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JUNE 1-2, 2013
Volume 12 Issue 174




# Santa Monica Daily Press

*We have you covered*

LOTS TO DO THIS WEEKEND
SEE PAGE 2

THE OINK, OINK ISSUE

# Big Blue Bus needs big changes, director says



BIG BLUE BUS

**BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD**
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL In what many considered an unusually frank report, Ed King, director of the Big Blue Bus, laid bare what he saw as deficiencies in Santa Monica's award-winning transit system to the City Council Wednesday night, revealing weaknesses in on-time arrival, bus maintenance and employee absences.

Buses arrive as scheduled only two-thirds of the time, they break down 1,400 miles before they should and employees are absent from their posts 18 percent of the time, or twice as much as what King called the "industry standard" in his report.

"Those are issues we need to address. It's basic Transit 101 stuff," King said Thursday.

Today, a Big Blue Bus rider has a 67 percent chance that their chariot of choice will arrive when they expect it to, if they can puzzle out arrival times from the opaque bus schedules.

Industry standard is 85 percent, King said, although the bus system could be considered successful if it managed to raise its

SEE BUS PAGE 6

# Pig using wheelchair becomes an inspiration

**BY TAMARA LUSH**
Associated Press

SUMTERVILLE, Fla. In many circumstances, a piglet without the use of its hind legs would be put down. But Chris P. Bacon's unusual condition has made him an international star and an inspiration to those with disabilities.

When Chris was born in January, a woman brought him into Dr. Len Lucero's veterinary office in central Florida. The piglet's two back legs were deformed because of a congenital defect that left the joints fused together. Lucero said the woman thought the animal would need to be euthanized.

But Lucero watched as the baby potbellied pig crawled out of the carrier.

"His front legs were down on the ground, his back legs were up in the air, and he was balancing and walking forward," said Lucero. "He was full of life. So I thought, there was no way I could put this thing down, I'd rather give him a fighting chance, at least if not at my home, I would find someplace for him."

Lucero, who lives on a farm in central Florida, brought the little pig home to his wife, two kids and menagerie of animals. The animal's official name became "Chris P. Bacon," but informally, they called him "Piggy." Lucero's kids loved him and snapped photos. The family dog, a black and white Australian Shepherd, became his protector.

The doctor wondered how he could help the pig move easier and considered a set of wheels attached to a harness, similar to what some lame dogs use.



Photo by Tom Benitez/Google Images

HOT WHEELS: **Chris P. Bacon was born without the use of his hind legs. He has become an Internet sensation and an inspiration to some. A YouTube video of the little guy has already had 1.2 million hits.**

His son had a set of K'nex toys — with wheels and other pieces that snap together — and Lucero built a small cart and cobbled together a tiny harness. At first, the pig didn't like the harness, but then the tiny animal got the hang of the contraption.

A couple of weeks later, Lucero was at a veterinary conference and met with a representative from handicappedpets.com, a Nashua, N.H.-based company that builds pet wheelchairs, harnesses and carts. That company built a special wheelchair for Chris and created a Facebook page for the pig.

Lucero videotaped one of Chris' first jaunts and put the video on YouTube, and a star was born.

That video, dubbed "Pig in a Wheelchair," has gotten 1.2 million hits. His Facebook page has 56,000 "likes."

Chris now has his own webpage, Twitter account, Pinterest site — and as of last week, a book deal.

Hay House, a publishing house that specializes in self-help and motivational media, has signed Lucero to write three books about the adventures of Chris, the disabled pig.

The first book, which is geared to children aged 4 to 10, will be out in the fall.

SEE PIG PAGE 7



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

CONTRIBUTE: **Santa Monica police search a car that was involved in a pursuit in January. Police and firefighters may pay as much as three times more towards their retirements.**

# Cops, firefighters may have to pay more for benefits

**BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD**
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Cops and firefighters could be asked increase contributions to their pension accounts by a factor of three in an attempt to rein in escalating costs that are weighing down future budgets, city officials said.

Public safety unions like the Police Officers' Association and Santa Monica Firefighters International Association of Firefighters Local 1109 currently put in 3 percent of the cost of their pensions, considerably less than any of Santa Monica's other bargaining groups.

That may have to change if City Hall

SEE BENEFITS PAGE 6

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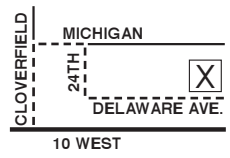


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# What's Up Westside

## OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

### Saturday, June 1, 2013

**Love the written word**
Sunset Masonic Lodge # 369
1720 Ocean Park Blvd.,
1 p.m. — 4 p.m.
Family Literacy Day at Sunset Lodge is a free public event to foster literacy and the love of books by children and their families. There will be various activities including a book swap, creative arts station, children's magic, and other fun surprises. For more information or to donate children's books for the book swap, contact John Stellar at (800) 858-2712 or john@e-pr.com.

**Build it**
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
3 p.m. — 5 p.m.
Ages 4 and up can participate in building with LEGOs as a part of the monthly LEGO club. For more information, visit smpl.org.

**Girl power**
YWCA
2019 14th St., 7:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.
The YWCA Santa Monica/Westside will host GIRL EM(POWER)ED, a talent showcase and fundraiser featuring local at-risk middle and high school girls. GIRL EM(POWER)ED gives middle and high school girls, ages 11 to 18, in the community a chance to express themselves through song, dance, skits, personal stories, spoken word, and more. Tickets may be purchased at the door or online at www.smywca.org. Tickets: $25 in advance and $30 at the door.

**Future filmmakers**
Miles Memorial Playhouse
1130 Lincoln Blvd., 7 p.m.
The eighth annual Santa Monica Teen Film Festival presents two free screenings showing a different lineup of films each day. Each screening presents a different program of films, covering a wide array of genres including live action, animation, experimental and documentary. Films vary in length from one to 20 minutes. The first screening is at the Miles Playhouse on June 1. The second screening is June 2 at the MLK Auditorium at the Main Library. For more information about the film festival, or to make a reservation, e-mail Milesplayhouse@smgov.net or call Justin Yoffe at (310) 458-8634. Visit www.facebook.com/SantaMonicaTeenFilmFest.

**Final time**
First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica
1220 Second St., 8 p.m.
Young Apollo; God of Music Poetry & Healing, the last of a three-concert celebration of Benjamin Britten's centenary, spans the composer's entire career — from a piano piece written when he was 12, to his last major work, the "Quartet No. 3." Tickets: $40 general, $20 students. For more information or to purchase tickets go to jacarandamusic.org, or call (213) 483-0216.

### Sunday, June 2, 2013

**Tour through time**
Civic Center Parking Structure
333 Center Dr., 12 p.m. — 5 p.m.
Santa Monica Conservancy will be hosting a self-guided tour through a decade of preservation. There will be five historic sites open to the public including Barnum Hall, Hollister Court and the Pasqual Marquez Family Cemetery. The tour includes a shuttle which will provide transportation from the civic center to the Ocean Park locations. Tickets are $40, and $30 for conservancy members. For more information, visit www.smconservancy.org.

**Art auction for recovery**
Bergamot Station
2525 Michigan Ave.,
1 p.m. — 4 p.m.
The seventh annual ART for CLARE auction is a chance for folks to purchase pieces from prominent and emerging artists and sample food from some of L.A.'s best eateries. There will also be a silent auction with goods ranging from luxury vacations to sports memorabilia. For more information call (310) 314-6200 or visit www.clarefoundation.org/arteventpresent.html.

**Catch and release**
Casa del Mar
1910 Ocean Way, 4 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Enjoy the one day only event "Suds & Shellfish" at Catch restaurant with Managing Chef Sven Mede. For $45 guests will receive complimentary bibs, newspaper clad tables, and are encouraged to eat with their hands. Tickets must be purchased in advance with an optional craft beer pairing available for $15 per person. To purchase tickets, call (310) 581-7714.

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



# Sheriffs to train volunteers to issue parking tickets

**BY MELISSA CASKEY**
Special to the Daily Press

MALIBU Though Malibu's busy summer tourism season is already underway, city and county officials are hoping to have a team of Malibu Volunteers on Patrol (VOP) certified to issue parking tickets by mid-summer.

Currently, the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department is the only agency allowed to write up parking tickets in Malibu after city officials declined to renew a contract with a private parking enforcement company last year.

If VOP members become certified to issue the tickets, officials hope it will leave less on the sheriff department's plate.

"We can't be everywhere at once, so it'll be a supplemental help to us," said Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff's Station Deputy Shawn Brownell. "Our deputies write parking tickets, but that's not their main priority. Their main priority is crime calls."

The department hopes to hone in on parking violations in popular spots like Zuma Beach, Paradise Cove and Pacific Coast Highway near the Malibu Lagoon and Pier.

The group of approximately 10 civilian volunteers have the power to issue parking warnings and each VOP member is required to volunteer at least 16 hours per month.

"[The warnings] work surprisingly well," said VOP leader Daniel Villefort. "I'll write one up for a car that's been parked for 24 or 48 hours, and the next day I'll drive by again and see that they're gone."

Since members of the VOP work free-of-charge, the city of Malibu saves money if VOP starts writing up parking violators, City Manager Jim Thorsen said.

"It's at a great price for the city and we think it'll be a great way to utilize the VOP team," he said.

Additionally, with a new three-hour parking limit coming to about 30 parking spaces in the Civic Center area, Thorsen said having the VOP issue parking tickets should help in that area as well.

The City Council must approve a resolution for the VOP to receive training, which Thorsen said would be on the June 11 council agenda.

Brownell said volunteer patrol teams have been similarly trained to issue parking citations in other cities such as Santa Clarita, Calif.

### COUNTY FUNDS ARSON WATCH HELICOPTER

In the hopes of bearing down on threats of brush fires during the dry summer season and throughout the year, county officials recently approved funding for an arson watch helicopter to monitor the Santa Monica Mountains in and around Malibu.

The sheriff's helicopter will work in tandem with Los Angeles County Fire, county officials said.

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky made the announcement last week during an appearance at Malibu's State of the City address.

"Now, during fire season, we have one more arrow in our quiver," he said. "If [the helicopter crew] sees one puff of smoke, they can alert fire authorities right away. You can't go wrong with too much response."

Yaroslavsky was grateful Malibu has not been faced with a massive wildfire in several years, but this year's severe drought could mean "another fire season with major drama."

"We're overdue," he said. "There is no doubt about it."

The chopper should also aid in everyday operations with the sheriff's department, such as crimes in progress or accidents on PCH.

The Board of Supervisors allotted approximately $100,000 to fund the year-round monitoring. The helicopter will split its time between the Malibu/Lost Hills Sheriff's Station and Zuma Beach.

Additionally, Yaroslavsky helped secure about $200,000 in added funding for the county's beach enforcement team, which patrols heavy crowds on county-owned beaches throughout Malibu and Topanga.

editor@smdp.com

This story first appeared in the Malibu Times.

# Sony's 'After Earth' joins exclusive ultra-HD film club

**BY RYAN NAKASHIMA**
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Sony Corp. is taking a deeper dive into ultrahigh-definition video with its latest film "After Earth," the first of Sony's three movies this year both shot and presented in the emerging 4K digital format. At a screening for journalists, I got a close-up look at even the pores on Will Smith's face as details were rendered with greater clarity on the big screen.

Sony and other consumer electronics makers are betting that 4K images will become the new standard, prompting consumers to buy fancier TVs just as they did when high definition, or HD, rolled out over the past decade. It could also entice more people to buy movie tickets to see for themselves what the super-clear format is like.

But the more detailed images present a host of problems. They use four times the number of pixels as the current HD standard, which results in larger data files. Budget-strapped digital effects companies are having trouble handling all that data. The cost and time to deal with the extra visual information means the majority of the special effects shots in "After Earth" — comprising about a third of all the shots in the movie — were actually worked on in lower-resolution HD.

At the screening I attended, I could see details I've never noticed before — the actors' tiny skin imperfections, or Smith's salt-and-pepper whiskers. In a distant shot of Smith's son Jaden running down a riverbed, I was struck by how many small rocks were defined clearly from such a distance. Yet other shots that included computer-generated cityscapes or otherworldly creatures looked less sharp. I was sitting in the seventh row — close enough to tell the difference. If you sit at the back of a theater, you might not be able to tell the difference between 4K and HD.

Sony has 15,000 4K projectors installed in theaters worldwide, with more than 11,000 in the U.S. Other manufacturers such as Barco, Christie and NEC also make 4K projectors.

So far, major theater chains Regal and AMC are not charging extra for 4K screenings. AMC says nearly all of its 344 theaters have at least one 4K projector. Regal says more than 300 of its 579 theaters have a 4K projector. You'll have to check with your local theater to see if the movie will be projected in 4K.



Photo courtesy Sony Pictures

BRAVE NEW WORLD: **Jaden Smith stars in Sony's 'After Earth,' a science fiction film by director M. Night Shyamalan that opened Friday. The film takes place on Earth thousands of years in the future.**

The push toward higher resolution follows the industry's emphasis on HD in recent years. Many TV sets tout the "1080p" resolution standard, so named because its images are 1,080 pixels high and 1,920 pixels wide. A slightly wider version with 2,048 pixels across is known as 2K. But 4K is 4,096 pixels wide and 2,160 pixels high. That gives 4K images 8.8 million pixels compared with roughly 2 million for high definition.

Higher-definition movies are a key component in Sony's strategy to maximize the benefits of both owning the Sony Pictures movie studio and making electronic gadgets.

Sony Electronics makes 4K motion picture cameras — such as the F65 used to shoot "After Earth" — as well as 4K movie theater projectors, 4K TVs, home media servers that play 4K movies and other technologies needed to get ultra-HD video from one end to the other. The camera-making division has even

SEE **FORMAT** PAGE 7

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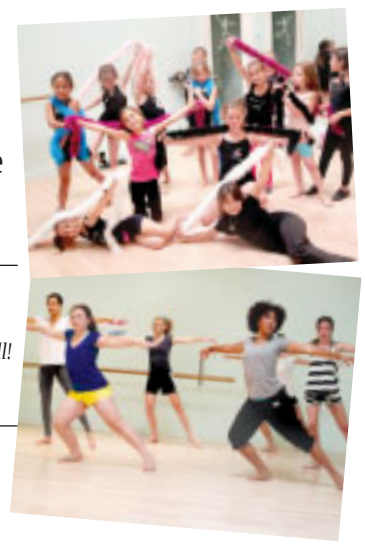

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

### Freeze development

**Editor:**

We are asked to "give" public input to the monster Miramar project for the environmental impact report (EIR), before June 3, 2013. Note that there is no approved plan, project detail, negotiation details between City Hall and the developers. We do not know what happened behind closed doors and what was promised and to whom, which as residents we have every right to know. Yet, we are asked to give them the "go ahead" to do an EIR. Who does the EIR? You guessed it – the developers! You think they will find anything wrong with this totally inappropriate project?

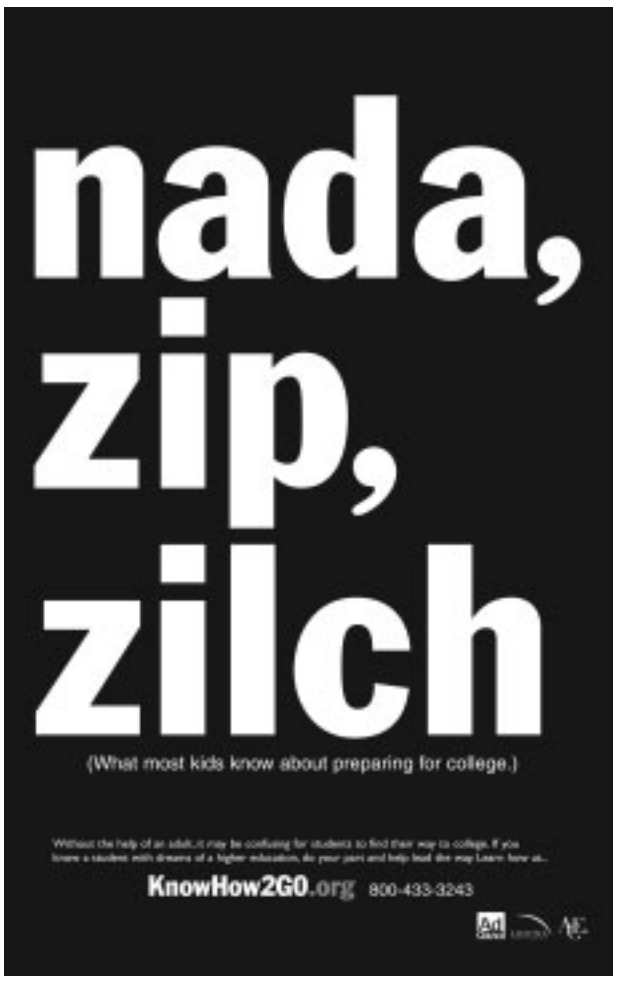
The Athens Group is listed as the Miramar group's principal advisor. They have developed Montage properties. Montage style is totally wrong for an urban area, especially for a small city like Santa Monica, which is at land's end.

Every single one of the Montage hotels/properties is a huge, enormous, massive development with a lot of empty space around them. Montage properties at Deer Valley, Utah; Laguna Beach, Calif.; Kona, Hawaii; and the Ritz-Carlton Half Moon Bay, Calif., are all located in open space, not in an urban, fragile residential space. Their LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) certification means nothing for the gridlock, air pollution, resource hoarding and unbelievable damage to our lives during a massive building project, at a crucial traffic artery and junction.

Miramar's location is not suitable for such a massive development. Its location and geological placement is totally different than all the other "sensitive coastal areas" where there are ample open space, and none of those properties sit on a fragile bluff! We have lost considerable amount of bluff over the years and heavy construction, massive development will put not only the bluffs, but all neighboring residents and properties at risk. Are the city manager, planning department, and City Council willing to take this gamble? If so, I hope they are ready to pay the consequences.

Instead, they should put an immediate freeze on all development agreements, stop behind-the-door negotiations that are not open to the public, but obligates the residents. They should put a freeze on hiring, especially non-residents. I am tired of working and paying for their retirement and benefits, while they are destroying the city!

**Julia Mangir**
Santa Monica






## Curious City

**Charles Andrews** — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

# Losing out to developers

A FEW WEEKS AGO IT WAS BIKE IT! Walk It! But Don't Drive It! Day or Week or something like that in Santa Monica, and I expected to go out my front door and believe I was in Holland, besieged by blissful bikers. But what happened? I was paying attention, but I saw hardly any bikes or people walking. I think that was because of all the traffic. Car traffic.

I guess I'm getting to be one of those crotchety misanthropes about development in this town I love. But dang it, if there are any limits, we reached them at a lightening pace a few years ago, and reason would dictate we pull in the reins for a few years to let the dust settle.

Because what we have is, without question, a lot more traffic than just a few years ago. I would say it's noticeably worse in the last year. I encounter traffic jams pulling onto Ocean Park Boulevard, before I can even get to the perpetual mess we call Lincoln Boulevard. Where are all these people coming from, in the middle of the day in the middle of the week? Where are they going? At that point on Ocean Park there are only six blocks left of Santa Monica before you drive into the ocean.

All this before the completion of the huge complexes now under construction on Main Street and elsewhere, before the driving out of the trailer park retirees, the destruction of two diners, a proposal to demolish our beloved bowling alley, before the proposed three quarters of a million square foot Papermate project monstrosity on Olympic, and before the worst crime of throwing up three 20-plus-story towers of Babel on a four-block stretch of what used to be our pride and joy, our view to Catalina and beyond — Ocean Avenue. Stack those three behemoths and you'd be within spitting distance of having the tallest building in L.A.

Do I think we've lost our balance? Do I think somebody's passing envelopes of cash and favors? Will I vote again for any of the sitting City Council members? (Maybe one or two; more research on votes is needed.)

### R.I.P. NORMS, AND THEIR FRIENDLY, LOYAL STAFF

Speaking of our diners, I love Norms, for so many reasons, and was more resigned to losing it when I thought it had to do with the inevitability of the light rail coming in. But I found out it has nothing to do with that, it's just another case of profit and greed stomping on the common good. A Texas developer threw a $13.5 million offer at Norms for that location, an offer that was hard to refuse. They can build three or four more Norms for that pile of cash.

I don't blame Norms for accepting such an offer, I blame a city government that makes it possible. If the developers thought they couldn't break the rules and get an exception, they'd never make the offers, and I could still get my perfect artery-clogging breakfast special for only $3.99.

But with all the baloney about "creating jobs" and revenue for the city coffers, what about the people who lose their jobs? Norms has been on that corner for nearly half a century, and has employees who count their service there in decades, not years. A number of them are longtime Santa Monica residents who went to local schools, or their kids do.

You have the cheerful young man who despaired after high school of ever landing a job, then got his very first one at Norms, and now wears a starched white shirt and hovers behind the cash register with a big smile. That's Marco. Then there's Natalia, the pretty young blonde who came here from Russia and landed at Norms, one of two jobs that are getting her through school. She smiles a lot too, and you don't do that if you hate your job. Come to think of it, nearly everyone at that Norms smiles a lot. They all have stories, life stories that will change radically come July 17, and I'm going to tell you some of them in my next column.

I was told a team of managers descended on the Santa Monica location for two days to conduct individual 10-minute conferences with each employee to make sure they knew exactly what was going on and what their options were, and with offers to transfer to another Norms and not lose their jobs. But as several employees noted to me, they can't find places for all of them at restaurants that are already fully staffed.

But I give a lot of credit to Norms corporate for apparently creating a good working environment and for making such an effort to take care of their employees. How many big corporations would just wave their hand and say sorry, see ya, good luck? And that's the kind of longtime employer we're forcing out?

### NOT ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL

It's interesting that if you go to the web page for the California Heritage Museum you see thumbnail photos that guide you to different pages about exhibits, events and support. Interesting that the photo that leads you to support, where you are cajoled to volunteer, become a member at various levels, or to just plain donate, is a photo of the donors' wall out front, with many bricks inscribed for people who paid for that privilege with a substantial donation and with the promise that those bricks would be there forever, or at least as long as the museum existed.

Our family's inscription and brick, given in good will and support in 2004, is nowhere to be found. The reason, we're told, is that they have to have enough brick donations at a time to make a whole batch (can't do them one at a time, of course). But it's been eight years! How many brick donations do they need? Or did it just become easier at some point to use that money and forget about the brick laying?

I've been warned I won't get any answers beyond a curt, "We'll give you your money back if you want it." That's not what I want. I want my brick. This smells too much like a scam. I will ask the questions and report to you.

If you're in the same situation with a "lost" donation, please e-mail me.

---

**CHARLES ANDREWS** has lived in Santa Monica for 27 years and wouldn't live anywhere else in the world. Really. You can reach him at therealmrmusic@gmail.com

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The Q Line

# Water wise

**With a goal of eventually being self sufficient, city officials are looking at ways to save water across the board.**

This past week, Q-line asked:
**Where do you think you can save the most water at your home or business? What would you sacrifice to be part of a self-sustaining city?**

Here are your responses:

"IT'S TOO LATE FOR THE SLUM BY THE sea. Irresponsible overdevelopment, which benefits only the corrupt folks at City Hall and of course the developers, should never have happened. The most we can hope for is that voters will come to their senses in time to keep things from getting worse and vote the crooks out. Let them try earning an honest living."

"I DON'T KNOW HOW THIS CITY CAN EVEN begin to think that it could be self sustaining water wise. With all the horrible overbuilding of the past few years that has gone on and continues to go on, we will be lucky to sustain it all with lots of outside sources and help. The same goes for electricity. Most of us, with any brains that is, fear for the coming hot weather and the additional drain on these resources. Water especially is getting scarcer all over. Even the great Colorado River is in trouble. Overpopulation is killing us and rapidly using up all our precious natural resources. But greed and stupidity go on and on."

"WELL I BELIEVE THAT ONE COULD SAVE A lot of water if you do your wash, save the water and then use it to water your outdoor shrubbery in the city of San Malicious."

"ANYONE LIVING IN CALIFORNIA SHOULD be aware of water conservation and how to avoid wasting a scarce resource. There are articles in magazines and on the web with suggestions on conservation, which everyone should read. But the city should not expect 'sacrifice' from current residents when they continue to build housing projects to attract hundreds, if not thousands, of more people to live here and add to the water use. It is stupid to want to increase the population when there is limited water supply for those of us already living here."

"WHEN WE LIVED IN NORTHERN California, we were twice on mandatory water restriction. We already had drought-tolerant landscaping and did not let the water run while washing hands or brushing teeth. During the restriction period, we diverted our washing machine rinse water, called 'gray water,' to a large barrel for later use by the bucketful on our plants outside; we held a watering can up to the showerhead to save the water until it ran hot, for use in the garden; and we took 'Navy showers,' running water just to wet down and rinse off, not while soaping up. Many people did not flush toilets every time just for liquid waste, or used the saved shower water to flush the toilet. All this while people in the L.A. area were using gallons of clean water to hose a few leaves off the sidewalk. Beyond drought-tolerant landscaping and not wasting water, I would make no sacrifices here. Our 'savings' and sacrifices wouldn't amount to a drop in the bucket, as our city leaders are intent upon cramming Santa Monica full of thousands of additional water users, jamming them into would-be tenements. Stuffing Santa Monica full of high-density housing projects is the antithesis of self sustaining. To conserve water use, the City Council should stop trying to overburden our city and our available water supply with the maximum number of rentals possible."

"BACK IN THE DROUGHT OF 1990-91, I did my civic duty and installed a low-flow toilet and shower head. I watered my lawn only at night twice a week. I did full loads of laundry only. I still do all these things today. I do not think I should further cut back when the city is bringing in more business, housing, and tourist-serving facilities. The city needs to find ways the newcomers will conserve and not further punish us who have done so already."

"SURE WE COULD ALL CONSERVE WATER. Then officials will look at all the water we saved, then let developers come in and build big projects using all the saved water, and more. My lawn being nice and green is more important than some big shot developer's profits. Let them build their junk in New York City."

"THE MOST EFFICIENT ROAD TO sustainability in this city would be to sacrifice the current pro-growth City Council that is approving all of these huge commercial and residential developments. How many people and low-income housing projects do we need in this town? Each new project approved requires a lot of water, especially residential use. The city loves to give lip service to popular causes, but only sets a bad example by its development policies. Let's sacrifice development."

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## BENEFITS
FROM PAGE 1

plans to forestall deficits that could reach $3.9 million by 2015-16 and $9.2 million two years later under the most likely budgetary scenario, said City Manager Rod Gould.

"Starting in July, our police and firefighters will be picking up 3 percent of their salaries," Gould said. "That needs to rise to about 9 percent."

Public safety employees will not go back to the bargaining table until next year, and had some idea that management may be asking for new concessions, said Matt Rice, spokesperson for the Police Officers' Association.

The figure, however, was new.

"It's not a totally surprising request, but it would all depend on the total package of the contract," Rice said.

While no one debates the fact that public employee costs are on the rise, each side still has an entire year before going back to the negotiating table, and a lot can happen in a year, Rice said.

They hope for higher revenues that might be able to relieve some of the burden on City Hall's coffers and, by extension, employees.

Some have pointed to proposed development projects as a way to balance the budget.

Seven hotels are in the planning pipeline right now that could bring in as much as $20 million a year in new taxes if they are all approved by the City Council.

However, they can't be approved and built quickly enough to make up for what's coming, and City Hall would be loathe to budget on maybes, Gould said.

"We have to keep budgeting separate from land use decisions," he said.

The new pressure on public ledgers comes from the outside.

The California Public Employees Retirement System, which manages pensions up to $257.4 billion in assets for governmental entities across the state, announced in April plans to increase employer contributions up to 50 percent over the next five years.

Those changes will hit for the first time in 2015-16, the first year that a five-year forecast shows deficits. It gives City Hall the next two years to figure out how to close the looming gap, and one part of the solution will likely involve going back to employees.

Given that other employees already pay 8.5 percent of their salaries to pension costs, police and fire will have to go first, Gould said.

This would be the second time that City Hall has asked for pension concessions from its public safety personnel.

They first began chipping in for their pensions in the 2011-12 fiscal year after a round of sometimes-acrimonious public discussions.

The contributions started at 1 percent that year and rose by 1 additional percentage point for the following two. The fiscal year that begins on July 1 marks the last increase to 3 percent.

Other employee groups have been kicking in for their pension costs at higher rates since 2007, and were also asked to pay for some of their healthcare in the 2010-11 year.

In 2011-12, they gave up a portion of their workers' compensation pay, reducing benefits to 100 percent of their salary for the first 30 days and 75 percent for the next, rather than have City Hall pay the full amount for two months.

The story of pension contributions plays out differently across California.

The City Council of Roseville, Calif. approved a new contract in which its police force agreed to pay all of their pension contributions. Others range beyond 10 percent, while a handful remain single digit, said John Lovell, government relations manager of the California Police Chiefs Association.

"It's just part of the different negotiation processes in each area," Lovell said. "Part of it is the result of custom and practice and agreements negotiated in the past. It's a colorful quilt around the state."

Current quibbling comes over the pensions for current employees, which by law can only be changed through negotiation. Future employees will see considerably thinner pension and benefits packages, in part from local measures like in Santa Monica which established a second tier of benefits for anyone hired after July 1, 2012.

The state also pitched in with the California Public Employees Pension Reform Act of 2013, which increased the retirement age for employees, capped the maximum compensation used to calculate benefits and dictated that employees will always contribute at least half of the cost to fund the benefit.

Those changes apply to anyone hired after Jan. 1, 2013.

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## BUS
FROM PAGE 1

numbers to 75 or 80 percent on-time arrival, given the notorious traffic many buses must slog through in Los Angeles.

That has to do with scheduling buses more efficiently to eliminate long lines at bus stops that slow down service, he said.

Old buses break down, and at least a handful of Santa Monica's fleet have been on the road since 1997. King told council members that previous leadership had used money earmarked for new buses and other capital improvements to pay for operational costs, leaving old buses on the road.

The Big Blue Bus bought 21 new large buses using a contract approved in 2009, and have the option to buy 30 more through the end of that contract, according to a March 2013 report.

Finally, the Big Blue Bus system has the unfortunate distinction of running an 18 percent absentee rate, which equates to 30,000 hours a year in which an employee is supposed to be at work but does not show up either because of illness, injury or other reason.

If that amount were cut in half to the industry standard of 8 or 9 percent absenteeism, the system could put seven more buses on the road every day without any budget increase, King said.

He hopes to achieve that through the use of a wellness team and attendance program, among other initiatives.

Although council members did manage to get in a few questions about the state of the bus system and future technological improvements, they seemed largely unarmed by the raw honesty of King's report.

"Ed King gave the most stand-up, unvarnished, honest report on the state of a city department that I ever recall hearing," Councilmember Kevin McKeown said the next day. "If the turn-of-the-century glory days of the Big Blue Bus have eroded, I'm glad to have a straight-shooter like Ed in place to make right what's been lost, and to lead us into a visionary rethinking of Big Blue's role … ."

King plans to do more than just clean up house, however.

He and his team want to put in place a number of other changes to make the BBB easier for people to use and run more smoothly.

### MAKING CHANGES

High up on that list are modifications to the major routes along Pico and Lincoln boulevards, specifically Route 7, Rapid 7, Route 3 and Rapid 3.

Route and Rapid 7 lines begin in the Downtown and run on Pico Boulevard by Santa Monica College. The regular bus ends at the Rimpau Station in Los Angeles, and the Rapid connects with the Metro Purple Line at the intersection of Wilshire Boulevard and Western Avenue.

It sees a lot of traffic from people traveling into Santa Monica for either work or to attend Santa Monica College, with people packed onto the buses in what some delicately call "popularity" and King calls "overcrowding."

"SMC is a huge market for us," King said Thursday. "We provide service to a lot of students and staff, and a lot of commuters use that route as well."

On June 16, both the local and Rapid 7 lines will operate every 12 minutes, what King calls a "memory schedule" for its ease and clarity. He plans to put more buses on the roads during peak morning and evening hours, which he hopes will help out with the crowded bus conditions.

King is confident that his team can do that without raising rates, increasing the budget or cutting service on other lines. Fares are expected to stay the same, at least through the next two years.

Changes to the Lincoln routes have not yet been planned, but the prospect of new buses along Pico Boulevard already seem like a boon to students, said Don Girard, director of governmental and institutional communications at SMC.

"Any increase in additional capacity in both lines will benefit students," Girard said. "It's just like educational opportunity — if it's available, they'll make the most of it."

King also emphasized greater integration with the Los Angeles Metro buses, particularly through the use of that system's TAP card on local buses.

The system also plans to roll out new technology at some bus stops to give real-time information about bus arrivals.

Even as things move forward at the Big Blue Bus, the system must be ready to adapt to the arrival of the Exposition Light Rail Line, which is expected to arrive sometime in 2015.

That, along with the results of the announced initiatives, could spell major change in how the Big Blue Bus is used and operates.

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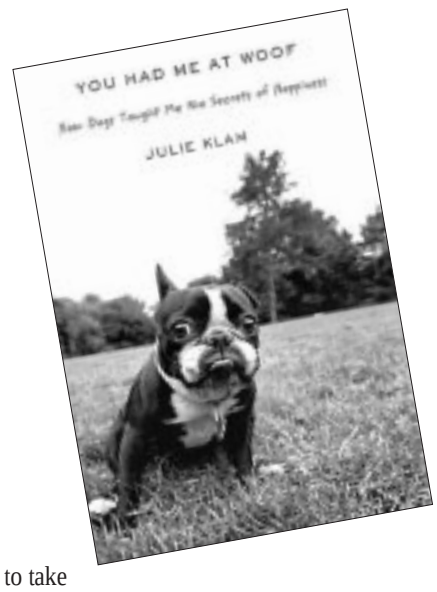
**Read a book, Rescue an Animal**




The Ocean Park Branch Library, 2601 Main Street, invites the community to take part in the Library's **Book-to-Action series** of events during the month of June featuring the middle school book *Finding Danny* by Linzi Glass and the adult book *You Had Me at Woof* by Julie Klam.

Limited free copies of these titles will be available at the branch beginning in mid-May. The public is encouraged to read the book, join the discussions and learn how they can help make a difference in the life of an animal. In addition to book discussions, there will be free programs at the Ocean Park Branch for various age groups.

**WED 6/5 3:15-4:15**
Santa Monica Animal Shelter Education Program With a Few Special Guests
(For All Ages)

**THURS 6/13 5:00-6:00**
Forte Animal Rescue Talk: Founder Marie Atake Discusses their Mission & Adoptable Dogs
(For Ages 11 & Up)

**THURS 6/20 3:30-4:30**
Paws 4 Reading: Read to Therapy Dogs
(For Ages 6 & Up)

**SAT 6/22 2:00-3:00**
"Finding Danny" Author Linzi Glass Discusses her Book and Rescue Group
(For Ages 11 & Up)

**TUES 6/25 7:00-8:30**
Adult Book Discussion: "You Had Me at Woof" by Julie Klam

**THURS 6/27 3:00-4:30**
Teen/Tween Book Discussion: "Finding Danny" by Linzi Glass

**SAT 7/6 12:00-2:00**
Local Animal Rescue Group Information Fair on Library Front Lawn
(All Ages)

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These events are free and open to the public. For more information call **(310) 458-8683** or visit **www.smpl.org**. The Santa Monica Public Library is wheelchair accessible. For special disabled services, call Library Administration (310) 458-8683 one week prior to events. The Ocean Park Branch is served by Big Blue Bus lines #1 and #8.

## PIG
FROM PAGE 1

Chris, now 22 pounds and using a dog wheelchair, is seemingly oblivious to his new-found fame. He's been on the "Today" show and met Anderson Cooper.

Now nearly 6 months old, the pig knows his name, comes when called and is house-trained. Lucero and his family take him outside several times a day, where he uses his wheels. Inside, Chris has a pen with plush beds where he can scoot around or nap in air-conditioned comfort. During a recent interview, he scarfed down his favorite foods: grapes and Cheerios.

It's possible that people are drawn to the piglet's tiny, cute body, or to his soft "uff, uff, uff" noises as he pulls himself around with his front hooves.

But Lucero noticed something else: People were inspired by the little pig who wanted to walk and play. One commenter said her boyfriend had used a motorized wheelchair since 1988, telling Chris: "Keep chugging little man....keep chugging."

Lucero and Chris now appear at fundraisers for disabled children, and Lucero is looking to start a foundation that helps people with disabilities.

"I've actually gotten a lot of people on our Facebook site, people with disabilities, and people who have got recent disabilities. And they said that this little guy right here has inspired them to give it their all," Lucero said. "And that gives me the tingles in my arms every time I read something like that."

## FORMAT
FROM PAGE 3

had talks with Sony Music Entertainment about shooting concerts in 4K.

"It touches an awful lot of the ecosystem," says Rob Willox, director of large sensor technology for Sony Electronics.

So far, 56 movies have been converted to 4K, the majority distributed by Sony. Those include ones originally shot on film, including last year's Oscar-nominated "Django Unchained." Sony's other end-to-end 4K releases planned for this year are "The Smurfs 2," due out in July, and "No Good Deed," set for release in October.

After Red Digital Cinema began selling a 4K camera, the Red One, in 2007, companies including Sony and Canon Inc. also began making them. Thousands of movies have been shot in 4K, but almost all of them have been shrunk down to HD format before being screened. One exception was Sony's 2011 remake of "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo," which was shot in 4K with a Red camera and also shown in theaters that way. Having "After Earth" and two others on the release schedule this year marks another milestone for the format.

"There is a new movement now where movies are actually being shot at high resolution and finished at high resolution," says Ted Schilowitz, a co-founder of Red. "We see huge advantages to deliver four times as many pixels on the screen as HD."

The cinematographer of "After Earth," Peter Suschitzky, says he picked Sony's F65 digital camera after side-by-side comparisons of footage taken by other digital and film cameras. Although some people prefer film for its sometimes grainy, soft, romantic look, Suschitzky says those benefits are lost when shown in theaters with digital projectors, as many are today.

He says he likes the look of the movie and regrets that special effects scenes were mostly done at the lower standard.

"True 4K is amazingly detailed," he says. "The movie is only half in true 4K. I'm sad about that. It still looks good."

Sony executives say the increased pixel count has made its F65 camera more sensitive than either film or other digital cameras in low-light situations, enabling filmmakers to shoot with more natural lighting.

There were some low-light scenes in "After Earth," such as when Jaden Smith's character is in a cave, but I didn't notice any particular clarity there. Where I did notice extra detail was in scenes that were slow and still, and where the actors' faces were shot close up.

Chris Cookson, the president of Sony Pictures Technologies, keyed in on how the F65 camera catches subtleties.

"Look at how much more lifelike the eyes and faces are," he says. "I personally think there's more life in human beings when you see them in a way that doesn't have that filtering effect when you're looking at HD."

The increased number of pixels involved in 4K movies creates extra work for special effects artists, especially on effects that require a human touch, such as the pixel-by-pixel cutouts of objects in each frame known as "rotoscoping."

Working entirely in 4K means a movie could take up to 30 percent more time, as well more money on labor and better computers, says Jenny Fulle, chief executive of The Creative-Cartel, which handled the special effects in "After Earth."

The extra cost and time is one of the reasons that the sci-fi flick starring Tom Cruise, "Oblivion," was released in 2K in April. It would have cost an extra $1.5 million to finish the film in 4K, according to Sony Electronics' business development manager, Keith Vidger.

Jeffrey Okun, chairman of the Visual Effects Society, a nonprofit organization of Hollywood special effects practitioners, says that making the change to all-4K effects will be difficult but necessary. He calls it "another leap in quality."

"No industry has made more leaps in a shorter amount of time than the visual effects industry," he says.

Ultimately, 4K may mean new TVs for consumers, too.

At the International CES gadget show in Las Vegas in January, several electronics manufacturers including Sony, Samsung Electronics Co. and LG Electronics Inc. showed off smaller sizes of 4K TVs whose screens spanned as little as 55 inches diagonally.

Sony's 55-inch ultra-HD TV is selling at Best Buy for $5,000. Gerald Belson, a media industry consultant for accounting and consulting firm Deloitte, says the price is "already at the level of some of the early 1080p sets." His firm predicts that within five years, 4K TV prices will drop below $1,000.

The 4K format is also an easier upgrade for most people than 3-D, which in most cases requires wearing special glasses that people find uncomfortable, says Sweta Dash, an analyst with research firm IHS iSuppli. The company predicts companies will ship nearly 1 million ultra-HD sets this year, growing to 7.1 million in 2015 and 20.8 million in 2017.

Even though there isn't much 4K video content now — and 4K broadcasts are likely years away — Dash says the format will likely become popular as TV set prices come down and content grows. But she warned that studios, theaters and electronics makers need to explain exactly what people are watching.

Some movies — like "After Earth" — have portions rendered at a lower standard, and some TV sets touted as 4K have only about 1,000 pixels vertically, robbing consumers of half of the extra pixel definition they think they're getting.

"If the content and the picture quality is not up to their expectations, it can impact this negatively," she says. "The more you clarify, the better. The less confusion, the better the adoption of the new technology."



# Baking bread from scratch

**BY TRACEY MCCRARY**
Special to the Daily Press

I love baking, but even more than that I love learning how to make things from scratch.

So when I saw that the Gourmandise School of Sweets & Savories offers a bread making class, I just had to sign up. And it being located in the ever cool Market at Santa Monica Place made it all the better.

The instructor, Clemence, was so sweet and patient, and I immediately felt at ease upon arriving. I just knew my bread was going to be the only one that somehow plumped up nicely, but for some inexplicable reason it collapsed immediately upon removal from the oven like the turkey in "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation."

But still, I sat there and listened like a good student hoping that somehow I wouldn't screw anything up. The list of recipes was a little daunting. In four hours we were to make four varieties of bread by hand that we would be able to take home and show off to our friends and family. That seemed impossible. But the organization was impeccable and the pre-measured ingredients very helpful, as well as the assistants constantly cleaning and assembling the next batch of supplies.

Bread is fairly simple as far as the actual ingredients, which are usually some combination of milk, water, sugar, yeast, flour, salt and butter. But bread making by hand takes a masterful level of skill to achieve the right degree of doughy interior texture, or crumb, and crisp exterior, or crust. Bread making is also a lot of waiting around for the ingredients to do their thing. The yeast has to gobble up the sugars to create air, which causes the bread to rise while it rests, or proofs. It's like a little science project that you get to eat later.

Over the course of the day we made *pain de mie* (a soft white bread), honey whole wheat, cinnamon raisin bread and a rustic flavored loaf. Besides measuring the ingredients exactly and giving them enough time to react, the other essential component of bread making is the kneading. This was what I had been waiting for, to see a real baker demonstrate this age-old process. It looks fairly simple, but for some reason you have to really concentrate to keep the rhythm, or at least I did.

You push with the base of your hands, then fold the dough over on itself, then turn the lump of dough a quarter-turn, and then push again and repeat the process for several minutes. We're talking only about 10 minutes, but trust me, it is quite the upper body workout.

There's always that one person in class who sticks out and this time, to the perfectionist in me's embarrassment, it was me. First of all, my bowl of yeast turned out to be dead. No gas, no bubbles, no nothing. I, of course, thought this was somehow my fault, but Clemence assured me it was not. In fact, it turns out that's the reason to test the yeast before adding it to the other ingredients. So, I had demonstrated a valuable lesson. Later, my *pain de mie* went overboard in the oven even though a heavy top had been placed on the pan to secure the loaf's shape. Clemence politely commented that I must have a light hand when it comes to kneading. Obviously, I need to work on my arm strength.



Photo courtesy Tracey McCrary

WHERE'S THE BUTTER? **Learning how to make bread from scratch can be a challenge, but there's help at the Gourmandise School of Sweets & Savories at Santa Monica Place.**

Thankfully, the results were tasty nonetheless and for my first attempt I was pleasantly satisfied. The rustic loaf was by far my favorite because we got to get creative with our additions. I chose hazelnuts and chocolate in class, but when I recreated the rustic loaf later at home I added rosemary and Parmesan instead. And this loaf looks like one of those fancy breads you always see in the windows of bake shops and wonder, "How do they get it to look like that with the cool design on top?" Now I know!

We amazingly also had time to make fresh strawberry vanilla jam, which we enjoyed with our freshly baked bread. Perhaps they say "bread is life" because in a way it is alive, or because this scrumptious creation can, in fact, sustain existence (at least for a little while). And although I won't be baking fresh bread daily, I look forward to the somewhat meditative practice of kneading the dough and watching it rise in the oven and, of course, enjoying the finished product.

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## The Better Option

Lori Salerno
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

# It's time to fire up the grill



Photo courtesy Google Images

RIGHT TIME: **Memorial Day weekend is usually the kick-off for summer, which means it's time to break out the barbecue. But be careful. Grilling meat for too long could produce carcinogens.**

MEMORIAL DAY ISN'T JUST THE UNOFFICIAL start of summer, but the start of grilling season.

Even with the moderate temperatures in Santa Monica, the last thing you want to do is turn the oven on when temperatures rise. My family practically lives outside during the summer. We've designed our backyard into individual living spaces with a cooking/grilling area, dining area and sitting area. Many meals are prepared and eaten in this extension of our home.

I cook, as well as buy my food, seasonally. While I may prepare more stews or baked meals during the winter months to warm our house and our bellies, during the warmer days of summer I plan meals to be prepared on the grill. I say I plan the meals because when it comes to grilling, my husband takes over the preparation. My husband enjoys cooking and when he has the time he works with me in the kitchen side by side, but at the grill he's the master.

The trick with grilling is to keep the food moist while cooking it through. The last thing you want to serve or be served is a dried-out piece of chard shoe leather. Not only is the food inedible, but meat mutagens, heterocyclic amines and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons are formed when meats are cooked to well done and at high temperatures. Marinades and foil pouches help keep meats protected from these potential carcinogens as well as varying your preparation.

We have perfected many grilled meals to include not only our traditional main courses, including grilled lemon and garlic chicken or seafood kabobs, but grilled vegetables, side dishes, desserts and even pizza. Below are a few healthful ideas to expand the use of your grill to more than just the meat course.

Vegetables: Cut your favorite vegetables in half or into large strips and marinate with your favorite oil and vinegar dressing. Grill over low heat until soft and cover in a container so vegetables can continue steaming. My favorite grilling vegetables are zucchinis halved; yellow squash; red, yellow and orange bell peppers quartered; Japanese eggplant halved; and portobello mushrooms.

Sides: Many know how to clean and soak corn on the cob in their husks and steam them on the grill, but how on earth can you make a buttery potato and onion casserole without the saturated fat and oven. The secret is to use a foil pouch and cook the contents with indirect heat on the grill. Coat heavy duty foil wrap with olive oil. Alternate thinly sliced waxy potatoes such as German butterball, yellow Dutch or my favorite the zebra strip, and onion. Cook the foil packet for approximately 20 minutes with indirect heat and flip half way. It's like cooking a covered casserole dish in the oven, producing sweet onions and buttery textured potatoes.

Dessert: Grilling fruit allows for the natural sugars to caramelize, creating a new texture and sweetness that's more intense than in its raw state. The sweet saltiness of soy glazed pineapple is a great accompaniment with teriyaki grilled chicken. But one of my favorites is peach halves brushed lightly with olive oil, dusted with granulated sugar and grilled until warm and soft. I'll then top them with thinned hazelnut spread (thin with a little milk) and/or a dollop of light whipping cream. It tastes like peach pie without the crust.

Pizza: There's no need to invest in a backyard pizza oven, unless you just have to have it to complete your backyard kitchen. A fun dinner party meal for kids and adults alike is grilled pizza. You can use store-bought pizza dough or make your own. Roll out to individual sized pizzas, thin or thick crust. Brush hot grill with oil so dough won't stick. Over indirect heat grill pizza dough until golden brown on the underside. Flip pizza dough and top with your favorite sauce. I like pesto with my shrimp pizza. Add cooked vegetables and/or cooked meat (maybe left-over grilled vegetables) and part-skim mozzarella cheese. Close lid and cook until cheese bubbles.

**LORI SALERNO,** M.S., R.D.N, C.P.T. is a registered dietitian nutritionist and certified personal trainer who provides medical nutrition therapy to groups and individuals in Santa Monica and recipe and menu analysis for restaurants nationwide. Learn more at www.eatwelldailynutrition.com.

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# Report: Boy dies after signs of abuse were missed

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES An 8-year-old boy who authorities say died after being beaten had remained in the house where the alleged abuse occurred despite six investigations by social workers during the past decade, a newspaper said.

Social workers appeared to miss numerous warnings signs at the home, the Los Angeles Times reported Thursday, citing county documents.

The boy had written a note saying he was thinking about suicide and his teacher told authorities he often appeared bruised and battered.

The boy's mother, 29-year-old Pearl Fernandez, and her 32-year-old boyfriend, Isauro Aguirre, have been charged with murder. They have not yet entered pleas.

Fernandez was being held without bail, while Aguirre was being held on $1 million bail. The Associated Press could not immediately determine if they had lawyers.

Gabriel died at a hospital on May 24 after paramedics went to his house in Palmdale and found that he had a fractured skull, three broken ribs, BB pellets embedded in his lung and groin, and two teeth knocked out.

The documents obtained by the paper show Aguirre allegedly told investigators that he beat the boy repeatedly for lying and being dirty. Pearl Fernandez told paramedics her son's injuries were due to self-mutilation, the paper reported.

Meanwhile, four social workers have been given desk duty pending possible disciplinary action.

"I feel like they all should be fired," said Elizabeth Carranza, Gabriel's aunt. "They didn't listen to my nephew. They were completely deaf and blind."

There were six investigations into abuse allegations involving the mother, with five determining the claims were unfounded. Records show there was an unresolved case of alleged abuse at the time of Gabriel's death, and an allegation had lingered two months past a legally mandated deadline for finishing an investigation.

"The red flags were all over the place. They were ignored. It is just inexplicable to me," said county Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky.

The county's Department of Children and Family Services has been trying to institute reforms after dozens of abuse and neglect deaths in recent years involving children who had been under the agency's supervision.

A recent internal review of the department found there haven't been any workers fired in 15 cases where children died. It also has a backlog of child abuse cases.

The agency's director Philip Browning acknowledged the system failed Gabriel. The case illustrates a need for more critical thinking and common sense in evaluating cases, he said.

County social workers became aware of Pearl Fernandez a decade ago when her oldest son had a head injury during a car accident. It was determined he wasn't wearing a seat belt.

The Times said a relative later reported she allegedly beat the same son and wanted to disown him. However, social workers said the complaint was unfounded.

Gabriel's teacher told authorities in January there were bruised dots all over the boy's face. Gabriel told the teacher his mother shot him in the face with a BB gun, records show.

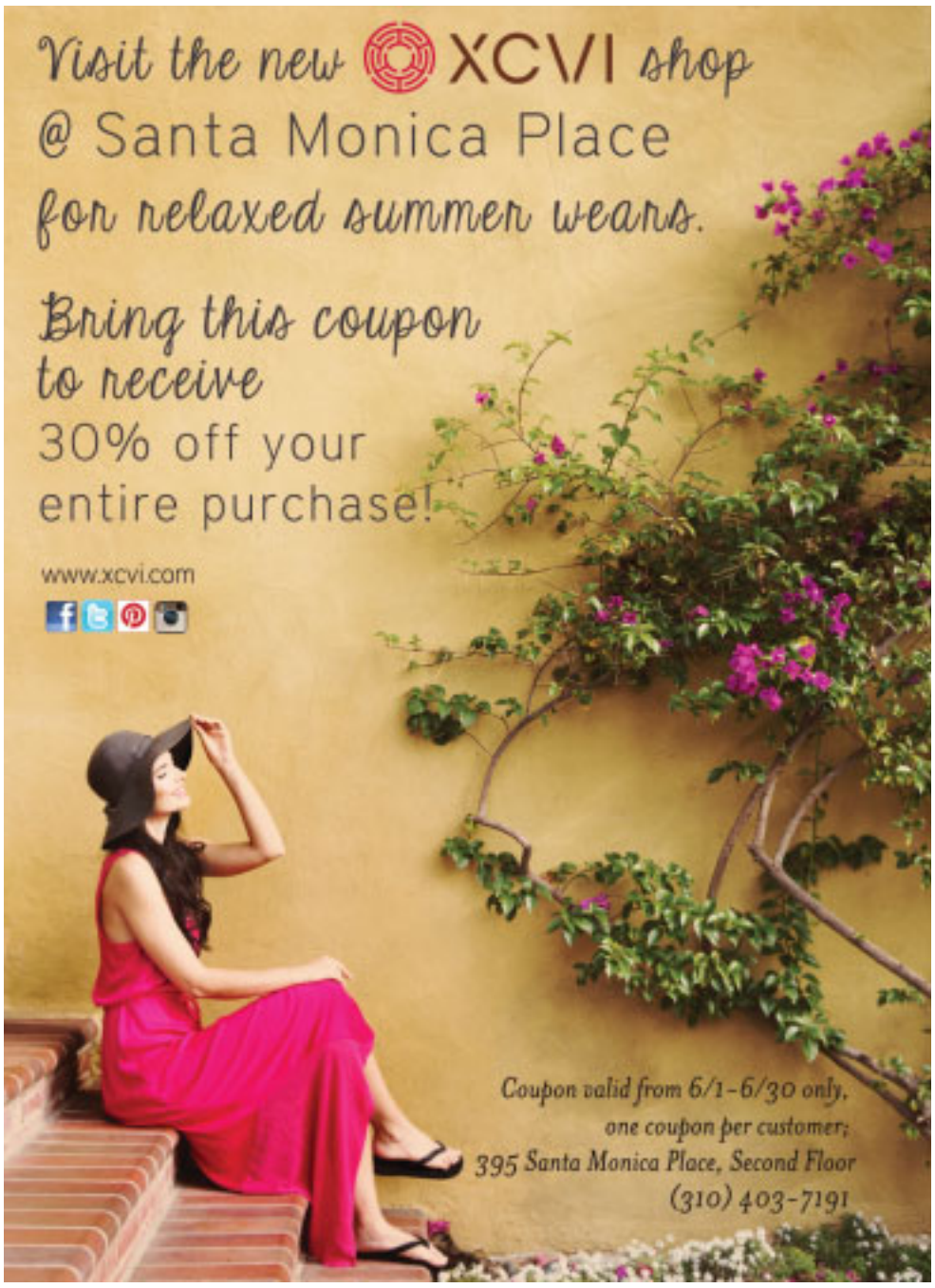
The boy often recanted his stories, and an internal county review criticized social workers for failing to interview Gabriel in a neutral setting away from his mother, who told social workers in March she didn't need their help.

The boy's therapist told workers earlier this year that Gabriel once reported being sexually abused by an older relative, but he later withdrew the allegation. The investigation remains open.










**CITY OF SANTA MONICA**
**NOTICE INVITING BIDS**

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

**Park Restroom Facilities Renovation Project**
**SP2243**

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, 90401, not later than 2:30 p.m. on **Thursday, June 27, 2013** to be publicly opened and read aloud after 3:00 p.m. on said date in City Hall Council Chambers. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Bids.

**NON-MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK:**

**Thursday, June 6, 2013**
**9:00 – 9:30 AM Hotchkiss Park, 302 Strand Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405**
**9:45 – 10:15 AM Marine Park, 1406 Marine Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405**

**PROJECT ESTIMATE: $440,000.00**
**CONTRACT DAYS: 120 Calendar Days**
**LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $500.00 Per Day**

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

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

# Court: Calif. erred in new lethal injection regulations

**BY JASON DEAREN**
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO Corrections officials made several "substantial" procedural errors when they adopted new lethal injection rules, a state appeals court ruled Thursday in a decision that could further delay a resumption of executions in California.

The 1st District Court of Appeals said the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation failed to explain, as required by state law, why it was switching from a three-drug injection method to a single drug.

The court's opinion, which affirmed a lower court ruling, also said the agency misled the public instead of providing the documents and information it used to reach its decision.

Corrections spokeswoman Deborah Hoffman said in an e-mail that the agency was reviewing the ruling.

"In the meantime, at the governor's direction, CDCR is continuing to develop proposed regulations for a single-drug protocol in order to ensure that California's laws on capital punishment are upheld," Hoffman said.

California has not executed an inmate since 2006, when a federal judge halted the practice, finding that the three-drug mixture amounted to cruel and unusual punishment. The state was ordered to redo its capital punishment system.

Since then, California has built a new death chamber at San Quentin State Prison and trained a new team to carry out executions.

There are currently 733 inmates on death row in California.

Last year, Gov. Jerry Brown ordered prison officials to explore using a single drug, as some other states do, which could reduce the risk of suffering by condemned inmates. But the appeals court found that, in adopting those rules, corrections officials did not give the public the level of information that is required in adopting new regulations.

"A hearing is ... meaningful only if the interested public has timely received all available information that is relevant to the proposed regulations, accurate, and as complete as reasonably possible," Presiding Judge J. Anthony Kline wrote. "The public that participated in the CDCR's rulemaking process was not so fully informed."

The agency argued that it responded to more than 29,000 public comments and a lengthy public hearing on the matter during which 102 people provided comments as proof that it complied with state law in making the new regulation.

Kline did not agree.

"As we have seen, the 102 people who attended the ... hearing and the 29,416 who submitted written comments were not made aware (or timely made aware) of much of the information relied upon by the CDCR in proposing the three-drug protocol, and were, in fact, misled about this," Kline wrote.

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## CITY OF SANTA MONICA NOTICE INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENTS TO CITY BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

The Santa Monica City Council is now accepting applications for appointment of members to the following City Boards and Commissions for terms ending on June 30, 2017:

| Board/Commission | No. of Appts. |
|---|---|
| Airport Commission | 1 |
| Architectural Review Board | 2 |
| Arts Commission | 2 |
| Building and Fire-Life Safety Commission (Should be a State of California licensed/registered architect, civil engineer/structural engineer, a licensed building contractor, a Certified Access Specialist, or a Registered Fire Protection Engineer) | 3 |
| Commission for the Senior Community | 2 |
| Commission on the Status of Women | 3 |
| Convention and Visitors Bureau | 2 |
| Disabilities Commission (Two positions must be filled by persons with self-identified disabilities) | 3 |
| Housing Commission (Two positions must be filled by participants in the Housing Authority Section 8 Program and one must be 62 years of age or older - terms ending June 30, 2015) | 4 |
| Landmarks Commission | 2 |
| Library Board | 1 |
| Personnel Board (term ends on June 30, 2018) | 1 |
| Planning Commission | 1 |
| Recreation and Parks Commission | 1 |
| Social Services Commission | 2 |

The State Political Reform Act requires certain officeholders to disclose their interest and income that may be materially affected by their official action. The applicant appointed to serve in this position will be required to file a Statement of Economic Interest (Form 700) with the City Clerk's Office upon assuming office, and annually thereafter.

Applications and information on Board/Commission duties & disclosure requirements are available from the City Clerk's Office, City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Room 102 (submit applications at this same location), by phone at (310) 458-8211 or on-line at http://www.smgov.net/departments/clerk/boards/vacancies.aspx. All current applications on file will be considered.

**Applications due by noon, Tuesday, June 18, 2013.**
**Appointment to be made by City Council, June 25, 2013.**

*Disability related assistance and alternate formats of this document are available upon request by calling (310) 458-8211.*

SURF REPORT




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## Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **68.2°**

SATURDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** Knee to chest high
Blend of SSW swell and NW windswell continues. Larger sets to chest high+ for standouts in the far Western part of the region.

SUNDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high
Small blend of SSW swell and NW windswell starts to ease - plus sets for standouts. Light winds possible, stay tuned.

MONDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-2 ft** knee to thigh high occ. 3ft
Reinforcing Southern Hemi moves in; minor NW windswell. Light winds possible, stay tuned.

TUESDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** knee to waist high
New SW-SSW swell; minor NW windswell. Stay tuned.

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 28, 2013**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)
- Number of sewage spills -- 1
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 5
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 36 / 32
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: simplehuman, LAcurGUY, SIWA, and Grousbeck Family Foundation

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

| LOCATION | DRY | WET |
|---|---|---|
| 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 Lechuza and Las Alloe creeks. | | |
| Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach. | A+ | A+ |
| Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth. | A+ | A+ |
| Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth. | A | A+ |
| Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private). | A+ | A+ |
| Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth. | A+ | A+ |
| Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach. | A+ | A+ |
| Latigo Canyon Creek mouth. | A+ | A+ |
| Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach. | A | A+ |
| Pearce State Beach at creek mouth. | A+ | A+ |
| Marie Canyon storm drain at Pearce Beach, at 21672 Malibu Rd. | A | F |
| Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence. | A+ | A+ |
| Surfrider Beach (beach location)- daily. | F | A+ |
| Malibu Pier - 50 yards east. | D | F |
| Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon. | A | A+ |
| Los Flores State Beach at Los Flores Creek (point zero). | A+ | A+ |
| Big Rock Beach at 19648 PCH stairs. | A+ | B |
| Pena Creek at Los Tunnos County Beach. | A+ | A+ |
| Tuna Canyon. | D | ns |
| Topanga State Beach at creek mouth. | A+ | A+ |
| Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach. | A+ | A+ |
| Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach. | A+ | A+ |
| Will Rogers State Beach at 17208 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain). | A+ | F |

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

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

# Trustees: Medicare trust fund exhausted in 2026

**BY MARTIN CRUTSINGER**
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON The government said Friday that Medicare's giant hospital trust fund will be exhausted in 2026, two years later than projected last year, while the date that Social Security will exhaust its trust fund remained unchanged at 2033.

The latest projections were included in the annual report of trustees of the trust funds. The new report warned that despite the small improvement in Medicare, both it and Social Security face significant funding challenges as the giant baby boom generation continues to retire. Currently, 58 million Americans are receiving Social Security benefits.

"Under current law, both of these vitally important programs are on unsustainable paths," Robert D. Reischauer, one of two public trustees, told reporters at a news conference.

The reasons given for the improved financial outlook for Medicare were an overall slowdown in the rate of increase in health care spending, particularly on skilled nursing care, as well as lower projected costs for popular insurance plans available within the Medicare program.

Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew, the chairman of the trustees, said President Barack Obama is committed to working with Congress to put both programs on a stronger footing.

"Protecting Social Security and Medicare is one of the most significant challenges we face today as a nation. And it is a challenge that we can and must meet," Lew told reporters.

With almost 10,000 baby boomers reaching retirement age and qualifying for benefits each day, those dates have been creeping closer, but Washington has been unable to reach consensus on an agreement to strengthen the finances of the government's biggest benefit programs, which together accounted for about 38 percent of federal spending last year.

Depletion of the reserves in the giant trust funds would not end the benefit programs but would trigger sharp reductions in benefits. For Social Security, retirees would continue to receive about 75 percent of benefits once the Social Security trust fund was exhausted in 2033. For the Medicare hospital trust fund, the depletion of that fund in 2026 would mean a cut in benefits to about 87 percent of the full level.

While the combined Social Security trust fund was projected to be depleted in 2033, the trustees warned that the funding threat to one of the component trust funds that makes payments for workers on disability is much more urgent. It was projected that the disability trust fund would deplete its reserves in just three years in 2016. That date is unchanged from last year's report.

Charles Blahous III, one of two public members of the trustees group, said that while Congress could decide to correct the shortfall in the disability program by moving tax revenue away from Social Security, that would only worsen the funding problems facing the Social Security retirement program.

A solution to the funding problems for Social Security and Medicare has proven elusive because of the political dangers posed by any agreement that would trim benefits for millions of Americans or raise taxes to cover the projected shortfalls.

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics, said it remains to be seen how much of the slowing in the growth of health care costs simply reflected the impact of the country's deep recession and how much might reflect savings from the passage of the Obama-backed health care law.

"The day of reckoning for Medicare has been pushed off a bit, but only a bit," Zandi said. "The entitlement programs are still in big trouble, and if we don't change them, they will break."

Obama has already offered to break a pledge he made in his 2008 re-election campaign not to trim Social Security benefits. Twice in negotiations with GOP leaders, he agreed to adopt a new measure of inflation that would result in smaller cost-of-living adjustments, or COLAs, for Social Security recipients. He formally put forward that proposal in the budget he sent to Congress in April.

His proposed change in the COLA, once phased in, would mean a cut in Social Security benefits of nearly $1,000 a year for an average 85-year-old recipient of Social Security benefits.

Obama and Republican leaders in Congress have held off-and-on talks about various other possible fixes for the entitlement programs since 2011 as part of their efforts to reduce the government's soaring budget deficits. But both sides remain far apart. Republicans insist any budget agreement must include deep spending cuts, while Obama is seeking what he calls a balanced deal that would include not only cuts in government spending including reductions in entitlement programs but also higher taxes.

Nancy LeaMond, executive vice president of the 37-million member AARP, said in reaction to the trustees report that her organization would continue to oppose Obama's suggested reduction in cost-of-living increases and similar proposals, which she said would jeopardize Americans' retirement security.

"Washington needs to get its budget under control without breaking the promise of Social Security," she said.

Many Democrats in Congress have also expressed strong opposition to the COLA trim that Obama has put forward.

House Republicans earlier this year passed a budget that would eventually turn Medicare into a voucher-like program for people younger than 55. But Obama and other Democrats reject that approach.

Obama's approach to Medicare savings would trim payments to drug companies, hospitals and other service providers. He has also proposed having a growing share of seniors pay higher premiums over time, based on their incomes. In addition, Obama would have wealthy taxpayers pay a higher Medicare payroll tax.

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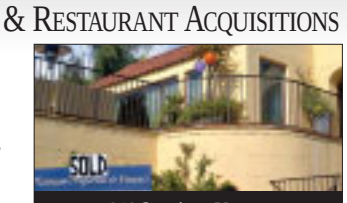

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# MOVIE TIMES

Aero Theatre
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**(310) 260-1528**

Saturday, June 1
**Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (G) 1hrs 40min**
4pm

Sunday, June 2
**Hamlet (PG-13) 4hrs 2min**
7:30pm

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

**Fast & Furious 6 (PG-13) 2hrs 10min**
11:55am, 3:10pm, 6:30pm, 9:45pm

**Epic (PG) 1hr 42min**
11:00am, 1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 10:00pm

**Now You See Me (PG-13) 1hr 56min**
11:15am, 2:15pm, 5:15pm, 8:15pm, 11:00pm

**Hangover Part III (R) 1hr 40min**
11:30am, 2:00pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

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

**Star Trek Into Darkness (PG-13) 2hrs 03min**
11:00am, 4:30pm, 10:55pm

**Iron Man 3 (PG-13) 2hrs 15min**
2:00pm, 5:10pm, 8:20pm, 11:15pm

**Fast & Furious 6 (PG-13) 2hrs 10min**
10:45am, 1:50pm, 5:15pm, 8:15pm, 11:20pm

**Epic in 3D (PG) 1hr 42min**
11:45am, 2:40pm, 5:20pm, 8:00pm, 10:45pm

**After Earth (PG-13) 1hr 40min**
11:30am, 2:05pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

**Great Gatsby (PG-13) 2hrs 23min**
3:45pm, 10:25pm

**Great Gatsby in 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 23min**
12:15pm, 7:00pm

**Star Trek Into Darkness 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 03min**
1:05pm, 7:45pm

**Hangover Part III (R) 1hr 40min**
12:10pm, 3:00pm, 5:45pm, 8:30pm, 11:05pm

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

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

**Shadow Dancer (R) 1hr 44min**
11:10am, 1:50pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

**Ping Pong (NR) 1hr 16min**
11:00am

**Love Is All You Need (R) 1hr 40min**
1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 10:10pm

**We Steal Secrets: The Story of WikiLeaks (R) 2hrs 07min**
1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm

**Free the Mind (NR) 1hr 20min**
11:00am

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

# TRY A NEW RESTAURANT TONIGHT, LEO

### ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ You might decide to play "Follow the Leader" for a change, and let someone else orchestrate the plans. You'll be happy curling up and reading a good book. You still seem to embody an element of surprise, even if it is just to yourself. Tonight: Play it low-key.

### TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Your ability to see past others' agendas does not always benefit you, especially if you feel the need to tell them about it. A splurge seems to be in order. Just make sure that you really enjoy yourself. Tonight: You are the party. Others seem to gravitate toward you.

### GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Your sense of fun emerges when dealing with an older person. When this person senses what is going on, he or she will join right in. Make a point of spending more time together. You laugh, and others lighten up. Tonight: Be the lead actor.

### CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You might want to entertain someone in a totally different way. You could decide to go off together and try some exotic cuisine. You might have a lot on your mind. Tonight: How about some live music?

### LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You might want to play it low-key with a partner, only to find that your friends are not OK with you not joining them. After indulging your partner to the max, try to schedule some activity with your pals. Tonight: Try a new restaurant.

### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Go along with plans, but remember that a friend who seems to specialize in uproar will be involved. Take care of yourself first, and choose what works best for you. Acknowledge a need for an internal change, and understand your priorities. Tonight: Add some spice to the mix.

### LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Emphasize your nurturing tendencies and ability to change direction. How you see a situation and the choices you make could be subject to change. Tonight: Where the fun is.

### SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Your lively manner and fun personality help eliminate a problem that you might not want to face. A key person has many expectations and lets you know in no uncertain terms. Tonight: Add romance to the mix.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ A partner might be belligerent. Expect more of this behavior, but take the comments with a grain of salt. Your ability to open someone up, especially about a vulnerability, is unique. Someone will apologize for his or her harsh words. Tonight: The action is at your pad.

### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You seem to come up with the right words at the right time. Others might not know how to respond, but give them time. You are more in control of a situation that is volatile than you might realize. Know your limits and honor them. Tonight: Get together with friends and loved ones.

### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Remain sensible with your spending. A child or dear friend knows how to be loveable, and you always want to indulge him or her. For your sake, do not overdo it. Unexpected events can mess up your plans. Remember what your priorities are. Tonight: Let the party go on.

### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Enjoy the moment, especially when dealing with a family member who does care but might be stubborn or grumpy right now. You could feel as if you have no control. Listen to your inner voice regarding a financial risk. Be smart and get feedback. Tonight: Out and about.

**June 1-2, 2013**

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

This year you express unusual enthusiasm for life, networking and people in general. Your high energy accompanies this exuberance. You'll discover a long-term desire that comes in from out of left field. Spontaneity surrounds friends. If you are single, your best bet is not to look for a relationship; instead, remain open to the possibility, and you will meet someone in an unexpected way. If you are attached, you will move into a new realm where you infuse your relationship with more vitality. ARIES is a good friend.

**Email QLINE@SMDP.COM. WE'LL PRINT THE ANSWERS.**
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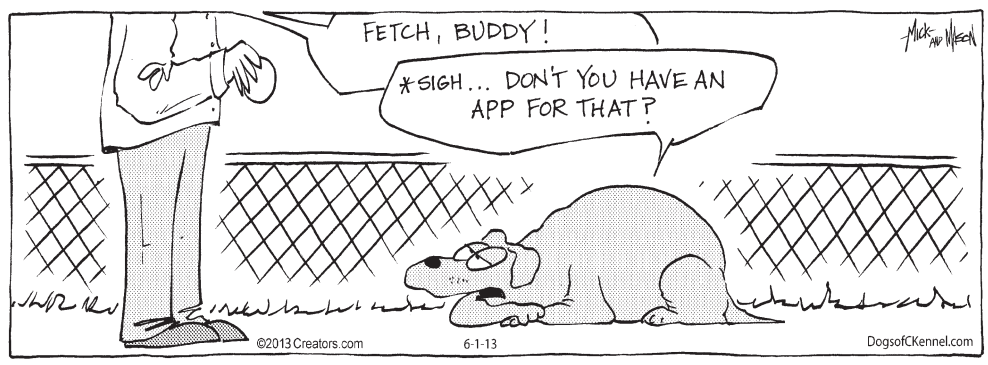
## Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



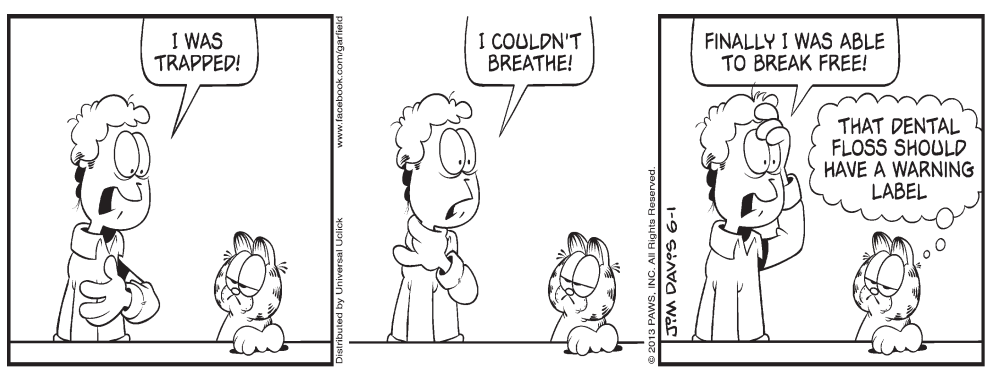

## Strange Brew
By John Deering




## 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 ★★★★

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

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

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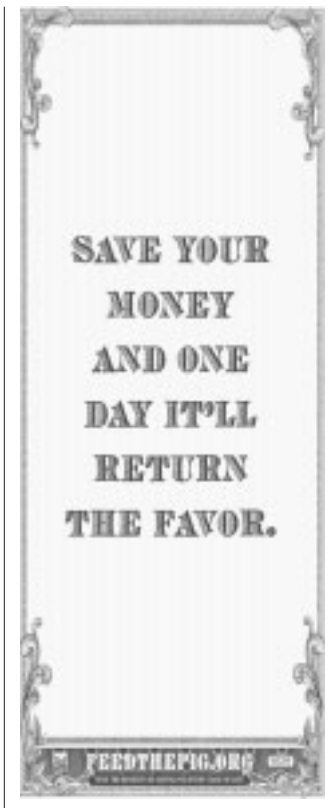


## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS**

**1** "Scram!"
**7** Like a desert
**11** Lead on
**12** Highway division
**13** Work sessions
**14** Longest sentence
**15** Foot parts
**16** Cleaned a fish
**17** Makes a choice
**18** Mocking work
**19** Stepped down
**21** Break off
**22** Comic character
**25** Frank holder
**26** Neckline shapes
**27** Out of bed
**29** Berth place
**33** Propose
**34** Lustrous velvet
**35** Barbara of "Mission: Impossible"
**36** Bach piece
**37** Passed easily
**38** Decreased?
**39** Hotel units
**40** Crunchy veggie

**DOWN**

**1** Painting base
**2** Victorious
**3** Crooked
**4** Apple variety
**5** Play parts
**6** Agreeable answer
**7** Portion out
**8** Cascades peak
**9** Dante topic
**10** Transferred, in a way
**16** Soak
**18** Alarm sound
**20** Crowbar, for example
**22** Come up for air
**23** Merged
**24** Sevilla speech
**25** Thick-trunked tree
**28** Transmits
**30** Laughable
**31** Computer key
**32** All set
**34** Tiny opening
**36** [Not my spelling]

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

**Yesterday's answer**

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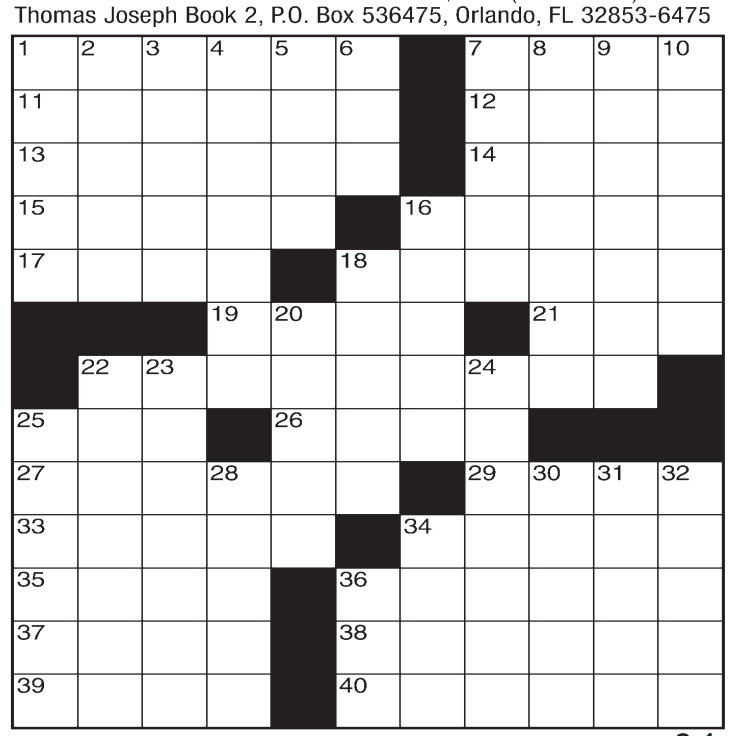

6-1

## NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ The Department of Agriculture reported recently that in four of America's largest cities -- New York, Miami, Los Angeles and Denver -- nearly one home out of 100 keeps chickens either for a fresh egg supply or as pets, giving rise to chicken services such as Backyard Poultry magazine, MyPetChicken.com and Julie Baker's Pampered Poultry store. Among the most popular products are strap-on cloth diapers for the occasions when owners bring their darlings indoors, i.e., cuddle their "lap chickens." Also popular are "saddles" for roosters, to spare hens mating injuries -- owing to roosters' brutal horniness, sometimes costing hens most or all of their back feathers from a single encounter.

■ "Consider all the ways we're taxed," wrote Maryland's community Gazette in April -- when we're born, die, earn income, spend it, own property, sell it, attend entertainment venues, operate vehicles and pass wealth along after death, among others. Maryland has now added a tax on rain. To reduce stormwater runoff into the Chesapeake Bay, the Environmental Protection Agency assessed the state $14.8 billion, which the state will collect starting in July by taxing "impervious surfaces" -- any land area in its 10 largest counties that cannot directly absorb rainwater, such as roofs, driveways, patios and sidewalks.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

**1913** - The Greek-Serbian Treaty of Alliance is signed, paving the way for the Second Balkan War.

**1916** - Louis Brandeis becomes the first Jew appointed to the United States Supreme Court.

## WORD UP!

**de profundis**
**\ dey proh-FOON-dis \ , adverb;**
1.
out of the depths (of sorrow, despair, etc.).

Santa Monica Daily Press

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