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TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2014
Volume 13 Issue 175

# Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

WAITING GAME
SEE PAGE 3

THE SWITCHING DESKS ISSUE

# Riel to sue City Hall on First Amendment grounds

BY DAVID MARK SIMPSON
Daily Press Staff Writer

**CIVIC CENTER** City Hall will likely be sued over a recent controversial employment decision.

An attorney representing Elizabeth Riel, who's job offer for a top city position was rescinded last month, said he will file a lawsuit against City Hall in the next week.

Riel was offered the job of Public Affairs and Communications Officer last month. The job description includes, among other things, communicating with the media and carries a salary of $155,784. Last week, city officials announced they'd rescinded the position and offered it to Debbie Lee, the vice president of Downtown Santa Monica Inc.

"I am deeply disappointed that the City of Santa Monica - where my husband and I have lived, raised our children, and worked to support our community for more than 10 years - will not allow me to serve simply because I was involved in city affairs," Riel

SEE SUIT PAGE 7

# Firefighters establish fund for crash victims

BY MATTHEW HALL
Editor-in-Chief

**CITYWIDE** Santa Monica firefighters have established a fund to support the Looney family during their recovery following the loss of their son in a car crash on June 6.

The Las Vegas family was traveling to the beach on June 6 when their minivan was rear ended by a dump truck. The force of the impact pushed the minivan into a big rig killing 2-year-old Noah Looney. Jeremiah Looney, 17, was airlifted to a local hospital with a serious neck injury. Other members of the family received varying degrees of injury.

Initial reports suggested the truck might not have seen slowing or stopped traffic in the McClure tunnel.

The accident shut down traffic on the I-10 for several hours. While officers quickly began diverting traffic off the freeway, cars backed up for miles in both directions and local neighborhoods filled with drivers seeking alternate routes.

SMFD Battalion Chief Mark Bridges said firefighters were motivated to help the family given their lack of local connections.

"It appears they are going to be here for a while receiving medical care so we wanted to do something for them," he said.

Firefighters established a bank account at

SEE FUND PAGE 7



**GOING STRONG** Fabian Lewkowicz *FabianLewkowicz.com*

**Liz Bevington, 89, aka 'Skate Boarding Mama" Roller Blades along Ocean Front Walk on Monday. Skateboarding Mama has been skating since she was 52 years old.**

# Buses top $11 million consent calendar

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** City Council will consider more than $11 million in spending tonight in what would be the most expensive consent agenda so far this year. Most of the money would go toward new buses.

**NEW BUSES**

City Hall wants 11 new 40-foot-long buses that will cost $6,763,405. Big Blue Bus currently has 99 buses, 37 of which have reached the end of their useful lives. The buses will run on compressed natural gas and the contract will likely go to Gillig LLC.

**LINCOLN CORRIDOR**

The Lincoln Neighborhood Corridor Plan (The LiNC) aims to improve traffic and pedestrian usage along Lincoln Boulevard. Community Design and Architecture will

SEE CONSENT PAGE 6

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# What's Up Westside

## OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

**Tuesday, June 10, 2014**

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

**Council meets**
City Hall
1685 Main St., 5:30 p.m.
The City Council will be discussing the purchase of 11 new buses, funding for projects related to the upcoming Expo Light Rail Line and speed limits. For more information, visit smgov.net.

**SMC Concert Chorale**
The Broad Stage
1310 11th St., 7:30 p.m.
Conducted by Jeffe Huls, the ensemble performs a concert featuring Franz Schubert's "Mass in G," as well as a number of smaller works, including contemporary compositions and African-American spirituals. Tickets are $10. For tickets and information, go to www.smc.edu/eventsinfo or call (310) 434-3005 or (310) 434-4323.

**Wednesday, June 11, 2014**

**Market fresh**
Arizona Ave. between Second and Third streets
8:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.
Enjoy one of Santa Monica's farmers' markets, widely considered to be among the best on the West Coast and featuring field-fresh produce, hundreds of kinds of vegetables, brilliant cut flowers, breads, cheeses, delicious foods, live music and more. Call (310) 458-8712 for more information.

**Dive in**
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 PCH, 10 a.m. — 6 p.m.
The summer pool season officially opens on Wednesday and will run through Sept. 1. For more information, visit beachhouse.smgov.net.

**Opening reception**
haleARTS S P A C E
2443 Main St., 5 - 8 p.m.
This opening reception is for a group show featuring Vicki Fisher-Lerer, Joyce Lieberman and Karen Duckles. The show will run through July 23. Visit www.halearts.com or call (310) 314-8038 for more information.

**Excel 101**
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.

**Violin talk**
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd. 7 p.m.
The library welcomes virtuoso violinist Joseph Gold for an evening concert on The Complete History of the Violin. An overview of violin music from the Baroque era to the present is the subject of this concert and lecture by Gold featuring works by Telemann, Paganini, Bach and De Bériot. Gold's collection of famous violinist memorabilia will be on display at the concert. For more information, call (310) 458-8600 or visit smpl.org.

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

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

New Zealand

### Local completes expedition

Santa Monica resident Thompson Gilhuly, 19, recently completed an 80-day wilderness expedition in New Zealand with the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS).

Gilhuly and eight other NOLS students embarked on the 80-day wilderness expedition in New Zealand in 2013. The trip was free of modern conveniences like cell phones, video games and electricity.

The NOLS Fall Semester in New Zealand was divided into three sections: sea kayaking, mountaineering and hiking with each section accompanied by two instructors who are experts in the field. The duration of each section was roughly 25 days. Gilhuly and his eight course mates began their expedition sea kayaking on the Pelorus Sound in the South Pacific Ocean.

Gilhuly and his course mates paddled 90 nautical miles during the kayaking section of the course. The daily schedule entailed kayaking during the day and camping on a new secluded shore each night in time to review curriculum and cook dinner. On an average morning, students cooked breakfast, packed up camp, debriefed about the navigational route and were paddling on the water before sunrise.

As part of their backcountry curriculum, the students were taught to read topographic maps and use navigation instruments on their prearranged kayaking route. Each student was expected to lead on navigation multiple days throughout the section.

During the mountaineering leg of their expedition, the students and instructors explored New Zealand's Southern Alps, just east of the Main Divide. Despite challenging weather, the students were able to gain exposure to glacier and steep snow travel for approximately 25 days.

After successfully completing the mountaineering and kayaking sections of their NOLS semester, Gilhuly and his course mates then moved on to the backpacking section. This section covered approximately 75 high-altitude miles of forests and meadows in New Zealand's Nelson Lakes National Park. The route progressed from mostly on-trail forested terrain to mountain passes and alpine tops and ended with off-trail exposed alpine meadow terrain.

For more information about NOLS, call (800) 710-NOLS (6657) or visit www.nols.edu.

EDITED BY MATTHEW HALL

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**BRAVO**

Courtesy photo

**The Santa Monica Teen Film Festival honored award-winning entries at a ceremony on June 8. The two-day event screened close to 50 short films produced by youth from all over the world. More than a dozen awards were presented in categories such as 'Best of the Fest,' 'Best Animation,' 'Best Documentary,' 'Best Music/Video Experimental' and 'Best Live Action.'**

# VA audit: New patients wait 56 days in L.A.

**BY KEVIN FREKING**
**MATT HAMILTON**
Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES** Patients seeking care through the VA's Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System waited an average of 56 days for their first appointment with a primary care doctor — four times longer than the department's goal.

A report released Monday by the Department of Veterans Affairs said the average wait time for new patients at other VA hospitals in California ranged from about 25 days in Fresno to about 44 days in Loma Linda.

VA guidelines say veterans should be seen within 14 days of their desired date for a primary care appointment. The department now says that meeting that target was unattainable given existing resources and the growing demand for services.

The findings are part of a national audit ordered after a whistleblower said veterans were dying while waiting for care in Phoenix. In all, more than 700 VA hospitals and large outpatient clinics were reviewed. The review also found that 7,086 veterans in California had requested an appointment during the enrollment process during the past 10 years but an appointment was not scheduled.

The audits indicate that accessing care is difficult for newcomers, but that established patients within the VA generally had little trouble getting in to see a doctor in a timely manner.

"It gets easier, especially when they know what your problems are," said Dane Stageberg, 56, who served in the Army and has used the VA in Los Angeles for the last four years. He said he waited "a good four months" to get in, but he said part of the difficulty was scheduling appointments while living in a halfway house. He now visits the VA West Lost Angeles Medical Center about once per month to deal with post-traumatic stress disorder, diabetes and his general health.

Kelvin Neilson, 71, of Ventura, Calif., who also served in the Army, said that scheduling an appointment with the VA can be complicated. He said Monday he was scheduled for a biopsy at one clinic in west Los Angeles, a separate stress test at the VA's main campus in West Los Angeles, and a blood pressure consultation with a doctor in Oxnard, Calif., more than an hour's drive away in Ventura County. He wasn't sure whether he could make all three. And dealing with the VA's phone system added to his aggravation.

"The phone system is atrocious. You get all these exten-

SEE AUDIT PAGE 8




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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

### Unhappy with Happiness Study

Editor:

After reading the various budget approval items by City Council, I became angry and had a few sarcastic laughs. In a subsection, "Happy People? We'll see", City Hall has pledged $650,000 to a Local Wellbeing Index project and now Rand needs another $90,000 to measure happiness. Really? I myself am not too happy to know that this is how our tax dollars are recklessly spent by City Council. When will they be held accountable?

And then there is money spent to have a third party company solicit bids from vendors. What do we pay our city employees to do? The ones receiving higher than average compensation packages compared to the non-government worker. I am constantly reading about consultants performing services for the city. I would love to know the budget expenditures for all the consultants the city hires. What a waste.

Oh yes, speaking of waste, since when is a trashcan worth $6,500? BBB needs seven new trashcans, which cost nearly $46,000. Explain that one. Must be made of a precious metal.

We need new leadership.

**Pat Flaagan**
Santa Monica

### Santa Monica city budget

Editor:

The article in SMDP on Wednesday, June 4, spoke of how the city is trying to fend off deficit.

Apparently, not trying very hard. All the talk is about increasing revenues, very little about decreasing expenses.

Seventy-two percent of the city's budget goes to salaries and wages. With a budget of $526,000,000, salaries and wages would equal $378,720,000.

Looking at some details, two items stood out.

• The City pays a minimum "livable wage " to employees and requires the City's outside contractors to pay it also. That is fine, but how are these increases determined. This livable wage goes up $1.29 an hour in this fiscal year, which is an increase of 9.16 percent. Where did this number come from? How many extra millions of dollars does this cost the City?

Perhaps the City could look for some savings here?

• COLA (cost of living adjustment). The City gives a 3 percent annual adjustment to its employees. It did this last year, this year and projects to do it next year. By comparison, Social Security's COLA was 1.7 percent in 2013; 1.5 percent in 2014. Three percent (3 percent) of the City's salaries and wages of $378,720,000 is an $11,361,000 increase in salary expenses.

• It seems that the City does not use real cost of living adjustments in its COLA, as it already has spelled out next year's adjustment as 3 percent. If it used the numbers Social Security used, 1.5 percent this past year; the COLA amount would be halved to $5,680,500. Immediate savings to the City would be $5,680,500.

How are these two numbers determined? Are they in contracts; if so with whom? Who is involved in the negotiations?

The devil in numbers is in the details. Have the City bring these details out into the light so the citizens of Santa Monica can discuss them.

**Bob Wolff**
Santa Monica

**YOUR OPINION MATTERS!**

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## What's the Point?

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

# Thanks to all my fathers

**WARD CLEAVER. CLIFF HUXTABLE.** Cameron Pritchett.

They are the changing face of fatherhood over the years. From the remote and distant fathers of the 50s to the super-involved dads of today there has been a sea change in the role that men play in a child's upbringing and in what we expect of men.

In the 50s if a man said he wanted to be a stay at home father - well the dirty looks, and the whispering would have put the kibosh on that double-time. But today men are stepping up in ever increasing numbers to be an active participant in their children's lives and many are making the statement that they want to be the stay at home dad and let mom go slay a few dragons.

It's an outgrowth of the feminist movement that few foresaw. But for the men who are now primary caretakers of their children it is a welcome role, and for the children who are the beneficiaries of this new dynamic the stage is being set for a new world order.

As a father's rights advocate it's gratifying to see more men taking advantage of the possibilities that are available to them. When I see a man with his young son or daughter, it warms my heart to know that that child is the recipient of a new way of thinking. That new worldview will eventually bear fruit for all of us as a new sense of equality and possibility is established.

It's not easy for the moms though. They're having a rough go of the adjustment, particularly the ones who suddenly find they have to pay spousal support or child support to a "baby daddy." It's a bitter pill for them to swallow. Partly because of other women's attitudes and judgment.

The woman who does not "win" in family court, who "loses her children" to their father, and must pay support is looked down upon. Not by men mind you, but by other women. She is judged. The fingers and tongues wag that "she must have done something wrong" to have lost in court. For it is expected that a woman always wins her children - she's just the better parent - everyone knows that.

But that is exceedingly sexist. It's just as sexist to say a woman is automatically a better parent by virtue of her genetic code as it is to say that a man is not a good parent by virtue of his genes.

To discern what makes a good parent requires a deeper understanding of humanity and what it takes to raise a child. Parenting is far beyond keeping the little ones fed and getting them to school on time. It is about being a consistent, stable force in their lives that teaches core values.

To make a child is easy, to raise a person of character and substance - that takes effort; but it's not something that is specific to one gender. Other men taught me most of the best life lessons I've learned.

I had one biological father, as do all of us. But many men have fathered me over the decades. I would not have survived high school if not for Roger Durant. I doubt I would have made it through childhood if not for my big brother. My 30s were a period of huge realignment in my ego and world view which I owe to dozens of wiser men who let me share my fears, cry my tears and showed me another path.

In my 40s I'm still relying on older wiser men to keep me on the path of growth and exploration. I have a 70-something year old who regularly kicks me in the pants and I've 30 year olds who do the same.

Men can be wonderful teachers. Whether with 1 year olds or 50 year olds, we learn from each other. Given the opportunity to demonstrate our skills, share our passions and exhibit our compassion, we make fathering a lifelong adventure and bond, oftentimes with men and boys to whom we are not related.

To all the men who have fathered me over the past 47 years, thank you and happy Father's Day, I love you all.

**DAVID PISARRA** is a Los Angeles Divorce and Child Custody Lawyer specializing in Father's and Men's Rights with the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or 310/664-9969.You can follow him on Twitter @davidpisarra.



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# Stock market ekes out another record high

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK** Call it the ho-hum market. Another day, another record high.

News of a handful of corporate deals sent some stocks jumping Monday. And Family Dollar climbed following news that investor Carl Icahn has taken a stake in the company.

With no major economic reports to drive the market, U.S. indexes made slight gains in the morning then slouched back toward the breakeven mark in the afternoon. The Standard & Poor's 500 index still managed to close at another all-time high, rising 1.83 points, or less than 0.1 percent, to 1,951.27.

The Dow Jones industrial average edged up 18.82 points, or 0.1 percent, to 16,943.10, while the Nasdaq composite index gained 14.84 points, or 0.3 percent, to 4,336.24.

The S&P 500 has been on a steady climb for three weeks, lifting the benchmark for most investment funds by 4 percent the last month.

Judging by some measures, that sudden success makes it look like the S&P 500 has moved "too far, too fast," said Joe Bell, senior equity analyst at Schaeffer's Investment Research.

But there are still plenty of traders making bets against the market. People have also taken billions out of mutual funds that invest in U.S. stocks week after week, according to the Investment Company Institute.

"We don't think there's an overwhelming amount of optimism right now," Bell said.

In corporate deal news, Hillshire Brands rose $3.14, or 5 percent, to $62.06 after Tyson Foods emerged as the winner in a bidding war for meat processor.

Merck announced a deal to buy Idenix Pharmaceuticals for $3.85 billion, an acquisition that would give the pharmaceutical giant Idenix's array of treatments for hepatitis C. Idenix soared $16.56, or 229 percent, to $23.79.

Apple's stock rose $1.48 cents, or nearly 2 percent, to $93.77. That's after closing at $645.57 on Friday. The difference reflects Apple's 7-for-1 stock split, which gave every Apple stockholder six additional shares for every share they owned

In a disclosure filed to regulators late Friday, Carl Icahn said he and his affiliates have picked up a 9 percent stake in Family Dollar, a discount store, and plan to look for changes to boost the company's value. Family Dollar's stock jumped $8.09, or 13 percent, to $68.62.

Some investment analysts have been warning that the market is past due for a 10 percent drop, known as a "correction," because there hasn't been one since August 2011 — nearly three years. Since World War II, corrections typically hit every 18 months on average, according to S&P Capital IQ.

Jim Paulsen, the chief investment strategist at Wells Capital Management, said he wouldn't rule one out this year. But such a downturn requires the right environment, one in which investors get too greedy for their own good. Right now, he said, there's too much caution.

"It's going to take some time before people get so greedy that they're going to do stupid stuff and blow us up," Paulsen said.

In the market for U.S. government bonds, the yield on the 10-year Treasury edged up to 2.60 percent from 2.59 percent late Friday. Yields rise when bond prices fall. The price of oil rose $1.75 to $104.41 a barrel.

## The Q Line

**Fan of Tongva Park?**

The city of Santa Monica was recently honored with a Los Angeles Architectural Award honoring its work on Tongva Park, the city's newest park.

**So, this week's Q-Line question asks:**
Now that Tongva Park has been open for some time, what are your thoughts on the $42.3 open space and why?

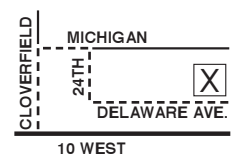
Contact **qline@smdp.com** before **Friday at 5 p.m.** and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. You can also call **310-573-8354**.



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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 Tuesday, **July 8, 2014** 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.

**PROJECT ESTIMATE: $285,000**
**CONTRACT CALENDAR DAYS: 60**
**LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $1,250**
**COMPENSABLE DELAY: $500 per Day**

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's Finance website at: http://www.smgov.net/planetbids/. The Contractor is required to have a **Class A or C12** 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 General Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.



File photo

**ADDING IT UP: Big Blue Bus is planning on adding 11 new buses to its fleet.**

# CONSENT
FROM PAGE 1

likely get $395,000 to build the plan.

### OIL AND WATER

City Hall's second largest drinking water aquifer, Olympic Well Field, has been impacted by contamination from several former-manufacturing facilities in the area. ICF International will likely get $1,732,500 to implement a plan for monitoring potential future contamination. City Hall monitors groundwater at 19 locations in the field, four times a year. They plan to install five more monitor wells. City Hall monitors the water carefully, city officials said in a report, and they believe they've found the primary contributors to the problem.

If they do find more contaminants, ICF can act quickly to identify the cause. ICF would work to make sure City Hall is appropriately compensated for the damages.

### ALLEYS

Six alleys need repaving and City Hall will likely pay All American Asphalt $543,944 to do the work. Fifth, Ninth, and 21st courts, along with Hill Place North, Pico Place North, and Pearl Place South will be repaved. They would remain in a functional condition for at least 10 years, city officials said.

### BEACH BATHROOMS

The construction company tasked with building the beach restrooms at 2400 Ocean Front Walk needs another $35,000 because they pulled out some asphalt to deal with problems involving underground telephone and power connections. Additionally, per a suggestion from the community, the bathrooms will now connect to the bike path, adding additional cost. They should be done this summer.

### WAREHOUSE

City Hall wants to renovate the Public Works warehouse, which was traditionally used for storage and has been closed since 2012. The renovation would provide space for City Hall's Print Shop, Facility Maintenance, and Architecture Services. DLS Builders is slated to get the project to the tune of $1,119,713. Currently, the Print Shop is located on Lincoln Boulevard in a space that's leased at $100,000 per year. Construction could begin in July and take about four months.

### WAGE MONITORING

City Hall relies on experts to make sure it's in compliance with local, state, and federal wage regulations. In order to continue to monitor the wages paid to construction workers on affordable housing projects, Comprehensive Housing Services will likely get $54,000.

### PLANNING CONSULTANT

Planning & Community Development is currently without an assistant director. City planners believe the position will be filled by August, but in the meantime Management Partners is filling in. City Hall has already paid nearly $100,000 for their services and, assuming council approval, they'll pay another $50,000.

### SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

The design firm tasked with planning the grant-funded overhaul of the area around Santa Monica High School needs an additional $15,000. The extra cash is required because the design now includes a traffic light and curb design not envisioned in the original project. The Safe Routes To School grant allows City Hall to make the area around the high school more pedestrian-friendly.

### EXPO STATION CONSULTING

AECOM, the consultants tasked with analyzing the area around the last stop of the incoming Expo Light Rail needs another $338,663 to look at the connectivity between Downtown and the Civic Center, which are separated by the Interstate 10 freeway.

"The success of the Downtown and Civic Center relies on the strength and connectivity of pedestrian, vehicle, bicycle and transit networks," city planners said in a report.

dave@smdp.com

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## SUIT
FROM PAGE 1

said in a statement. "I think our democracy thrives when everyone is encouraged to be civically engaged and speak their minds. I am afraid that the actions by the City of Santa Monica will discourage other community members, as well as Californians across the state, from getting involved and making a difference in their own communities, because they fear that government agencies may later retaliate against them."

Steven J. Kaplan, Riel's attorney, said that the contract was terminated because of a "legal campaign contribution she made in 2006."

Riel contributed to Santa Monica Coalition for a Livable City's (SMCLC) campaign against a proposed development, a campaign that also criticized current Mayor Pam O'Connor.

"Ms. Riel contends that the City of Santa Monica violated her First Amendment rights of free speech and association," Kaplan said in a statement, "by rescinding her employment contract because" of the contribution.

Noting that it is a personnel matter, City Manager Rod Gould has declined to comment on his reason for rescinding the offer. On Friday, he did release a statement explaining the importance of political neutrality in the position.

"The duties of the Communications and Public Affairs Officer are different from most other positions in that this person must interact with all members of the City Council, various community leaders, the media, other legislators and serve as the official spokesperson for City government," he said. "To have the trust of all involved, this person must be free of all political alliances."

Riel also contributed to Councilmember Kevin McKeown's campaign, something McKeown said he made apparent to Gould when he learned of her initial hiring. Gould, McKeown claims, said it wouldn't be a problem.

O'Connor told the Daily Press she "might have commented" to Gould on her experience with Riel but that she can't tell the city manager what to do.

Per McKeown's request, City Council will



RIEL

evaluate Gould's job during the closed session of Tuesday's meeting.

Riel was formerly a chair of the North of Montana Association. She's also worked in communication efforts for issues like marriage equality for gay and lesbian Americans, early childhood education, foster care adoption, and City Hall's Youth Wellbeing Report Card, according to Kaplan's statement.

In City Hall's initial announcement of Riel's hiring, Gould lauded her "deep understanding and commitment to Santa Monica," which he said resulted from "raising her family, consulting and volunteering in our fair city."

Kaplan's statement said the lawsuit would assert claims for breach of Riel's First Amendments rights of free speech and association, violation of a state code that, according to Kaplan "prohibits restrictions on the political activities of any municipal employee," and claims relating to City Hall's breach of her employment contract.

"The right to engage in civic activities, and the right to make political contributions, are among the most sacred rights we have as citizens, and go to the very heart of our democratic system," Kaplan said. "These are activities that should be encouraged by our government leaders. The City of Santa Monica's unlawful termination of Ms. Riel's contract was a blatant violation of those rights. Ironically, few people have done more to advance equality and fair treatment under the law for all Californians than Ms. Riel."

dave@smdp.com

## FUND
FROM PAGE 1

Chase Bank (Account # 3095918057) with a $1,000 donation. Bridges said anyone could make a donation to the account at any Santa Monica fire station. Checks can be mailed to SMFFF — Looney Family, 222 Hollister Ave., Santa Monica, Calif., 90405.

Bridges said he hoped the account would draw donations from around the local area and from the Looney's native Las Vegas.

"Our hope is that the community will get involved," he said. "We've already seen people all over the area and in California that have said they are touched by the incident."

He said the account information would also go out to Las Vegas media outlets with the hope that even more people will help.

matt@smdp.com

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# SURF REPORT




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## Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **68.1°**

TUESDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** Knee to chest high occ. 4ft
Continued South swell; long period new SSW swell builds in - some larger sets possible for select standouts in the PM; Modest NW windswell

WEDNESDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-4 ft** knee to shoulder high
Long period new SSW swell builds in - some larger sets possible for select standouts; Modest NW windswell

THURSDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-4 ft** knee to shoulder high
SSW swell continues - some larger sets possible for select standouts; Modest NW windswell

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 **June 4, 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 -- 41/ns
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 2/ns

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

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

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

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

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

Heal the Bay is a 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

## AUDIT

FROM PAGE 3

sions," Neilson said.

Established patients served by the Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System got an appointment with a primary care doctor an average of four days after their desired date. The Los Angeles system is the VA's largest and most complex.

Established patients served by the San Francisco and Fresno VA hospitals, on average, were able to get an appointment for primary care within one day of their desired date.

A similar trend occurred with access to specialty services and mental health care. New patients at times had difficulty accessing the system, but established patients were able to get appointments much more quickly. For example, new patients seeking mental health care through the Los Angeles VA waited an average of about 39 days, but for existing patients, it was about a two-day wait beyond the veteran's preferred date.

The controversy around patient wait times at the VA prompted Eric Shinseki to resign as the department's secretary on May 30. Shinseki took the blame for what he decried as a "lack of integrity" through the network. The audit report released Monday said 13 percent of VA schedulers reported supervisors telling them to falsify appointment dates to make waiting times appear shorter.

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**(310) 458-3924**

**X-Men: Days of Future Past (PG-13) 2hrs 10min**
4:00pm, 10:00pm

**Godzilla (PG-13) 2hrs 03min**
1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:15pm, 10:15pm

**X-Men: Days of Future Past in 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 10min**
12:45pm, 7:05pm

**Chef (R) 1hr 55min**
1:00pm, 3:45pm, 6:30pm, 9:30pm

**Blended (PG-13) 1hr 57min**
1:15pm, 4:00pm, 6:45pm, 9:45pm

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

**Maleficent (PG) 1hr 37min**
1:15pm, 6:45pm

**X-Men: Days of Future Past (PG-13) 2hrs 10min**
1:45pm, 7:45pm

**Maleficent 3D (PG) 1hr 37min**
11:00am, 4:00pm, 9:30pm

**Edge of Tomorrow (PG-13) 1hr 53min**
1:30pm, 9:15pm

**X-Men: Days of Future Past in 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 10min**
10:45am, 4:45pm, 10:30pm

**Edge of Tomorrow 3D (PG-13) 1hr 53min**
11:30am, 2:10pm, 4:50pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

**Million Ways to Die in the West (R) 1hr 56min**
11:15am, 2:00pm, 5:00pm, 8:00pm, 10:45pm

**Neighbors (R) 1hr 36min**
11:00am, 1:30pm, 4:00pm, 6:30pm, 10:45pm

**Fault in Our Stars (PG-13)**
11:30am, 2:45pm, 4:15pm, 6:00pm, 7:30pm, 9:15pm

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**Immigrant () 2hrs 00min**
1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:55pm

**We are the Best! (Vi ar bast!) (NR) 1hr 42min**
1:50pm, 4:40pm, 7:30pm, 10:10pm

**Night Moves (R) 1hr 52min**
1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

**Cold in July (NR) 1hr 49min**
1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 10:00pm

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

# GO WITH THE FLOW, CANCER

## ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Work with a partner as a team. Though at times you might feel bogged down, the benefits of this teamwork will allow you to indulge in unpredictability. In this case, it even could add to your strengths. Tonight: Go along with a suggestion.

## TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You might believe that you don't have any other choice, as you defer to someone else's ideas. You could be right, but your ideas and feedback count more than you realize. Make sure to return all your calls today. Tonight: As you like it.

## GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You'll have your hands full with what you must get done. You seem to be all smiles when facing a critical associate or a difficult challenge. Your confidence will carry you through a rough spot. Tonight: Know when to call it a night.

## CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Your optimism will carry you far and help you accept what might be nothing more than good luck. You know not to question a situation. You are likely to find that a loved one can be incredibly challenging. This, too, shall pass. Don't worry. Tonight: Go with the flow.

## LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ You might want to anchor in and have a long-overdue conversation. You could be more tired than you realize. A friendship will play a significant role in your plans. Your sixth sense will help you with a domestic matter. Tonight: Stay centered.

## VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Your words have a lot of power. Keep conversations moving. People you deal with daily seem to be communicating awkwardly right now. You could feel out of sorts until you hook up with friends. A meeting will prove to be important. Tonight: Catch up on emails.

## LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Someone you look up to could be seeing you in a far more positive light than how you see yourself. A conversation with this person will give you a better perspective. Detach from the more difficult aspects of your life. Tonight: Keep your budget.

## SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Your smile will melt away someone's resistance. You could become cold and distant later in the day, as you get further away from the positive vibes of the morning. Eventually, this coldness could rub off on others. Think before copping an attitude. Tonight: All smiles.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Much goes on behind the scenes that you might choose not to share with anyone. You could become a little withdrawn despite a friend's effort to draw you out and encourage you to view a situation in a new light. A loved one might be critical. Tonight: Not to be found.

## CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★★ Zero in on priorities in a meeting. You have a tendency to become too vested in the outcome of a situation. Recognize that you can't control others, and they might resent you for trying. Tonight: Respond to a loved one's request.

## AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You might be wondering what would be best to do with a difficult work-related situation. You need to recognize your limits when dealing with others. Know when to let events happen. You could be surprised by someone's reaction. Tonight: Work late.

## PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Reach out to someone at a distance. News that you have mixed feelings about could head your way. Remain upbeat in how you deal with the people involved, and hold back your initial reaction. Tonight: Get tickets to a concert, or listen to some great music.

**Tuesday, June 10, 2014**

This year you enter a period where you are more upbeat and more extroverted. Others enjoy your company and often seek you out. If you are single, your personality and charisma draw many people toward you. You could find that you have quite a choice of potential sweeties. If you are attached, the two of you enjoy each other's company more than ever. Plan on spending more time together to enhance your bond. SCORPIO tests your limits, but you can handle it.

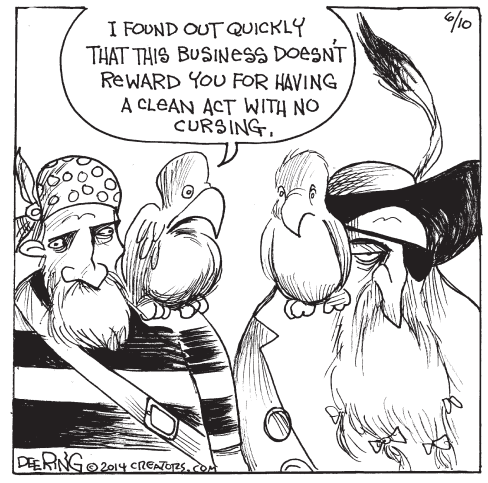
**JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS**
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

**INTERESTED IN YOUR DAILY FORECAST?**
Check out the HOROSCOPES above!
smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office **(310) 458-7737**

# 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 ★★

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

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

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

## DAILY POLICE LOG

**The Santa Monica Police Department responded to 364 calls for service on June 8.**

BELOW IS A SAMPLING OF THOSE CALLS CHOSEN BY THE SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS STAFF.

Fight on Wilshire Blvd. at 1:45 a.m.
Prowler on Stanford St. at 3:54 a.m.
Vandalism on Harvard St. at 4:55 a.m.
Auto burglary on Ashland Ave. at 7:01 a.m.
Auto burglary on 19th St. at 9:09 a.m.
Auto burglary on Pacific St. at 9:36 a.m.
Hit and run on Berkeley St. at 12:06 p.m.
Hit and run on Broadway at 12:32 p.m.
Vandalism on 21st. St. at 12:48 p.m.
Burglary on 10th St. at 1:02 p.m.
Auto burglary on 20th St. at 1:46 p.m..
Vandalism on Wilshire Blvd. at 2:15 p.m.
Traffic accident on Lincoln Blvd. at 2:52 p.m.
Public intoxication on 3rd St. at 4:46 p.m.
Drinking in public on Virginia Ave. at 5:32 p.m.
Identity theft on Olympic Dr. at 5:35 p.m.
Drinking in public in Palisades Park at 5:57 p.m.
Traffic accident on Palisades Beach Rd. at 6:44 p.m.
Auto burglary on 2nd St. at 7:19 p.m.
Vandalism on 23rd St. at 7:23 p.m.
Grand theft auto on Olympic Dr. at 7:24 p.m.
Petty theft on Pacific Coast Hwy. on 7:48 p.m.
Domestic violence on Neilson Way at 8:29 p.m.
Auto burglary on 4th St. at 9:21 p.m.
Hit and run on 23rd St. at 9:28 p.m.
Battery on 20th St. at 9:28 p.m.
Auto burglary on 2nd St. at 9:52 p.m.
Auto burglary on 4th St. at 9:52 p.m.
Suicide on Pico Blvd. at 11:08 p.m.

**YOUR OPINION MATTERS!** SEND YOUR LETTERS TO Santa Monica Daily Press • Attn. Editor: • 1640 5th Street, Suite 218 • Santa Monica, CA 90401 • **editor@smdp.com**



## 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**

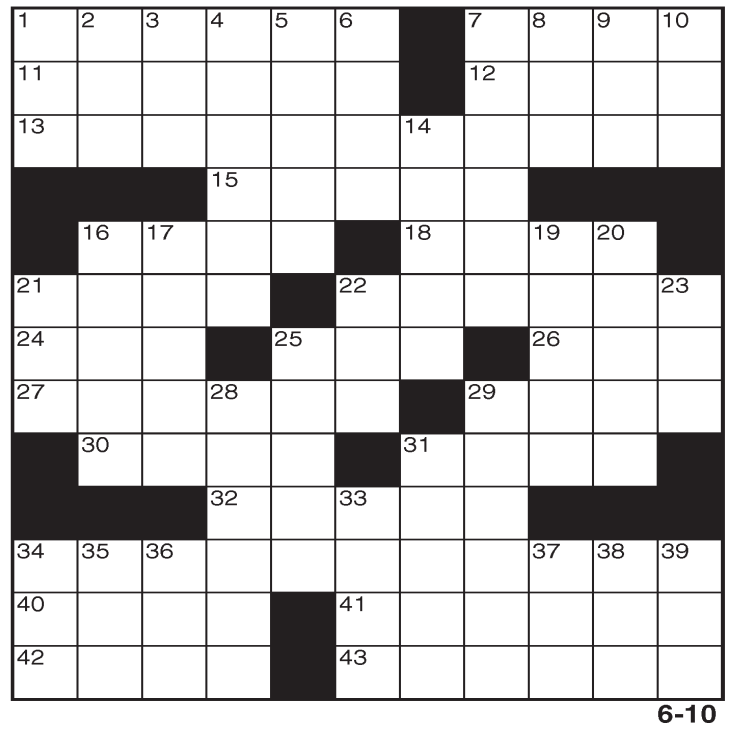
**ACROSS**
**1** Winter coats
**7** Went out, as a fire
**11** Look up to
**12** Border
**13** Louisa May Alcott book
**15** Thoroughly disgusted
**16** War god
**18** Storage building
**21** Ski-lift type
**22** React to a chill
**24** Ornate planter
**25** Cow chow
**26** Rink surface
**27** Supermarket worker
**29** Halt
**30** Brunch or dinner
**31** Rigging support
**32** Skiing site
**34** Henry James book
**40** Wheel connector
**41** Smitten
**42** Turn to liquid
**43** Did lab work

**DOWN**
**1** Golf goal
**2** Commotion
**3** Apt. units
**4** Sutherland of "24"
**5** Zodiac ram
**6** Mail
**7** Oracle setting
**8** Marrying words
**9** Sense of self
**10** 23-Down's rival
**14** Like some eyebrows
**16** Garfield's middle name
**17** Mountain group
**19** "Don't Cry for Me" singer
**20** Home design
**21** Soaking spot
**22** Put into words
**23** GOP member
**25** Christmas plant
**28** Long-eared hound
**29** Joins the bee
**31** Backbone
**33** Leave out
**34** River blocker
**35** Tin Man's prop
**36** Under the weather
**37** Place to park
**38** Second person
**39** Scarlet

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**Yesterday's answer**

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6-10

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A BEST FRIENDS ANIMAL SOCIETY INITIATIVE



## NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Jersey, administrative judge on trial for shoplifting two watches, called her psychiatrist to testify that Powers was under stress at the time of the incidents. The doctor said Powers was unaware of her actions "from one minute to the next," for the following 20 reasons: a recent auto accident, a traffic ticket, a new-car purchase, overwork, husband's kidney stones, husband's asthma (and breathing machine that occupies their bedroom), menopausal hot flashes, an "ungodly" vaginal itch, a bad rash, fear of breast and anal cancer, fear of dental surgery, son's need for an asthma breathing machine, mother's and aunt's illnesses, need to organize her parents' 50th wedding anniversary, need to cook Thanksgiving dinner for 20 relatives, purchase of 200 gifts for Christmas and Chanukah, attempt to sell her house without a real estate agent, lawsuit against wallpaper cleaners, purchase of furniture that had to be returned, and a toilet in her house that was constantly running. She was convicted anyway.

■ (1991 and before) Gary Arthur Medrow, 47, was arrested in March in Milwaukee (the latest of his then-30-plus arrests over 23 years) for once again causing mischief by telephoning a woman and trying to persuade her to physically pick up another person and carry her around a room. In the latest incident, after repeatedly calling, he told her another woman had been impersonating her, had been in an accident, and had been seen carrying someone away (and that Medrow needed evidence that she could or could not do that). He had previously talked cheerleaders, motel workers and business executives into lifting and carrying.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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~

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~

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Minimum 3 + 1.75
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