens to know what a great park is — all 900-plus acres of it — and what a great city can be when it offers a great park to its people. Tokyo has such an abundance of parks combined with temples that their square mileage dwarf entire small cities. Golden Gate Park in San Francisco is of relativity recent vintage, but a great addition to a great, world-class city. Stanley Park in Vancouver conveys not just a sense of lush abundance that is so much the essence of the great Northwest, but also delivers a feel for the heritage of the first peoples. Like great literature, a great park reflects the sensibilities of its time and all time.

And then we come to Santa Monica, and the spurious lies being foisted upon its residents by an association of outside interests led by an association of airline interests and their compatriots, who would make us think that because there are a few, paltry oases of green strewn about the ever-burgeoning concrete facade of the city, and that the beach spans several miles, we do not need a great park. In a petition drive that ostensibly seeks to "save the airport," they address the issue of park space, and do so disingenuously.

They suggest that we have enough park space in Santa Monica. One must ask, for what, or, more specifically, "can there ever be enough park space?" And the honest answer, of course, is no. But the answer the airline interests would give you is," yes, enough—there's already plenty!" But what they really mean is, "Yes, enough, because we, the airline interests, want to keep the polluting, dangerous, noisy, foul airport as is, forever and ever, despite the wants and needs of the vast majority of the residents and visitors of Santa Monica."

What they really mean is, "Yes, enough, because who needs a park replacing our beloved airport?" Beloved of pilots and their clients, perhaps, but not many others.

They cry "enough," despite the obvious need for a great park that will keep Santa Monica from becoming a further-fouled and gridlocked mess in the future. "Enough," because the needs of the wealthy few must trump those of the less-wealthy many. "Enough," because the airport that could be the great park that Santa Monica so desperately needs, must be kept operating in perpetuity so that rich folk can fly in and out on their Lears and Gulfstreams, ferried to and from the airport in their noisy, disgusting helicopters, and to hell with the children and elderly and infirm who have to breathe the air ruined by the exhaust of those jets, and those whose sleep and peace will be disturbed by the hovering whirlybirds.

And how have those airline interests gone about making their argument in favor of fewer parks and more pollution? By a petition drive constructed of a consortium of deception and lies, culminating in outright theft of Twitter feeds. Their association has created a host of signature gatherers who seek to implement a referendum — they are paid workers, not volunteers — to "save the airport."

But they are not content to argue honestly and forthrightly for maintaining the status quo — they know the vast majority of Santa Monicans want the airport closed. Instead, they indulge in deception, as when some have said they are seeking signatures for a petition sponsored by the city of Santa Monica itself. They have lied, when telling potential signers that they are not paid for gathering signatures (a criminal misdemeanor, if I read the statute correctly). They try to convince the potential signers that they are seeking to keep the airport space safe from developers, and cry out that SM already has plenty of park space. But their real goal is to keep the airport safe from closing, which is a goal the City Council and the majority of Santa Monicans desire.

Their falsehoods, in themselves, are despicable. But when coupled with the horrendous effect the airport is and will continue to have on the many residents of Santa Monica who continue to suffer the effects of noise and air pollution, not to mention the potential for death and destruction, these lies and deceptions are particularly egregious.

The city itself has taken steps to curtail their activities, and a network of citizen-residents has fanned out to spread the truth about this petition drive backed by big money and aviation interests. Hopefully, it will be enough.

So, when you see a person waiving a clipboard at you about the airport, ask yourself, and him or her, "Are you a volunteer, or are you being paid?" And if paid, by whom? And what exactly do you mean, "Save the airport?" Do you mean, "Save it so that millionaires and billionaires continue to have their convenient ingress and egress, at the loss of health and quiet of many, many others?"

And then ask yourself what the citizen/residents who are adamantly opposed to the petition drive want, and why they are out there day after day, handing out leaflets that tell the truth, as citizen activists who are not and never have been paid — volunteers in the true sense of the word. The answer is, "They want a great park, less pollution, less noise, more safety, for a great city."

Don't sign any petition foisted upon you by airport interests, that is, unless you want the opposite of a great park, and a great city.

**BILL FORDES** is a resident of Santa Monica.




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**OPINIONS EXPRESSED** are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

## CONSENT
FROM PAGE 1

contaminants from groundwater at the water treatment plants.

### HAPPY PEOPLE? WE'LL SEE

RAND needs another $90,000 to expand the scope of the ongoing Local Wellbeing Index. City Hall has already pledged $650,000 to the project, which seeks to measure happiness in the happy city through research from experts in the fields of behavioral science, psychology, economics, sustainability, public policy, public health, and technology.

The widened scope would improve, among other things, user experience.

"This scope of work will result in the strategy, technical documentation, and implementation assistance needed to bring the index to life for the multiple end user groups who will interact with and contribute to the data, including City staff, external partners, and residents," city officials said.

### COLLEGE RIDERS

An agreement between Santa Monica College and the Big Blue Bus could bring in $4.2 million over the next three years. As of 2007, the college was the primary trip generator in the city. SMC and BBB worked out the "Any Line, Any Time" program, which allows students to ride for free with reimbursement from the college. The program is a success, city officials said. There were 2.6 million college riders last fiscal year, and even more projected this fiscal year.

### BBB TRASHCANS

BBB needs $45,700 to buy seven new trashcans at high traffic stops. Waxie Sanitary Supply will likely get the contract.

### LOSING HERTZ

City officials are starting from scratch with the city car sharing pilot program. Hertz, the rental car company originally selected for negotiations, has been icing City Hall. Repeated letters to the company have been ignored, city officials said. They're moving on.

### MEMORIAL PARK PLAN

The Memorial Park Neighborhood Plan seeks to dictate land uses in the area around the 17th Street Expo Light Rail station. AMEC will likely get $378,000 to perform the environmental impact report for the plan, as required by state law. AMEC is doing the same report for the Downtown Specific Plan.

### BIDDING COMPANY GETS THE BID

This is meta. PlanetBids, the company that City Hall uses to solicit for bids from vendors, will likely win the bid to maintain its system. This will cost $25,611.

### CITY HALL HVAC

The heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems in City Hall are getting old. Bon Air, Inc. will likely get the $871,200 contract to fix them up.

### DUMPSTERS

City Hall needs about $50,000 to buy large trash and recycling dumpsters from Ball, Bounce and Sports, Inc. City Hall will likely spend about a million bucks on these dumpsters over the next three years, but that is contingent upon future budget approval from council.

### TELEPHONY

Council will likely approve $85,630 to be added to a contract with Windstream, to provide Internet telephony services. The company has been providing voice-over IP to City Hall for several years and, according to city officials, they're doing a good job. The contract expires in June and city officials are recommending an extension.

**DAVE**@smdp.com

## The Q Line

### Future of Santa Monica Airport

There is a petition in circulation that seeks to put future decisions about Santa Monica Airport before the voters.

**So, this week's Q-Line question asks:**
Do you think the public should determine the controversial airport's fate or is this a misguided effort?

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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# Auto parts price-fixing probe rattles industry

ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** An investigation into price-fixing and bid-rigging in the auto parts industry has mushroomed into the Justice Department's largest criminal antitrust probe ever, and it's not over yet.

The investigation, made public four years ago with FBI raids in the Detroit area, has led to criminal charges against dozens of people and companies, stretched across continents and reverberated through an industry responsible for supplying critical car components.

The collusion has also saddled U.S. drivers with millions of dollars in extra costs.

"It's a very, very safe assumption that U.S. consumers paid more, and sometimes significantly more, for their automobiles as a result of this conspiracy," Brent Snyder, a deputy assistant attorney general in the antitrust division, said in an interview.

So far, 34 individuals have been charged and 27 companies have pleaded guilty or agreed to do so, the Justice Department says. Collectively, they have agreed to pay more than $2.3 billion in fines. New cases have arisen with regularity, with Attorney General Eric Holder promising last September that investigators "would check under every hood and kick every tire."

The most recent development came Thursday, when an executive from a Japanese company was charged with conspiring to fix the prices of heater control panels sold to Toyota and with persuading workers to destroy evidence.

Officials say the investigation stands out not just for its scope but also for the cooperation the authorities have received from Japan, Australia and other countries. Despite the challenges of prosecuting foreign nationals, the Justice Department has won guilty pleas from a series of Japanese executives who opted to get their punishment over with rather than remain under indictment in their home countries and subject to career-crippling travel restrictions.

Though the techniques and strategies sometimes differed, the executives generally carried out the collusion by trading coded emails, meeting at remote locations and destroying documents to avoid paper trails.

With an eye toward eliminating competition and maximizing profits, they exploited an industry that experts say is in some ways vulnerable to collusion: There are a finite number of purchasers and suppliers, there's steady pressure among companies to cut prices — and car parts, unlike certain products that have a great deal of variability, are generally standardized and homogeneous.

"The firms will just make more money if they're able to reach and stick to an agreement to collectively charge higher prices so that customers can't get them to bid against each other," said Spencer Weber Waller, director of the Institute for Antitrust Consumer Studies at the Loyola University Chicago law school. "The problem is, of course, it's a felony in the United States."

The Justice Department first publicly surfaced aspects of the investigation when FBI agents in Detroit raided the offices of Denso Corp, Yazaki North America and Tokai Rika. All three companies have pleaded guilty to their roles in price-fixing and bid-rigging schemes.

Since the raids, the probe has broadened to encompass about $5 billion worth of auto parts, including seat belts, ignition coils, steering wheels, air bags, windshield wipers and rubber parts that dampen vibration.

Similar cartels have formed in industries ranging from oil and gas to cement and vitamins, though there's debate among economists about how long they can last, given the constant incentive for one member to cheat the others and the tendency to collapse under their own weight as they keep growing, said Daniel Crane, a University of Michigan law professor.

But the collusion in these cases, which in some instances lasted more than a decade, was "deftly done," said Joe Wiesenfelder, executive editor of Cars.com, who has followed the auto parts investigation.

"If they get too greedy and they make their prices too high, then someone smells a rat," he said. "When they set their prices and fixed their prices, they had to do it in a way that wasn't obvious and that took into account the entire market, including suppliers that weren't involved."

Wiesenfelder said that while the collusion affected car consumers, it's hard to tell how much the investigation has been noticed by the average driver.

"It's kind of abstract to consumers," he said. "It's not that prices were fixed on cars. That would really hit home."

But there are indications the industry is chastened.

For instance, Bridgestone Corp., a tire and rubber company that pleaded guilty this year, announced that it would strengthen its compliance, discipline employees and that certain board members and executives would forfeit a portion of their compensation.

Meanwhile, the Justice Department says it's looking into additional misconduct in an investigation that bears all the hallmarks of classic antitrust law-breaking.

"This one," Snyder said, "has it all."




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# Denied again by people he hated, gunman improvised

MARTHA MENDOZA
JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Associated Press

**GOLETA, Calif.** Elliot Rodger pounded on the sorority house front door while, inside, the young women he yearned to slaughter were preparing for another Friday night.

The awkward 22-year-old was obsessed with exacting "retribution" for what he experienced as a lifetime of social and sexual isolation, and had planned meticulously to target as many people as possible, authorities say. But here again, he was denied access to those he felt should worship him.

So when no one answered after several minutes, Rodger improvised.

Walking around the corner, authorities say, he found a group of students and opened fire, then took off in his black BMW through the streets of a college beach town buzzing with end-of-school-year energy. Within 10 minutes, the rampage was over and Rodger was dead, apparently after shooting himself.

As authorities reconstructed the events, they would conclude that Rodger had stabbed three victims in his apartment, shot and killed three others at random, and injured 13 more either with gunshots or a car that he used as a battering ram against bicyclists and skateboarders.

The mayhem unfolded within just one square mile near the University of California, Santa Barbara campus, but included 12 crime scenes.

The killings began with the stabbings in the apartment that Rodger rented, inside a two-story courtyard building fronted by palm trees. Authorities said Sunday that Cheng Yuan Hong, 20; George Chen, 19; Weihan Wang, 20, were killed Friday. All were from the San Francisco Bay Area and were students at the university. Hong and Chen were listed on the apartment lease, but it's unclear if Wang was a roommate or just visiting.

Rodger then drove five blocks to the Alpha Phi sorority house, authorities say.

In rambling writings he titled "My Twisted World," Rodger detailed his plan to kill his roommates and then invade the sorority, which he concluded symbolized the world that tortured him — beautiful women who would have spurned him in favor of the "obnoxious slobs" whom he also despised.

"I will sneak into their house at around 9:00 p.m. on the Day of Retribution, just before all the partying starts, and slaughter every single one of them," Rodger wrote. He knew the stucco house, with its neatly trimmed lawn and hedges, well: "I've sat outside it in my car to stalk them many times."

The double front door is heavy wood, with glass etchings of the sorority's shield and an electronic keypad to get in. Several women heard Rodger's "aggressive knocking," Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown said. "Fortunately, no one opened."

Moments later came the first 911 call.

It was 9:27 p.m., and Rodger had left the door and within 20 paces encountered a group that included Veronika Weiss and Katherine Cooper. He shot and killed the two UCSB students, and wounded a third.

All three were from the Delta Delta Delta sorority. The outgoing Cooper was preparing to graduate with a degree in art history; Weiss was a first-year student who had played water polo in high school.

Two blocks and three minutes later, Rodger was at a local deli. There, he got out of his car, went inside and shot and killed Christopher Ross Michaels-Martinez. Friends described him as the kind of person who would welcome strangers into his home. He planned to study abroad and then go to law school.

At least four other customers were inside, and surveillance video shows them scrambling for cover while a bullet hits the glass of a refrigerator door.

Sheriff's deputies responded to the scene and saw Rodger's BMW leaving, but did not know the shooter was at the wheel.

Soon after, Rodger was driving on the left side of another road so that he could be close to the sidewalk as he fired at two pedestrians. And then, more shots — this time between Rodger and the first sheriff's deputy to engage with him.

Meanwhile, Ryan Ellis was wrapping up his Friday night service at Isla Vista Church, a makeshift house of worship inside a beach home on a street filled with students — and on Friday night, parties.

A few dozen young adults were getting ready for hamburgers when shots rang out. Fireworks, someone said.

"I knew right away it was gunshots," said Ellis, who said he had been a Navy combat engineer in Afghanistan.

He ran out to the street and saw a cyclist lying on the ground, but no car around. "He was pretty messed up, lying up against a vehicle," said Ellis.

The cyclist, who was not identified, was one of two whom Rodger intentionally smashed with his car.

By now, officers were yelling at people to go inside and friends were texting friends not to go out.

After shooting at more pedestrians, Rodger encountered four sheriff's deputies running through a park. Three returned fire, and a bullet hit Rodger in his left hip, authorities said.

Speeding on, Rodger accelerated and hit another cyclist, who was thrown onto the hood with a force that crumpled the windshield. Rodger's car then careened into several parked vehicles. It was there, in the car, that he apparently shot himself, leaving three semi-automatic handguns and 400 unspent rounds.

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**TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE MATTER OF THE PROCEEDINGS FOR THE WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS CALIFORNIA HERO PROGRAM:**

Western Riverside Council of Governments is seeking to amend the validation judgments obtained in Riverside County Superior Court, Case Nos. RIC1308636 and RIC 1308637, which pursuant to AB 860 authorized the financing of distributed generation renewable energy sources, or energy efficiency improvements, water efficiency improvements, and electric vehicle infrastructure permanently fixed to residential, commercial, industrial, or other eligible real property in California. The validation judgments specifically authorized the financing of the construction or installation of the improvements, the issuance of limited obligation improvement bonds, the initial establishment and the subsequent expansion of the program area within which contractual assessments may be offered to include cities and counties throughout California, and the placement and collection by WRCOG of assessments on the tax roll of those counties within which participating cities and counties are located.

WRCOG is now seeking to amend the validation judgments to expand the California HERO Program to include the cities of Arcadia, Bellflower, Carson, Costa Mesa, Delano, El Cajon, Escondido, Huntington Beach, Laguna Hills, Lompoc, Menlo Park, Modesto, Oakdale, Ridgecrest, San Diego, Santa Monica, Scott's Valley, Vacaville, Waterford, the Town of Mammoth Lakes and the unincorporated area within the counties of Merced, Mono and San Diego (residential only).

Any person who wishes to challenge the expansion of the California HERO Program to include each of the entities listed above must provide written notice to Danielle Sakai or Lucas Quass at Best Best & Krieger in Riverside, CA, 3390 University Ave. 5th Floor Riverside, CA 92501, phone number (951) 686-1450 by June 19, 2014, or appear at the hearing on July 1, 2014 at 8:30 a.m. in Department 4 of the Riverside County Superior Court located at 4050 Main Street, Riverside, California 92501.

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## Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **66.4°**

THURSDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high
Minimal new WNW swell. Best for standout spots which are up to waist high on the sets late.

FRIDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high
Minimal new WNW swell. Best for standout spots which are up to waist high on the sets late.

SATURDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high
Minimal new WNW swell. Best for standout spots which are up to waist high on the sets late.

SUNDAY – **POOR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high
Minimal WNW swell eases. Mostly shows for standout spots with 1-3' surf there

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 21, 2014**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)
- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 0
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 43 / xx
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 3 / xx

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: SMA Swain Barber Foundation

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

| LOCATION | DRY | WET |
|---|---|---|
| Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth. | A+ | xx |
| Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth. | A+ | xx |
| El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Los Alisos creeks. | | |
| Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach. | A+ | xx |
| Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth. | A+ | xx |
| Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth. | A+ | xx |
| Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private). | A+ | xx |
| Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth. | A+ | xx |
| Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach. | A+ | xx |
| Latigo Canyon Creek mouth. | A+ | xx |
| Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach. | A+ | xx |
| Puerco State Beach at creek mouth. | A+ | xx |
| Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 21572 Malibu Rd.. | A | xx |
| Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence. | A+ | xx |
| Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily. | A | xx |
| Malibu Pier - 50 yards east. | A | xx |
| Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon. | A+ | xx |
| Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero). | A+ | xx |
| Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs. | A+ | xx |
| Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach. | A+ | xx |
| Tuna Canyon. | A+ | xx |
| Topanga State Beach at creek mouth. | A | xx |
| Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach. | xx | xx |
| Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach. | A+ | xx |
| Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain). | A | xx |

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

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
- **xx** -- no sample taken

Heal the Bay is a nonprofit environmental organization making Southern California coastal waters and watersheds, including Santa Monica Bay, safe, healthy and clean. We use science, education, community action and advocacy to pursue our mission.

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.

# Board wants low-risk sex offenders taken off list

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** A state board overseeing California's sex offender registration laws wants to overhaul the registry because they claim it has grown too big and does not help law enforcement or the public differentiate between offenders who pose significant risks and those not likely to reoffend.

The California Sex Offender Management Board is recommending to the Legislature that only high-risk offenders, such as kidnappers and sexually violent predators, should be required to register for life, The San Francisco Chronicle (http://bit.ly/1nnNZCZ ) reported Sunday. Others could be removed from the registry 10 to 20 years after the offense.

A list of almost 100,000 sex offenders is unwieldy, the board said. California is one of four states that require lifetime registration for sex offenders, regardless of the nature of the offense.

The result, according to a board report last month, is that California's registry has many offenders "who do not necessarily pose a risk to the community," including nearly 900 whose last sex crime was more than 55 years ago.

Some law enforcement officials and lawmakers support the recommendations, but acknowledge that public opinion is not on their side.

"People are very concerned about this. I'm open and willing to be educated on the issue, but I'm not saying now I'm leaning toward it," said Assemblywoman Melissa Melendez, R-Lake Elsinore (Riverside County), who has talked to constituents about similar proposals in the past.

Assemblyman Tom Ammiano, a San Francisco Democrat who is chairman of the Assembly's public safety committee, has previously tried to change registry requirements, said, it's "a radioactive issue" to a lot of people.

California created the registry in 1947 as a tracking tool for law enforcement. Today, the registry is also used for Megan's Law, which allows local law enforcement to notify the public about sex offenders who pose a risk and offers the public a searchable website of most registered sex offenders in their neighborhoods.

About 95 percent of solved sex crimes are committed by persons not on the registry.

Many specific aspects of the board's proposal, including the level of review and oversight, are still being debated, said Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley, chairwoman of the state Sex Offender Management Board.

"What we are proposing won't jeopardize public safety or unleash sex offenders who are dangerous in the community," O'Malley said. "If done correctly and if done in a way that isn't so broad that no one is held accountable, then the public doesn't have to fear about their safety or their children's safety."

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**Harvey (NR) 1hr 44min**
7:30pm

AMC Loews Broadway 4
**1441 Third Street Promenade**
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**Amazing Spider-Man 2 (PG-13) 2hrs 22min**
12:45pm, 4:05pm, 7:20pm, 9:45pm

**Godzilla 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 03min**
4:10pm, 10:00pm

**Godzilla (PG-13) 2hrs 03min**
1:15pm, 7:00pm

**Other Woman (PG-13) 1hr 49min**
1:55pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

**Grand Budapest Hotel (R) 1hr 40min**
1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:10pm, 10:30pm

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

**X-Men: Days of Future Past (PG-13) 2hrs 10min**
11:00am, 1:30pm, 4:40pm, 8:00pm

**Godzilla 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 03min**
2:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:40pm

**Godzilla (PG-13) 2hrs 03min**
11:30am, 5:30pm

**X-Men: Days of Future Past in 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 10min**
12:15pm, 3:30pm, 7:00pm, 10:15pm, 11:00pm

**Million Dollar Arm (PG) 2hrs 04min**
11:05am, 2:10pm, 5:10pm, 7:45pm, 10:45pm

**Chef (R) 1hr 55min**
11:10am, 2:05pm, 4:55pm, 8:10pm, 10:55pm

**Neighbors (R) 1hr 36min**
11:00am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 8:30pm, 11:00pm

**Blended (PG-13) 1hr 57min**
11:15am, 2:00pm, 4:50pm, 7:45pm, 10:45pm

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

**Lunchbox (Dabba) (PG) 1hr 44min**
1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:10pm

**Half of a Yellow Sun (R) 1hr 51min**
10:40am, 1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:50pm

**Palo Alto (R) 1hr 38min**
11:20am, 9:45pm

**Locke (R) 1hr 25min**
1:00pm, 5:30pm, 10:10pm

**Fading Gigolo (R) 1hr 30min**
3:10pm, 7:50pm

**Finding Vivian Maier (NR) 1hr 23min**
11:00am

**Fed Up (PG) 1hr 30min**
10:45am, 1:00pm, 3:20pm, 5:40pm, 8:00pm, 10:15pm

For more information, e-mail **editor@smdp.com**

# BE NAUGHTY TONIGHT, CAPPY

### ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You might feel strongly about a financial matter, and you'll want to let everyone else know. No one will question your direction. You will be greeted with a sigh of relief once you explain your logic. A family member is likely to go overboard. Tonight: Order in.

### TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You'll be flying high and enjoying it. Look around to see if a grouchy friend or loved one is tagging along behind you. Your positive, optimistic smile allows others to relax and become more authentic. Tonight: Hang out with a dear pal, neighbor or relative.

### GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Your instincts will guide you with spending, price comparison and negotiation. Be sure to keep your budget in mind, even though you won't want to. If you have been feeling unusually tired and withdrawn, you might want to consider scheduling a checkup. Tonight: Pace yourself.

### CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Zero in on what you want and what you feel is most important for the majority. You could overthink an emotional issue or a problem with a child or loved one. Your positive attitude will help you to get past a bump or hassle. Tonight: Enjoy the moment.

### LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You will have an opportunity to take the lead on an important project that you care a lot about. Your sense of humor allows greater flexibility in what quickly could evolve into a difficult and touchy situation. Your instincts will carry you far. Tonight: In the limelight.

### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Keep reaching out to someone at a distance. You could feel intimidated if you don't get a hold of this person within a certain number of phone calls. You might want to try a different approach. Tonight: Find an expert.

### LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Relate to a partner or associate directly about an issue surrounding funds. This person needs to know how you feel; saying nothing or copping an attitude will not be as powerful. He or she needs to know where you are coming from. Tonight: Togetherness works.

### SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ You might want to have a long-overdue conversation with several colleagues. Unless you convene a meeting with the people involved, you will not see this talk happen. Tonight: Be entertained. Try a movie.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ You have a lot of ground to cover. You can succeed if you focus on each task at hand. A partner will pitch in and help if you delegate some of your responsibilities. Tonight: Head home, but make sure to squeeze in some exercise first.

### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You'll put in a major effort at a meeting to present others with the options as you see them. You will anticipate a certain amount of feedback, but what you end up hearing might be totally unexpected. Tonight: Go for naughty.

### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You might want to reconsider an offer involving property. You could feel overburdened by your options and not know which way to go. Lighten up the moment with your sense of humor. A childlike energy will emerge later today, when you finally feel free. Tonight: In the moment.

### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You might want to ask more questions about a matter that surrounds your personal life. Let your ingenuity lead the way to the right path for you, and hopefully for others as well. A friend is likely to wonder what is going on with you. Tonight: Express your caring.

**Tuesday, May 27, 2014**

This year you open up to a lot of new possibilities. You are unusually creative, dynamic and charismatic. As a result, doors open for you. Your sense of humor carries you far. If you are single, you'll meet a lot of special people. You'll want to choose the right person for you. Date until you find Mr. or Ms. Right. If you are attached, the two of you will want to spend more time together. Your popularity will soar, so you will need to make special time for your sweetie and/or involve him or her more in the different elements of your life. A fellow GEMINI encourages rebellion.

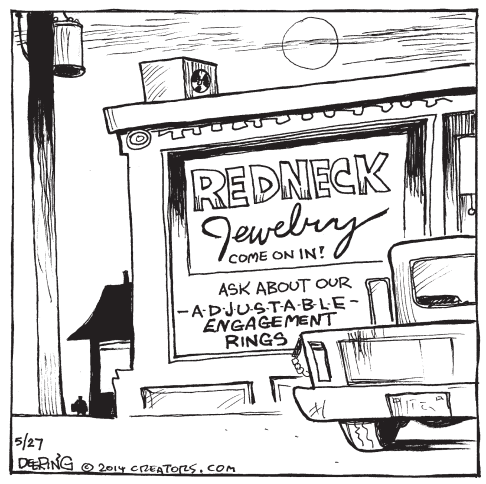
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★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

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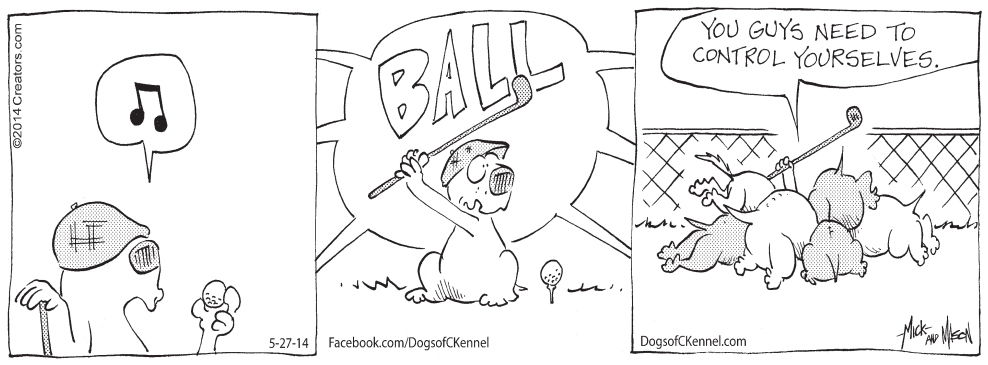
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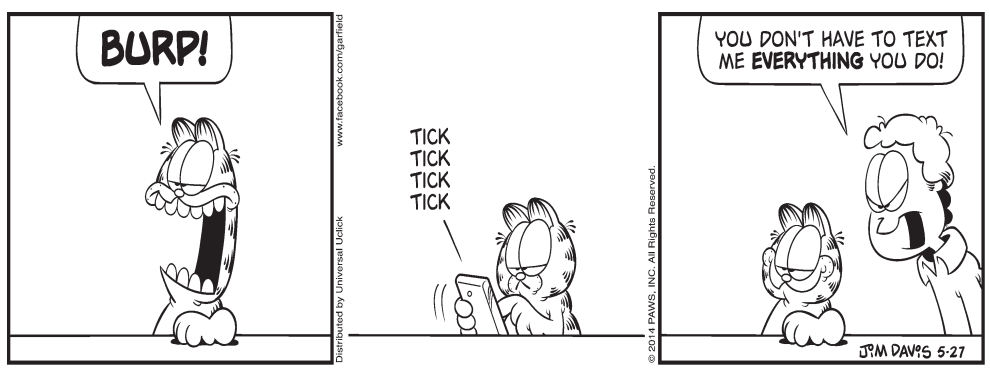

## Strange Brew
By John Deering




## 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 ★★

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

King Features Syndicate

## GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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## MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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

## *CROSSWORD*

**By THOMAS JOSEPH**

**ACROSS**

**1** Rooster features
**6** Storybook elephant
**11** Skater Ohno
**12** Wise saying
**13** Coastal grasslands
**15** Pitcher's stat
**16** Flow out
**17** "— was saying ..."
**18** Long steps
**20** Fuming
**21** Brewery sight
**22** Cooking mint
**23** School paper
**26** Mexican money
**27** Whirl
**28** Golf support
**29** Purr producer
**30** Cheese choice
**34** Horace's "— Poetica"
**35** Lobed organ
**36** Presidential nickname
**37** Cop's aerosol
**40** Online messages
**41** Come up
**42** Brawl
**43** Musical sounds

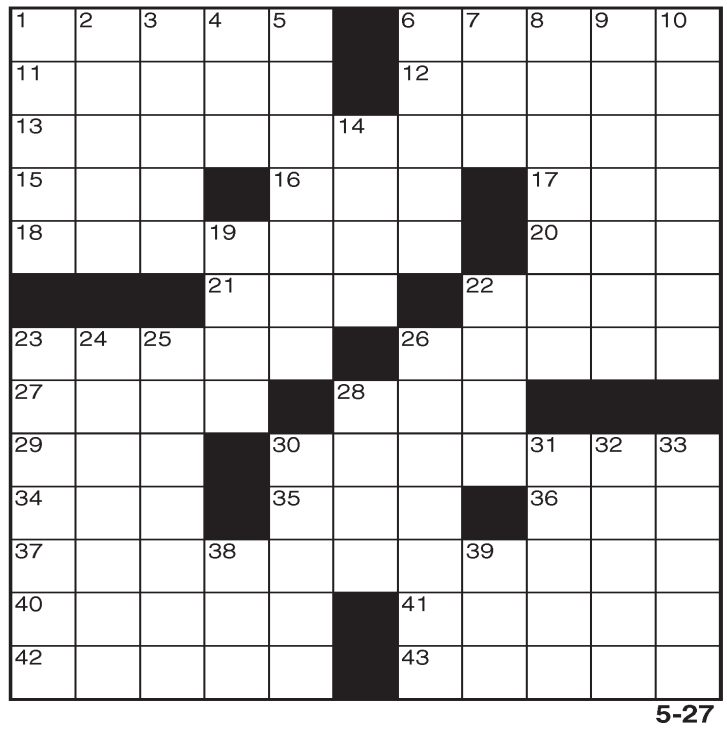
**DOWN**

**1** Jobs for a gumshoe
**2** Eye-popping pictures
**3** Back biter
**4** Diner sandwich
**5** Eventually
**6** Zingers
**7** TV spots
**8** Atlantic resort
**9** Long in the past
**10** Dwells
**14** Help in crime
**19** Infamous czar
**22** Canary snack
**23** Houdini feats
**24** "Don't bother explaining"
**25** Doesn't change a thing
**26** Eyes
**28** "— she blows!"
**30** Singer Green
**31** "Splish Splash" singer
**32** Humble
**33** Shortstop José
**38** Peach center
**39** Paid player

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

**Yesterday's answer**

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



5-27

## NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ As of late March, the Sainsbury's supermarket in Basford, England, still had an operational ATM on an outside wall even though its screen and controls were only 15 inches off the ground, forcing customers to bend over or kneel down to get cash. A Sainsbury's spokesman, shown a photo by a reporter of a user squatting "incredibly uncomfortabl(y)," said no one had complained, but that the store would look into moving the machine. The only explanation offered for the placement was that the store is located on a hill.

■ Wellma "Tootie" Shafer, 46, was fired as a cashier at the Last Chance Market in Russell, Iowa, after a customer reported her engaging in "sexual" banter at the register. Her boss, Rick Braaksma, explained, "We cannot ... talk about adult situations in front of other customers," and when Shafer sought unemployment compensation, Braaksma challenged her application. However, among the items Last Chance sells are Wake the F--- Up Coffee, The Hottest F---ing Sauce (noted, the label states, for its "ass-burning quality"), and The Hottest F---ing Nuts (all product names using the explicit "F word"), and a state administrative judge granted Shafer benefits, showing (according to an April Des Moines Register report) little sympathy for the store's contradictory policy.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

**1975** – Dibbles Bridge Coach Crash near Grassington, in North Yorkshire, England, kills 33 – the highest ever death toll in a road accident in the United Kingdom.

**1980** – The Gwangju Massacre: Airborne and army troops of South Korea retake the city of Gwangju from civil militias, killing at least 207 and possibly many more.

**1983** – Webb Farm disaster: a massive explosion at a secret unlicensed fireworks plant near Benton, Tennessee, kills eleven, injures one, and causes damage within a radius of several miles.[1]

**1986** – Dragon Quest, the game credited as setting the template for role-playing video games, is released in Japan.

**1995** – In Culpeper, Virginia, the actor Christopher Reeve is paralyzed from the neck down after falling from his horse in a riding competition.

**1996** – First Chechnya War: the Russian President Boris Yeltsin meets with Chechnyan rebels for the first time and negotiates a cease-fire.

**1997** – The U.S. Supreme Court rules that Paula Jones can pursue her sexual harassment lawsuit against President Bill Clinton while he is in office.

**1998** – Oklahoma City bombing: Michael Fortier is sentenced to 12 years in prison and fined $200,000 for failing to warn authorities about the terrorist plot.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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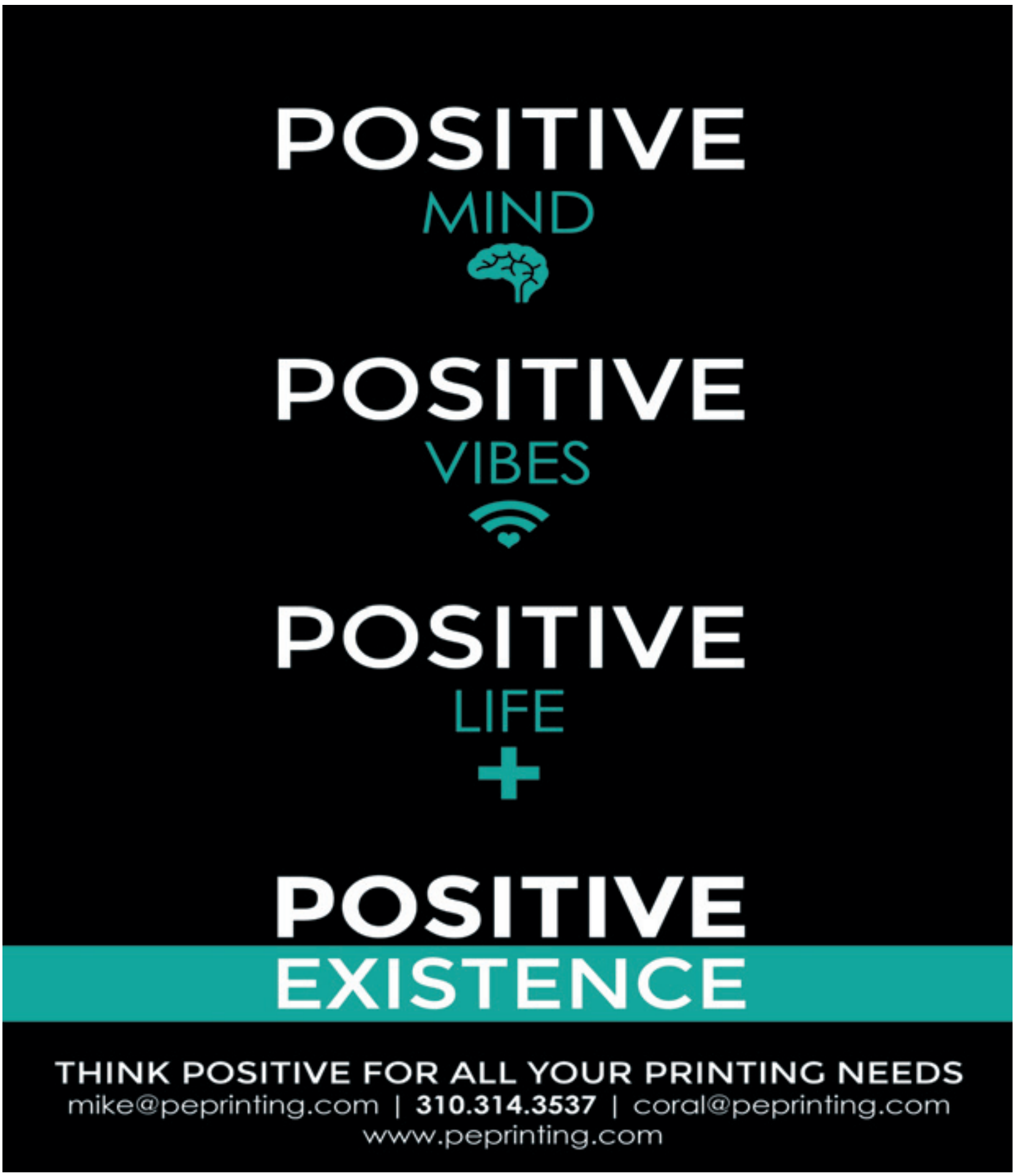
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