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JUNE 23-24, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 191

Santa Monica Daily Press

VOTERS REJECT TOBACCO TAX
SEE PAGE 3

We have you covered

THE SUMMER TIME ISSUE



Photo courtesy Doug Olmedo

BUSTED: **Police officers take a photo of a burglary suspect who was arrested last week. Stats show crime held fairly steady in 2011.**

Reported thefts down in '11

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY Crime in Santa Monica held mostly stable last year, with the largest decrease seen in reports of theft, according to statistics released by the Santa Monica Police Department.

The department reports the information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which put out its preliminary 2011 Uniform Crime Report this month.

The report, which will be finalized in September, compiles information on reported crimes from more than 18,000 city, university, college, county, state, tribal and federal law enforcement agencies to provide a snapshot of crime in the United States each year.

According to the preliminary figures, law enforcement across the country reported a decrease of 4 percent in the number of violent crimes reported in 2011 compared with 2010 figures.

Property crimes like burglary, theft and auto theft dropped less than 1 percent, and arson fell by 5 percent, according to the report.

Santa Monica doesn't have a population large enough to be included in the preliminary report, but the police department released figures to the Daily Press that it gave to the FBI for its calculations.

According to those numbers, most of the major categories of crimes in Santa Monica either held even or dropped from 2010.

Just as in last year, SMPD reported one murder to federal officials. Robberies decreased by almost 23 percent from 167 instances to 129, and aggravated assault ticked up only slightly from 212 reports in 2010 to 213 in 2011.

The largest drop came in thefts, which fell from 2,541 reports in 2010 to 2,299 in 2011.

Former Police Chief Timothy Jackman told the Daily Press in September 2011 that theft, particularly out of vehicles, was a real point of concern and would be a focus for his department in the coming year.

The news was not all sunshine and roses.

Motor vehicle thefts increased from 166 reports to 189 this year, and burglaries also increased by 72 reports or 17.4 percent.

The largest numerical increase, however, came in the category of forcible rape. According to statistics released this year, there were 24 reports of rape compared to 12 last year.

The large increase reflects a change in FBI policy announced by U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder in January that broadened the definition of "rape" used in compiling the crime statistics.

For the last eight decades that the FBI has released the Uniform Crime Report, it used a very limited definition of rape that read "the carnal knowledge of a female, forcibly and against her will."

That definition only included male on female violence, and only as a result of vaginal penetration.

The new definition includes victims or perpetrators of any gender. It also counts times when the victim is incapable of giving consent, be it a result of drugs, alcohol or age of consent.

ashley@smdp.com

Developer discounts may be lifted to fund affordable housing

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

KEN EDWARDS CENTER The Housing Commission Thursday expressed support to eliminate a discount on affordable housing fees awarded to developers who choose to build in some residential and commercial areas.

The fee applies to developers who build apartment projects or condominium projects and do not want to build affordable housing into the project or in an off-site location.

However, up until now, City Hall has

SEE FEES PAGE 8

Friends, family say goodbye to slain teen

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

MAR VISTA Friends and family of Lincoln Middle School student Maximillion "Baxter" Petrakos will gather Saturday at the Westside Vineyard Christian Fellowship in remembrance of the 13-year-old who was killed this month by an alleged drunk driver.

Maximillion, better known as Max by his classmates or Baxter by his church youth group, and his mother Mary Hively were standing on the right shoulder of the 60 Freeway by their disabled car at 12:40 a.m. on June 6 when they were struck by another car going 60 miles per hour.

Hively and her other son, Alexander Petrakos, who was sitting inside the broken down Toyota Corolla, were badly hurt in the wreck — Alexander Petrakos sustained fractures to the hips and legs and is in a wheelchair; Hively is still hospitalized and only recently moved out of the Intensive Care Unit.

Max Petrakos sustained fatal injuries as a result of the collision.

The car, which the California Highway Patrol reports was driven by Tina Marie Silva, 28, of Hacienda Heights, drove on.

SEE TEEN PAGE 9

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, June 23, 2012

Get shredding
Fire Training Tower at the City Yards
2500 Michigan Ave., 9 a.m. — 2 p.m.
If you're having trouble getting rid of unwanted items, drop them off with City Hall's Resource Recovery & Recycling Division. There, your old records, documents and obsolete electronics will be safely shredded and recycled. The event is free and is open to all Santa Monica residents. For more information, call (310) 458-2223

No sweat
Multipurpose Room,
Second Floor, Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
10:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.
If you've got a green thumb, check out this month's workshop, which will explain why "green" gardens require 60 percent less maintenance. Learn how to reduce your chores and increase your enjoyment — everything from pruning to prime mulches to pests and composts. Registration is not required. For more information, call (310) 458-8972.

Go fetch!
Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium,
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
2 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.
Join Dave Dreyfus, owner of EveryDog, for an interactive workshop as he discusses the merits of positive-based dog training. Learn how dogs pick up skills and behaviors. There will also be a Q&A session following the discussion. No pets allowed. For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

Be green
Multipurpose Room,
Second Floor, Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
2 p.m. — 4 p.m.
Learn how to live a green lifestyle by attending the Green Living Workshop, which will teach you how to reduce energy and water usage, cut landfill waste, reduce exposure to toxic chemicals while saving your money. To participate, sign up at www.sustainableworks.eventbrite.com. Admission is free.

Sing along
YMCA
Cayton Room Event
1332 Sixth St., 3 p.m. — 4:15 p.m.
The YMCA invites the community to join and see their Inter-generational Showcase, presenting violin, guitar, sing-along and more. For more information, call (310) 393-2721 ext. 129 or e-mail: lidiam@ymcasm.org. Registration in advance is required and the event is free.

Guitar lessons
Santa Monica College, Performing Arts Center, Room 103
1310 11th St., 10 a.m. — 3 p.m.
For those who don't have time to take weekly guitar lessons, this one-day class teaches students many guitar fundamentals, such as basic chords, simple strumming and picking patterns and songs. Students are required to bring their own acoustic guitar. Admission costs $79. For more information call (310) 434-3400.

Sunday, June 24, 2012

Soul live
Main Street
1 p.m. — 7 p.m.
Walk, bike or bus it to Main Street for the 12th annual Main Street Summer SOULstice celebration featuring live bands, food and shopping. Admission is free. Fun for the whole family. Sidewalk sales taking place both Saturday and Sunday. For more information, go to www.mainstreetsm.com/index.php

Shark sessions
Santa Monica Pier Aquarium
1600 Ocean Front Walk, 3:30 p.m.
Watch a shark-themed film and feed some at this weekly family-friendly educational session. Everyone is invited to make a shark craft project to take home. Get educated on this often misunderstood animal. For more information, call (800) HEAL-BAY.

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For help, contact Daniel Archuleta at
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For more information on any of the events listed,
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Calif. voters narrowly reject new tobacco tax

BY HANNAH DREIER
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. A California initiative to increase the tax on tobacco to pay for cancer research has failed by less than a percentage point after remaining too close to call for more than two weeks.

With about 5 million ballots cast, opponents of Proposition 29 led by about 28,000 votes. The Associated Press analyzed areas where the roughly 105,000 uncounted votes remain and determined Friday there were not enough places where "yes" was winning to overcome the deficit.

Cyclist Lance Armstrong, a cancer survivor, headed the plan to add $1 to the cigarette tax. Tobacco companies, led by Philip Morris, meanwhile pushed the opposition campaign, pouring millions of dollars into an advertising blitz that whittled away support. Polls showed approval peaked around two-thirds in March but fell dramatically in the weeks before the June 5 balloting.

On Friday, the Prop 29 was failing 50.3 percent to 49.7 percent.

Support for the initiative was strongest in the San Francisco Bay Area, while more conservative places like Southern California's Inland Empire opposed it.

Had the measure passed, Californians would still have paid only the 16th highest tobacco tax in the nation, at $1.87 per pack.

Proponents said they would be back.

"This came so close, I think this is worth another try," said Stan Glantz of the University of California, San Francisco's Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education. "I think it would be horrible if Philip Morris and Reynolds get away with this."

He suggested that cigarette tax supporters might turn to the Legislature, though lawmakers routinely reject attempts to raise tobacco taxes.

The opposition campaign will wait until all the votes have been counted before declaring victory, spokeswoman Beth Miller said.

Opponents of the measure raised $47 million to fight it, a huge sum even by California standards. By comparison, Jerry Brown spent about $36 million in his successful 2010 bid to become governor of California. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and his allies spent $47 million to beat back his recall challenge on June 5.

Armstrong and a coalition of anti-smoking groups raised about $12 million to bolster the measure, including $500,000 from

SEE TAX PAGE 8



Photo courtesy Main Street Merchants Association

CROWD GETS DOWN: **A youngster raises his fist in appreciation at last year's Main Street SOULstice event, which features live music, food and sales at boutiques. This year's event is Sunday, and it's free to attend.**

Starting summer off with some soul

BY MOLLY PHILBIN
Special to the Daily Press

MAIN STREET More than 15 live bands will rock Main Street this Sunday during the 12th annual Summer SOULstice event, which combines music, food and shopping.

"Rock the SOULstice" is the theme for the all-ages, free event intended to celebrate the official beginning of summer, according to the Main Street Business Improvement Association, which is putting on the event.

"[It] presents effective family time and it kicks off the summer feel here on Main Street," said Christina Norton, chair of the event committee and manager of the boutique Agabhumi: The Best of Bali.

The Main Street Santa Monica website (www.mainstreetsm.com/), which provides details on the event such as band performance times, included that SOULstice is the largest free music event on the Westside.

"There is a wonderful diversity of music at all the stages," Gary Gordon, executive director of the association, said.

Bands performing include Good Cop Bad Cop, Deep Soul Fusion and Helios Jive. Live music will begin at 1 p.m. and last until 7 p.m.

"This is our fourth or fifth year performing, and we've been really excited that they've continued to have us back," Helios Jive member Paul Newman said. "It's one of our favorite events."

Tourists and locals alike can enjoy food from local venders and listen to great music among a really fun — usually sunny — atmosphere, Newman said.

Although the event is primarily a music scene, Gordon said, there are other activities, including a kids activities area and a merchant tent city, as well as a two-day sidewalk sale that starts Saturday at 11 a.m.

The kids' activities area will be located on Hollister Avenue, east of Main Street, and will include a rock climbing wall, a bounce house, a Santa Monica Fire Department fire truck and the Santa Monica Police Department talking police car, Gordon said.

There will also be games and additional activities in the area from 11 a.m. — 5 p.m., organizers said.

"It should be pretty exciting," Gordon said.

This year the association received grants from City Hall and the Buy Local Campaign, and the event has more than 10 sponsors, including the Santa Monica Daily Press, organizers said.

Donations from sponsors — which are more generous this year than donations from the past two years — allowed the kids' activities area to be more prominent in the event, Gordon said.

Approximately 12 Main Street merchants will have booths at the merchant tent city in the Barcopa parking lot, across from sponsor Wildflour Pizza, according to the Main Street Santa Monica website.

Local businesses on Main Street, including Agabhumi, will be having specials and sales for the event this Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. — 7 p.m.

"People on the street love the sidewalk sales," said Norton. "[Agabhumi] has a summer markdown in celebration of the sale."

Stores participating in the sidewalk sale are listed on the Main Street Santa Monica website.

"It's my favorite day of the year," Norton said. "I'm looking forward to it."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Foul ball

Editor:

The firing of Samohi's baseball coach, Sheldon Philip-Guide, was done in a classless manner with no explanation of why he was fired ("Samohi parts ways with baseball coach," June 22). This is the second Samohi coach in a row fired because of suspected parent discontent.

Coach Philip-Guide has worked his butt off fundraising to improve the program, is a Samohi alumnus and has taken his team to CIF playoffs every year he has coached.

For the school administration to cave in to parent pressure, and give a coach no explanation of why he was fired, was spineless. There has to be an understanding that parents don't run or greatly influence a high school sports program. None of the other sports programs seem to have this problem. Why baseball?

Since the school administration cares so much about baseball parents' feelings, maybe they should let them choose the next coach.

Larry Arreola
Santa Monica

Trimming the fat

Editor:

Because of the vast quagmire our City Council is experiencing, I agree with the comment made to reduce spending across the board ("City Hall's five-year deficit hits $4.6M, May 18). Such an approach will prevent drastic cuts in any one area and the current economic pitfalls can be rectified without weakening unification.

I hope those against affordable housing never find the need for help, and will instead develop compassion for others. All are in the same societal existence that can inflict harm and injustice to many. Only corrective measures of righteousness will lead toward a better life for all.

Ethel Rubin
Santa Monica

Expression not dead

Editor:

Christmas, Hanukkah, the winter solstice and certainly New Year's Eve will all continue to be celebrated extensively in Santa Monica even though the City Council unanimously, and appropriately, voted to prohibit all unattended displays from being erected in Palisades Park ("Nativity scenes no longer allowed in Palisades Park," June 14).

Religious freedom, non-religious freedom and freedom of speech are still very much alive in Santa Monica.

Jerry Rubin
Santa Monica



Your column here

Sheldon Richman — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

How to get money out of politics

WATCHING THE TELEVISION PUNDITS fret over campaign finance is amusing because the solution to their problem is right under their noses. They just don't want to see it.

The pundits' favorite phrase that stands for everything evil in the political system is "Citizens United." That's the nonprofit corporation that sued the government in 2008 when it was told that commercials for its anti–Hillary Clinton documentary couldn't be shown close to a Democrat primary election without violating McCain–Feingold, the latest campaign-finance law. The case went to the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled that section of the law unconstitutional.

By the response, you'd have thought the heavens had fallen. Each day, cable television features commentators expressing their fears for the future of the republic: because of Citizens United, they say, billionaires can give huge contributions to super PACs to promote or denigrate candidates, as long as those efforts are not coordinated with an official campaign organization.

What a load of nonsense.

First, super PACs financed by wealthy individuals such as Newt Gingrich's former benefactor, Sheldon Adelson, were not made possible by Citizens United. That case was about corporations and unions, not individuals. Adelson is not a corporation. Therefore, before Citizens United he was free to give his money away to independent super PACs. As Wendy Kaminer points out in the Atlantic, the Supreme Court in 1976 held that individuals can give unlimited contributions to independent political organizations during election campaigns. Thus the claim that Citizens United overturned 100 years of law is just wrong. True, 100 years ago direct corporate contributions to candidates for national office were outlawed. But Citizens United doesn't change that. It deals with independent expenditures. Period.

Moreover, Kaminer writes, "as recent reports have made clear, individual donors, not corporations, are the primary funders of super PACs." So if you don't like the prominent role of super PACs in the presidential campaign, don't blame Citizens United. Had the case gone the other way, it would have made little difference.

Opponents of super-PAC campaign financing ridicule the idea that super PACs are really independent. Here they have a point. Let's face it, those organizations wouldn't have to meet face-to-face with a candidate or campaign manager to coordinate their efforts. It would be obvious to anyone running a PAC what message would best promote a candidacy and what message wouldn't. So the idea of independence does seem like a joke.

But so what? These critics claim they value freedom of speech and association. So why can't the people who run super PACs talk to the people who run the campaigns they are promoting? In fact, why can't donors give all the money they want directly to the candidates and parties of their choice?

The only reason we have super PACs is that, many years ago, Congress put limits on how much money people may give directly to national political campaigns. But why is that considered a proper restriction? In an open society, people should be free to do anything peaceful; giving to political campaigns is peaceful, therefore, government should not restrict, much less outlaw, unlimited contributions.

OPPONENTS OF SUPER-PAC CAMPAIGN FINANCING RIDICULE THE IDEA THAT SUPER PACS ARE REALLY INDEPENDENT. HERE THEY HAVE A POINT.

But, say the opponents of campaign finance (who support forced taxpayer finance of campaigns), we can't have wealthy people buying elections, because that would undermine democracy. The superficial response to this claim is that the better-financed candidate doesn't always win, and that voters don't robotically vote for the candidate with more television commercials.

There's a better response, however, and it's the one the campaign-finance opponents don't want to hear. As long as government has the power to sell privileges, people will spend big bucks to influence elections. The wealthy and well connected will always have better access to government than regular people.

So if you want money out of politics, deny government the power to dispense privileges. No one can buy where there's nothing for sale.

But this is only the beginning of the good news. Not only would stripping government of this power reduce the role of money in politics, it would also move us toward a free society. We have no right to call ourselves free as long as the government can bestow favors at the expense of taxpayers.

SHELDON RICHMAN is senior fellow at The Future of Freedom Foundation (www.fff.org) and editor of The Freeman magazine.





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The Q Line

What's next?

Now that the City Council has banned holiday displays in Palisades Park, it leaves supporters at a loss as to what to do next.

This past week, Q-line asked:
How should the scenes be displayed now that they can't be placed in the park?

Here are your responses:

"WHAT DO YOU MEAN, 'HOW SHOULD the scenes be displayed?' now that the right decision has been made to get rid of them? At long last. Let them die a natural death, and let that be that. Why beat a dead horse? Go to a church or house of worship during the Christmas season and see decently rendered scenes of the nativity. Or even go to a museum and view some beautiful paintings and sculpture. Why settle for these awful profanations that lasted too long as it was?"

"I JUST LOVED [MY] MOVE TO SANTA Monica years ago. I thought, well with a name like Santa Monica, what could go wrong? But — a big but — this city is becoming another corrupted Babylon. … This is the last straw. After reading the paper this morning, of the city's decision to let out-of-town atheists not to have the nativity of our Jesus at Christmas any longer. Santa Monica is going to drown in the ocean. We are very sad. We'll move out."

"I DIDN'T CARE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER about the public holiday displays. Like anyone else, I was free to admire or ignore them. I experienced them as ads, which I also ignore. That said, I think that, for once, the City Council did the right thing. I suspect this is because the religious organizations, to their credit, abstained from employing the usual procedure for getting a 'yes' from those members who always vote as a block. Religious groups are free to put up displays on their own grounds, as are home owners who wish to do so."

"YES, I THINK IT'S DIABOLICAL THAT they do not allow the religious sayings to be displayed at Palisades Park. I'm just absolutely bamboozled. I'm a member of Pilgrim Lutheran Church, and I just think it's bloody awful. Diabolical."

"I WOULD LIKE THEM THERE, BUT IF THEY can't be I don't want them anywhere because the council people sided with the atheist, and he wasn't even from Santa Monica. Who is he to tell us what we can do and what we can't do, and these people siding with him. I don't care where they put it, I don't want them putting it anywhere. Fold it up and forget about it. We had that for all of 60 years until this man came in and messed everything up. I'm all through with that."

"THERE'S NO SHORTAGE OF CHURCHES IN Santa Monica. They can have their own religious displays on their own tax-exempt property."

"THE SCENES SHOULD BE DISPLAYED ON the displayer's own private property, be it a church or temple or whatever."

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"THE WEALTHY ROMAN CATHOLIC Church should step forward and fund a prominent location on Wilshire Boulevard to display the holiday scenes. It has spent many millions of dollars to settle the immoral and illegal sexual misdeeds of its priests. This would be a relatively small expense."

"THE PEOPLE WANT THE SCENES UP? They should defy the idiots on the City Council and put them up anyway. Coordinate to get them up in the middle of the night all at once. There should be a few retired military folks who would be willing to help. The military is known for getting things done in a hurry if needed. Once the scenes are up, dare the City Council to tear them down. To be fair, leave room for the Jews to put up their menorah if they want. Teach the politicians a lesson on who is the boss — the people, not the politicians."

"I, FOR ONE, AM GLAD A PUBLIC PARK will not be used for these displays. I've always been uncomfortable with them. As to a solution, have you heard of progressive dinners where guests go from one house to another for each course of a meal? Why don't the church leaders get together to develop a progressive drive to each house of worship where different displays are located? Maybe even get horse-drawn carriages to transport groups. Charge a fee and give the proceeds to homeless services."

"THE NATIVITY DISPLAY IS TO BE PLACED exactly where it has been for almost 60 years — on our God's land — and for all the people who come from all over the world to see the nativity display every year. Shame on the City Council and the atheists. No matter what, you have to have respect for life. Don't act so immature. Read the Bible. You never know, you might change your mind. We'll pray for you. God loves you. Peace and joy."

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GOP blocked from California pension reform vote

BY JUDY LIN
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. While Democrats announced a budget agreement with Gov. Jerry Brown, Republican lawmakers in Sacramento were blocked this week from bringing public pension reform for a vote.

GOP lawmakers said next week is the last chance the Legislature has to adopt a constitutional amendment in order to place a measure on the November ballot. They pushed a vote Thursday in the Senate on the governor's proposals but were blocked by Democrats.

"The people of California deserve an iron-clad constitutional guarantee that the Legislature won't simply unwind future reforms our state so badly needs," Sen. Bill Emmerson, R-Hemet, said on the Senate floor.

Senate Democratic leader Darrell Steinberg said Democrats were busy with the state budget. He said the majority party plans to take up and modify Brown's proposals for a hybrid pension system.

"We will meet the governor's 12 principles," Steinberg said in a briefing with reporters.

Brown has proposed an extensive pension-reform plan to raise the retirement. It includes increasing the retirement age to 67 for new, non-public safety employees and having local and state government workers pay more toward their pensions and retiree health care.

Brown's proposal also would put new workers in a hybrid plan that includes 401(k)-style accounts.

"Examine it. Improve it. But please take up the issue and do something real. I am committed to pension reform because I believe there is a real problem," Brown said in his January State of the State Address.

Reform advocates are hoping to build momentum for statewide reform after voters in San Diego and San Jose overwhelmingly approved ballot measures to roll back municipal retirement benefits for current and future employees. But Democrats who control the Legislature have not acted on the governor's proposal since he introduced it eight months ago.

The California Public Employees Retirement System, the nation's largest public pension fund, runs a $228.5 billion pension system for more than 1.6 million state employees, school employees and local government workers. The total is down from $251.4 billion in 2007. The system has an unfunded liability of around $85 billion.

The $146.8 billion California State Teachers' Retirement System manages a fund for more than 600,000 active and retired teachers and has about $64.5 billion in unfunded liabilities.

Lawmakers have been focused on allocating resources and closing a $15.7 billion budget gap, and that should be separated from tough policy discussions on public pension, said Fred Silva, senior fiscal adviser at California Forward, a bipartisan group of business and political leaders that is seeking solutions to the state's fiscal and political problems.

"You've got to get this spending plan through, and in this case the Democrats did it because they have a majority vote," Silva said.

Steinberg said Republicans chose not to trade pension changes in exchange for putting a tax hike measure on a statewide ballot. "Last year they blew a golden opportunity to negotiate a comprehensive agreement with the governor because of their anti-tax position," he said.

Republicans said they were ready to make the deal, but the governor backed out because of pressure from union interests.

Calif. to act on mortgage protections

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. Democrats who control California's Legislature have come up with a new plan to regulate the state mortgage industry that gives homeowners more leverage against their lenders.

The draft legislation, provided Friday to The Associated Press, would bar banks from foreclosing on homes while loan modifications are pending, let homeowners sue mortgage providers who break state law and require lenders to provide a single point of contact to borrowers.

The plan is an extension of a national settlement that imposed new restrictions on the five largest U.S. banks. Under the bill, which a special legislative committee will consider next week, all California lenders that process more than 175 foreclosures per year would have to adhere to the new regulations.

Previous efforts to reform California's mortgage industry have stalled amid stiff opposition from banks and other lenders, and from Republicans and moderate Democrats who were concerned more sweeping restrictions might raise borrowing costs and further stall the recovery of the state housing market. The latest plan came after weeks of negotiations.

Sen. Ron Calderon, a moderate Democrat from Monterey Park who opposed the original legislation, now supports the compromise after helping negotiate key concessions. The changes include giving lenders the chance to fix problems before consumers can file lawsuits, limiting costly nuisance lawsuits, and exempting small lenders from some of the requirements.

"We focused mainly on two principles: fair treatment of borrowers and keeping California's economy on track," Calderon said. "I think that we struck a very good balance."

The package would:

— Let homeowners sue mortgage providers if they violate state law, but only if there is a significant violation. Homeowners could ask judges to halt pending foreclosures but could collect monetary damages only if the foreclosure took place. Lenders would be liable for triple damages if they engage in willful, reckless or intentional violations.

— Give lenders a chance to fix problems with individual borrowers on their own before they can be penalized — a key demand by the banking industry.

— Require lenders to provide a single point of contact for borrowers who want to discuss foreclosures or refinancing, with an exemption for smaller lenders.

— Ban what are known as "dual-track foreclosures" by barring lenders from filing notices of default, notices of sale, or conducting trustees' sales while they are also considering alternatives to foreclosures like loan modifications or short sales.

— Increase penalties for banks that sign off on foreclosures without properly reviewing the documentation, a process known as robo-signing. But the $7,500 civil penalty would be limited to one for each loan.

Expert: Poor plan led to Calif. cop-on-cop shooting

BY GREG RISLING
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Knowing that one of their officers was having sex with a 17-year-old Explorer program member, police in the central coast city of Santa Maria hatched a plan to immediately arrest him after he indicated he would rather kill himself than go to jail.

Use-of-force experts are split on whether that decision was the right call. The result was fatal shooting of the officer by a colleague while on duty at a DUI checkpoint.

Although local prosecutors deemed the shooting legally justified this week, it is the subject of a pair of independent investigations that will examine the department's response.

"In order to minimize the potential of serious injury or death, this is the worst plan they could have come up with by confronting him at the scene with the information they had," said William Flynn, a retired lieutenant with the West Covina Police Department. "This simply didn't have to happen," said Flynn, who reviewed an 18-page report about the shooting.

Officer Matt Kline, a five-year veteran, killed Officer Alberto Covarrubias early Jan. 28 as two sergeants tried to wrestle a loaded handgun from him. Covarrubias fired a round before being shot.

Kline was not only a friend of Covarrubias, he had been best man at his wedding weeks earlier.

The shooting rocked Santa Maria, a city of 100,000 in an agricultural region about 150 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

Covarrubias, part of a 112-officer force, was under investigation for having sex with a teenage girl who was part of the Explorer program, which gives young people the opportunity to explore a career in law enforcement. They go on ride-alongs, and learn to write reports and direct traffic to get a taste of a law enforcement career.

Police used a ruse by having the girl call Covarrubias and tell him she might be pregnant with his child. Covarrubias asked the girl to deny they had sex and said he would kill himself before facing the prospect of going to jail.

"Based on the information at hand, it was decided it was necessary to act immediately and arrest the officer," the Santa Barbara County district attorney's office said in the report.

One factor made the situation even more tenuous: Covarrubias was aware police were investigating an undisclosed incident involving an Explorer and suspected the probe was focused on him and the teenage girl.

"If I get caught I'm done," Covarrubias texted the girl the night before the shooting, according to the report. He added, "Let's not worry."

Flynn said instead of formulating a plan to isolate Covarrubias, Santa Maria police tried to arrest him on duty at the DUI checkpoint where there were other armed officers unaware of what was going on. Flynn said police had various options at their disposal, including waiting until Covarrubias had returned to the station.

"In this situation they needed to de-escalate it, but in my opinion they did nothing but escalate it," he said. "They are lucky no other officers were injured."

Gregory D. Lee, a criminal justice consultant and retired supervisory special agent for the Drug Enforcement Administration, said because Covarrubias saw his life crumbling, police had to make the arrest sooner than later.

"They thought it was time-critical," Lee said. "You don't know how people are going to react to certain situations. I think they used their best judgment at the time."

City Manager Rick Haydon said there are two parallel independent investigations that will look at how police handled the incident. One is being handled by two retired law enforcement officers as part of an internal affairs investigation. The other will be conducted by the Office of Independent Review, a Los Angeles County law enforcement watchdog agency.

Haydon declined to comment further about the prosecutor's report on the shooting, only to say it was comprehensive and "very detailed."

Kline remains on paid administrative leave.

Covarrubias's family has filed a claim, a precursor to a lawsuit, against the city of Santa Maria. The family's attorney, Gil Alvandi, said his office is conducting its own investigation and he disagrees that the fatal shooting was justified.

"We feel that the investigation was conducted with a predetermined outcome clearing the city and its officials of any wrongdoing," Alvandi said. "The attempt to protect officials at the highest levels of the police department is blatant and unacceptable."

Alvandi pointed out there were roughly a dozen instances where police brass showed concern with the plan to arrest Covarrubias but it went ahead anyway in a "reckless and haphazard manner."

One of the sergeants who tried to get the gun away from Covarrubias, who happened to be his cousin, questioned before the shooting why they had to make the arrest that night. A lieutenant responded that Covarrubias may be suicidal and wasn't going to be taken alive, according to the report.

"This is about the worst case scenario you can come up with," Lee said. "It's 'Peyton Place.' It's a mess."

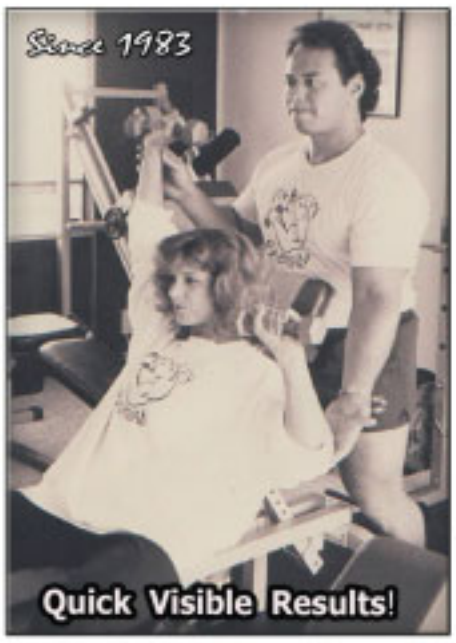
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FEES
FROM PAGE 1

given developers a discount on the fees they pay to produce affordable housing when they build either in commercial zones or on vacant properties in residential zones.

That can equate to major savings because the rate is cut by 50 percent for multi-family housing built in commercial districts and 25 percent in residential.

Those savings come on top of the fact that it's already considered cheaper to pay the in-lieu fee for affordable housing than actually build it into the project or in an off-site location.

Though the goal was to increase the amount of housing production where housing didn't already exist, it didn't work out that way, said James Kemper, a housing administrator with City Hall.

Developers didn't seem to be taking the discount into account when they built, since over half of development was taking place on properties that already had multi-family housing.

"We were giving them an undeserved discount and not collecting much-needed money that's otherwise due from the developer," Kemper said.

The fees equate to $27.35 per square foot in an apartment development and $31.94 per square foot for a condominium development.

City Hall uses the money to finance affordable housing production in Santa Monica.

Using market rate developments to help pay for lower-income housing makes sense because the more expensive homes tend to bring in high-income tenants or buyers who then need services provided by lower-income individuals, Kemper said.

Money to build affordable housing or leverage loans for affordable housing is in tight supply.

Gov. Jerry Brown and the Legislature created bills that ended institutions called redevelopment agencies in California. Those entities took property taxes and used them to fix infrastructure, build parks and remove blight.

However, 20 percent of their money was required to go toward affordable housing. Santa Monica's Redevelopment Agency contributed between 75 and 80 percent of the money used to create affordable housing in the city, Kemper said.

With that gone, leaving any money on the table seems like a bad idea, particularly when Santa Monica is struggling to meet its goals for affordable housing production.

According to a staff report, City Hall did not meet a requirement set down by Santa Monica voters in 1990 that 30 percent of all multi-family housing built between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011 be affordable.

While that could change in coming years when major projects like the Village, with its 160 affordable units, come online, the loss of redevelopment money raises concern that Santa Monica will not have the money to meet its obligations.

However, raising fees on private development may not be the best way to ensure the creation of affordable housing, said Mike Winn, president and CEO of the California Building Industry Association, a lobbying organization for builders in the state.

"It's generally ironic," Winn said. "As cities try to balance budgets or offset costs on the backs of new construction in related fees or new charges, it ends up being unproductive to redevelopment policy."

New fees often get passed to the consumer, although the weak housing market may buffer buyers from the full effects of those charges, Winn said.

A "compromise solution" that the industry is backing is a bill proposed by state Sen. Mark DeSaulnier (D-San Ramon) that would levy a $75 fee on real estate documents to provide a permanent source for affordable housing.

The bill is estimated to create several hundred million dollars every year for affordable housing development.

It's one thing that builders and affordable housing advocates agree on, although they look to the private sector to cough up support as well.

There are certainly limits to the amount a municipality can charge in affordable housing fees, said Brian Augusta, a legislative advocate for the Western Center on Law & Poverty, but "we haven't hit it yet."

"As we look at the continued need for affordable housing in this state, it's fair to look at all sectors to meet that need," Augusta said. "We create low-wage jobs, we need low-wage housing for low-wage workers to live in."

The City Council will take up the issue on June 26.

ashley@smdp.com

TAX
FROM PAGE 3

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

In a statement Friday, Lance Armstrong Foundation President Doug Ulman framed the issue as one of life and death.

"The defeat of this life-saving initiative is a genuine tragedy," he said. "Big Tobacco lied to voters to protect its profits and spent $50 million to ensure it can continue peddling its deadly products to California kids."

While raising the price of tobacco is a proven way to reduce smoking rates, especially in young people, campaign ads sponsored by tobacco companies focused on pocketbook issues. The ads noted money would be raised in California through the tax but wouldn't necessarily stay in the state for research. The campaign also raised the specter of an out-of-control bureaucracy that would be set up to oversee collection and distribution of the money.

The strategy didn't just stir doubt in the minds of voters.

Several major newspapers, including The Los Angeles Times, opposed the measure while expressing general support for such sin taxes and reluctance to side with tobacco companies. They argued that the revenue should go directly to the state, which now faces a $15.2 billion deficit.

The result was reminiscent a 2006 California cigarette tax measure that led by wide margins in early polling until tobacco companies spent $66 million to defeat it with ads featuring physicians.

It was unclear Friday whether the failure of Prop 29 constituted the narrowest defeat of a statewide ballot measure in California's history. Previously, the closest vote in the past two decades was on school bond measure 1B in 1994, which failed 49.6 percent to 50.4, according to Secretary of State spokeswoman Shannan Velayas. The second closest was another tobacco tax measure, which passed 50.5 percent to 49.5 percent in 1998.

California was once at the forefront of smoking restrictions and taxes, but the famously health-conscious state has not raised tobacco taxes since 1998.

Missouri voters are expected to weigh in on a tobacco tax increase in November and similar taxes are working their way through the legislative process in the Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Illinois.

The overwhelming majority of recent tobacco taxes across the nation have been approved in statehouses, not at the polls.

TEEN

FROM PAGE 1



PETRAKOS

Officers later arrested Silva, who faces charges of murder, gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated and leaving the scene of an accident.

Silva is currently in jail awaiting arraignment on July 23. Her bail is $1.2 million. She has a previous conviction for driving under the influence (although not above the legal maximum of .08 blood alcohol content) from 2009.

Willie Herath, Petrakos' youth pastor at Vineyard Christian Fellowship, heard the news of Petrakos' death while supervising an outing at the beach.

"I got a phone call from his aunt, and I just started bawling," Herath said.

Petrakos had joined the youth group months before the accident, but in his short time there he had a profound impact on the other middle school students in the group and on Herath.

Petrakos was not a believer when his aunt, Brenda Petrakos, first dropped him off at the Vineyard Christian Fellowship, and he approached the religious group with caution.

His uniform of dark clothing and fedora set him apart from not just the group but almost any subset of his peers, something those who came to know him would describe in one way: "That's Baxter."

"He was fringe-y for a month, more listening than engaging," Herath said.

Whatever he thought about the biblical and spiritual material at hand, Petrakos was thoughtful and respectful during the youth group's discussions. In lighter moments another side of Petrakos came out.

Since the age of 7, Petrakos was a comedian and a writer. He penned his first television show between the ages of 7 and 9, and would frequently come to open mic nights to perform stand-up comedy routines, said Brenda Petrakos.

Some of his routines are immortalized on the video-sharing site YouTube, as is a video posted less than two weeks before he died in which he sings the song "Hallelujah."

"He was an outstanding person," Brenda Petrakos said. "He was shockingly creative."

That energy and creativity shone at the Vineyard youth group events, where Petrakos was warmly embraced as the amusing, mature member that put people at ease.

"He was funny, joking. He would say something totally outrageous and then he would do it," said Devin, a member of the youth group.

Nobody believed the young man was only in seventh grade, many mistaking him for an eighth grader or high school student.

Petrakos was reserved until a meeting five weeks before the car crash when he experienced what the group calls "the epiphany."

He jumped up and exclaimed, "I got it!" a moment Herath describes as "the most joyful moment in my youth ministry."

After that, Petrakos was still the nice guy he was before, but with a purpose, said another member of the group, Brian.

"He decided he was going to live every day that way," Brian said.

And he did, said Drake, a middle school-aged girl in the group.

On Saturday, family, friends and community members are welcome to attend Petrakos' memorial service, to be held at 6 p.m. at the Vineyard Christian Fellowship at the corner of Centinela Avenue and Venice Boulevard.

Herath will give a eulogy, and the Lincoln Middle School Choir will perform. A presentation including video and photographs will be shown, and then the group will open up the mic to those who want to speak.

Brenda Petrakos hopes that those attending will remember his artistic works, and walk away with the feeling that he is still present through his art and the love he had for others.

"He still exists in his art and in his being," Brenda Petrakos said. "In the love that he wanted to share, he still exists. His family exists."

And while the community celebrates the dead, they have also remembered the living.

Donations are coming in from the Santa Monica community and around the world to help defray the costs of the funeral, Brenda Petrakos said.

Support for the trust fund has been "overwhelming," but Brenda Petrakos still faces uncertain costs for healthcare for Alex Petrakos, who hasn't been able to see a doctor since he was released from the hospital for insurance reasons, and Hively, who is still hospitalized, she said.

The consequences of that accident has devastated the Petrakos family, and Brenda Petrakos is enraged by the fact that someone let Silva get behind the wheel that night.

"Any child being sacrificed is tragic. This particular situation could have been averted," Brenda Petrakos said. "My baby could have lived. He could have been a film director like he wanted to. He could have produced art that could have changed the lives of other people. Instead, [his] was cut short."

ashley@smdp.com











Tour De Feast

Michael Ryan
Send comments to editor@smdp.com



Photo courtesy Jackson Myers

SO SO: **Nikki's beach bar in Venice, Calif. has a great happy hour, but the food isn't quite as nice.**

Beggars can't be choosers

BIKING UP AND DOWN THE STRAND IS a way of life here in Santa Monica. Meeting up with friends for drinks to watch the NBA Finals in neighboring Venice, well that's just a bonus. Right off the Venice Boardwalk on a small side street lays home to Nikki's. Unassuming on the outside, the inside is open, modern and pretty trendy.

Nikki's has a popular happy hour, add in a big time basketball game, and before you know it the place is packed. The service was friendly, but more in an apologetic way for being completely overwhelmed. Even before the game started there was a single server on the floor futilely trying to accommodate the happy hour crowd. Once the game started help arrived, but they were inevitably engulfed in a hoard of fair-weather Miami Heat fans.

The food is essentially standard bar fare. Burgers, chicken sandwiches, salads, wings, and apps, were all listed. The tortilla chips we ordered were the red, white and green variety. Multicolored chips hint store bought and have the same level of authenticity of an airport terminal's "Cantina."

The "BBQ Bacon Char Burger" lived up to its charred name, being left on the grill for one too many minutes. The patty was also packed way too tight, making for a very dense burger. My friend did not fair much better with his Buffalo chicken sandwich, deeming the topping of coleslaw as "hopelessly mayonnaisey."

The saving grace: Nikki's seemed to have their beverage situation under control. They offer a full bar, as well as a very good selection of beers, wines, and even champagne. (Just in case you want to pop open a $225 bottle of Dom Pérignon, you have that option.) Nikki's also offers 10 or so specialty drinks, including mojitos, spiked lemonades, and margaritas, all made with top shelf libations.

Nikki's service is sluggish, the fare is fair, and the noise levels are through the roof. Apparently the wall to wall crowds of people didn't get the memo, or more so they don't care. Nikki's does indeed have one of the best happy hours on the boardwalk — 50 percent off select drinks and appetizers every day of the week from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. As for the slow service, that is what the bucket of beers was made for. And average at best food tastes much better when you have been day drinking up and down the strand as half the crowd in there seemed to be doing. As for the music blasting so loud that you can't hear the person next to you, that's just how the kids do things these days.

If you go

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MICHAEL can be seen riding around town on his bike burning calories so he can eat more food, or on CityTV hosting his own show, "Tour de Feast." To reach him visit his website at tourdefeast.net or follow him on Twitter @TourDeFeastSM.

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Photo courtesy Google Images

OVERDOSE: **All that sugar can't be good for the teeth, or the waistline.**

NYC ban on big sodas could face legal test

BY SAMANTHA GROSS
Associated Press

NEW YORK If New York City bans big sodas, what's next on the list? Large slices of pizza? Double-scoop ice cream cones? Tubs of movie-theater popcorn? The 16-ounce strip steak?

The proposed crackdown on super-sized drinks could face a legal challenge from those who oppose the first-in-the-nation rule and fear the city isn't going to stop with beverages.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg wants to bar restaurants, movie theaters, sports arenas, food carts and delis from selling sodas and other sugary drinks in servings larger than 16 ounces, saying it is a way to fight obesity in a city that spends billions of dollars a year on weight-related health problems.

Whether that's legal, though, is a matter of dispute and may be tested.

"We're going to look at all of our options to protect our business, our rights to do business and our rights not to be discriminated against. We won't take anything off the table," said Steve Cahillane, a senior executive with Coca-Cola.

The city Board of Health, appointed by the mayor, is expected to approve the measure after a three-month comment period. It could take effect as early as March, unless the critics who accuse Bloomberg of instituting a "nanny state" can get the courts or state lawmakers to step in.

It's not just businesses and industry groups that could sue. In theory, any individual affected by the ban could bring a legal challenge.

But it wouldn't be enough to simply claim that the ban infringes on personal freedom, said Rick Hills, a New York University law professor specializing in local government law and New York City.

While Bloomberg administration officials say they have no plans to move against solid foods, any local government could ban red meat — or even all animal products — without violating a person's right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, Hills argued.

"The court has never struck down a health measure that was designed to protect people from unsafe diets or unsafe foods," he said. Whether the ban is on rat poison or on sugar, government is allowed to protect people from themselves, he said.

And Hills said that opponents would have to do more than argue that the law affects one source of sugar more than others. Courts, he said, have repeatedly ruled that the government can try to eradicate societal ills one step at a time.

Rob Bookman, an attorney who has represented the New York Restaurant Association, predicted opponents will argue that the city Health Department is overstepping its authority and infringing on federal or state power.

He said the sugary-drink rule would set a dangerous precedent: If the ban is within the city's rights, then there's nothing to prevent, for example, a prohibition on the 16-ounce New York strip steak, he suggested.

"We have one federal Food and Drug Administration that determines what products are legal or not legal, or safe for consumption or not safe for consumption," he said. "We cannot have 30,000 or so localities around the country being their own FDAs" without killing the national food industry.

At a Board of Health meeting this week, members seemed to suggest they would, in fact, welcome more expansive measures. Board member Bruce Vladeck asked why the city wasn't considering portion-size limits for buttery movie theater popcorn.

"The popcorn isn't a whole lot better from the nutritional point of view," he said.

In a statement, Health Department spokeswoman Alexandra Waldhorn said the Board of Health's responsibilities include "the control of chronic disease and food service establishments." She added: "Limiting the portion size of sugary beverages served at New York City restaurants is a valid exercise of these authorities."

New York has passed other regulations aimed at making food sold in the city healthier. In 2006, it became the first major city to ban the use of artificial trans fats in restaurant cooking. The ban was not challenged in court, according to the Health Department. And many other cities followed suit.

In 2008, New York city health officials passed a regulation requiring many chain restaurants to post calories on menus. A federal judge rejected a challenge from the restaurant industry, which argued that the rule violated the First Amendment right to free speech by forcing restaurants to "convey the government's message regarding the importance of calories."

Bennett Gershman, a constitutional law professor at Pace University, argued that the ban on big sugary drinks would run afoul of the U.S. Constitution's Commerce Clause.

Local governments "can't pass laws that do impose burdens on the free flow of commerce between states," he said. "If it is too much of a burden, the Supreme Court says that states can't do it. Only Congress can impose burdens on commerce. States can't."

Gershman suggested the measure would impose a burden by requiring out-of-state companies to produce different size drink containers and offer different services for customers in New York.

But Hills scoffed at that line of reasoning, saying the courts have generally accepted such an argument only in regard to transportation rules that might, for example, prevent some trucks from driving across state lines.



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In these tough economic times many people are finding themselves out of work, sometimes for the first time in their lives. More than three million Americans are fired each year. After the initial shock of being fired has worn off, the practicalities of having to navigate the unemployment insurance system come into sharp focus.

Generally, you are entitled to unemployment benefits if you are unemployed through no fault of your own, for example, if you were laid off, fired for a reason other than misconduct, or quit your job for good reason. Once the Employment Development Department (EDD) has received your application for benefits, it usually conducts a telephone interview with you, and also with your employer, to find out why you were fired.

Unfortunately, some unscrupulous employers challenge their former employee's application for benefits even when that employee was fired through no fault of his or her own. In this case, the employer usually claims that the employee was fired for misconduct.

If your application for benefits is denied, you have 20 days to file an appeal. If you believe that your benefits were unfairly denied, it is very important that you file a timely appeal. You will receive a hearing date about 4-6 weeks later. Sometimes, the employer does not even bother to show up to the appeal hearing; they were counting on the fact that you wouldn't fight the denial of your benefits.

The hearing is your chance to explain your side of the story to an Administrative Law Judge. It is natural to feel nervous before the hearing, but you will feel better if you are properly prepared to present your case. You should ask to review the EDD's file on your case, which will include the interview notes with your employer. This means you will get a chance to see what your employer said about why you were fired. You can also send a written request to your employer asking to inspect your personnel file pursuant to Labor Code Section 1198.5. You can ask witnesses who can corroborate your version of events to come with you to the hearing. If they can't come, you can ask them to give you a written statement to take along with you. You can also ask the EDD to subpoena witnesses for you. Finally, you should familiarize yourself with the law that applies to your case. A good starting place is the "Benefit Determination Guide" on the EDD website: http://www.edd.ca.gov/UIBDG/default.htm.

You don't have to bring an attorney with you to the hearing, although you may feel more confident with the support of an attorney experienced in this area. The Legal Grind can put you in touch with an attorney who can help you through the process, from advice on preparation to representation at your appeal hearing.

Depending on the circumstances of your termination, you may also wish to seek legal advice to determine whether you have any legal claims arising out of your discharge. Although most workers in California are "at will" employees, which means they can be fired for any reason or for no reason at all, even "at will" employees cannot be fired in certain circumstances. For example, an employer cannot fire its employee for a discriminatory reason; or because s/he made a health and safety complaint; or because she took time off to perform jury duty. This is a complex area of the law, and an attorney can advise you on whether you may have grounds for a wrongful discharge suit.

Upon investigation of the circumstances of your termination, an attorney may also identify violations which took place during your employment. For example, you may have an overtime claim if your employer did not pay overtime pay (time and a half) for all hours over eight in a day, and forty in a week, or a claim for meal period premium pay if you were unable to take an uninterrupted 30 minute meal break per five hours worked. Exploring potential claims with an attorney may help to give you some peace of mind in this difficult time.

NINA BAUMLER IS AN ATTORNEY WHO PRACTICES EXCLUSIVELY IN EMPLOYMENT LAW. MS. BAUMLER CAN BE REACHED THROUGH THE LEGAL GRIND AT 310-452-8160 OR BY VISITING WWW.LEGALGRIND.COM.

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4:00-5:00 pm (1st & 3rd Monday/Month) Criminal Law, DMV & Traffic Law: Felony and Misdemeanor Crimes, with former deputy D.A. Jacob Glucksman

TUESDAY

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

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

5:00 - 7:00 pm Wrongful termination, harassment; discrimination; wage and hour ;denial of unemployment benefits; and general counseling on issues in the workplace w/ attorney Nina Baumler. (Call for Appointment) at the 2901 Ocean Park location of the Novel Café.

WEDNESDAY

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

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

THURSDAY

12:00-2:00pm Immigration and Family Law with Attorney Galorah Keshavarz (By appointment only)

4:00-5:00pm (By appointment only) Chapter 7 and 13 Bankruptcy, Debt Negotiation and Personal Injuries cases with Attorney and Legal Grind founder Jeffrey J. Hughes

FRIDAY

4:00-5:00pm (2nd & 4th Friday/Month) Criminal, DMV & Traffic Law: Felony and Misdemeanor Crimes with Attorney & former Deputy D.A. Jacob Glucksman. By Appointment only

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

SATURDAY

10am-11:30am (1st, 3rd & 5th Saturday/month) Real Estate, Estate Planning, Wills & Living Trusts, Will Contests, Probate, Elder Law Business Litigation, Formation & Dissolution, Contracts, Construction Contracts Family Law including Divorce, Child/Spousal Support, Prenuptial Agreements, Personal Injury, Accidents, Premises and Product Liability, & Legal Malpractice with Attorney Richard Ruman. (By appointment only-Please call Call Dick at 310.273.7474)

12PM TO 2PM Personal Injury free consultation; Regular consultation on all areas of Estate Planning, Landlord/Tenant rights, Mortgage Litigation, Premises Liability, Construction Accidents, and Products Liability with attorney SandeepAgarwal. (By appointment only-Please call Mr. Agarwal at 866.844.4125)

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FACT CHECK: Romney and Obama on immigration plans

BY ALICIA A. CALDWELL
Associated Press

Editor's note: An occasional look at statements by political candidates and how well they adhere to the facts.

WASHINGTON President Barack Obama flatly blamed Republicans on Friday for failing to support immigration reforms in the last few years.

But Obama didn't tell the whole story in his speech to the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials. His own Democratic colleagues had a hand in defeating one immigration bill two years ago.

A day earlier, presumptive GOP presidential nominee Mitt Romney promised in a speech to the same group that he would ease the path to a green card, fix a complicated and cumbersome system to let farm workers into the United States and finish a high-tech fence along the Mexican border. He was glossing over how difficult some of those changes could be. Some already have been tried, with little or no success.

Here's a closer look at Obama's statement, Romney's assertions and how they match up with the facts:

OBAMA: "We should have passed the DREAM Act a long time ago. It was written by members of both parties. When it came up for a vote a year and a half ago, Republicans in Congress blocked it. The bill hadn't changed. The need hadn't changed. The only thing that had changed was politics."

THE FACTS: Five Senate Democrats voted against sending the DREAM Act to the Senate floor for full consideration. The bill would have created a path to citizenship for many young illegal immigrants brought to the United States as children. Last week, Obama announced plans to stop deporting illegal immigrants who would have qualified for the DREAM Act. The policy change does not include a path to citizenship.

ROMNEY: "As president, I'd reallocate green cards to those seeking to keep their families under one roof. And we will exempt from caps the spouses and minor children of legal permanent residents. And we will eliminate other forms of bureaucratic red tape that keep families from being together." He added: "And if you get an advanced degree here, we want you to stay here. So I'd staple a green card to the diploma of someone who gets an advanced degree in America."

THE FACTS: It's unclear whether Romney would have the authority if elected president to change the way green cards are issued, or whether he would need help from Congress. It is Congress that sets the annual limits for visas for foreigners who have advanced degrees in certain fields of science, math and other professions. Lately, Republicans and groups representing U.S. workers have blocked legislative attempts to increase those limits.

Advocates for immigration reform have long argued that the president can use executive powers to relax or change various immigration regulations. President Barack Obama has done that twice in the last year. First, he allowed prosecutors discretion to focus deportation of illegal immigrants on those with a criminal record or who otherwise pose a threat. Last week, he announced plans to stop deporting many young illegal immigrants brought to the United States as children who have not committed a crime in the U.S. and to grant them work permits.

Republicans have argued that Obama stretched his authority, but Romney seems to be suggesting he, too, could act alone to make broad changes.

And Romney's proposal for keeping educated foreigners in the U.S. isn't original. Obama, in a May 2011 immigration proposal, called for "encouraging foreign students to stay in the U.S. and contribute to our economy by stapling a green card to the diplomas" of those with advanced science, technology, engineering and math degrees.

ROMNEY: "I will work with states and employers to update our temporary worker visa program so that it meets our economic needs."

THE FACTS: Temporary and seasonal workers are considered a necessity for the U.S. agriculture industry, but importing legal workers has proved difficult. The Labor Department's visa program for temporary seasonal workers has long been viewed as costly, cumbersome and inefficient.

Several attempts to overhaul it that included a path to legalization for the workers have been blocked in Congress. Republicans have repeatedly said that any immigration bill offering a path to legalization would not win their support.

ROMNEY: "We should field enough Border Patrol agents, complete a high-tech fence and implement an improved exit verification system."

THE FACTS: Romney's plans don't take notice of what's already been done, including record-high staffing levels along the border and the failure of a Bush-era virtual fence plan.

The Border Patrol has more than 18,500 agents working on the southern border. In the year budget ending last September, agents apprehended about 340,000 illegal immigrants, the fewest in nearly 40 years — an average of 18 apprehensions per agent. The decrease in apprehensions has been linked to a weak economy producing fewer jobs in the U.S. and to more law enforcement agents and technology being deployed along the border.

Under the Bush administration, the government built hundreds of miles of fencing along the Mexican border. A planned virtual fence was also started, but then scrapped by the Obama administration in 2010 after the project was deemed a failure. About 53 miles of virtual fencing is in place, at a cost of about $1 billion.

An exit verification system has been sought since after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, but efforts to build one have been repeatedly stymied, most often because of the projected costs. Earlier this year, John Cohen, deputy counterterrorism coordinator for the Homeland Security Department, told a congressional panel that the agency was finalizing plans for a biometric data system to track who leaves the country and when. He didn't give details.

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Views shift little after Obama backs same-sex marriage

BY DENNIS JUNIUS & PHILIP ELLIOTT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON President Barack Obama's endorsement of gay marriage appears to have made Americans on both sides of the issue even more entrenched in their positions, firing up his young, liberal backers and intensifying opposition from Republicans and conservatives, according to a new poll.

Overall, his announcement last month that he supported gay marriage did little to shift the nation's views on the subject, with the country remaining evenly divided on it, the Associated Press-GfK survey found. And people still seem to favor him over Republican presidential rival Mitt Romney when it comes to handling social issues.

Even so, the poll, out Friday, found stronger approval from Democrats and liberals for the way he's handled gay marriage over the last year and deeper discontent over that performance from the other side.

In the poll, 42 percent of respondents oppose gay marriage, 40 percent support it and 15 percent are neutral. Last August, the country was similarly divided over whether same-sex couples should be allowed to be legally married in their state, with 45 percent opposing, 42 percent favoring and 10 percent neutral.

The country's divisions — and conflictions — are clear in the voices of Americans.

"Marriage is a marriage, and it's between a man and a woman," said John Von Sneidern, a 76-year-old Republican from Fairfield, Conn., before pausing. "But on the other side of that, there are a lot of gay couples who are responsible and dedicated to each other and deserve a lot of the benefits of marriage."

The issue, however, won't shape his vote. He plans to vote on the economy and support Romney because of his private-sector experience.

Katherine Galdarisi, a 67-year-old Democrat from Sacramento, Calif., backed Republican John McCain four years ago but plans to vote for Obama this time. That's partly because she faults Republicans for not working with the president on issues voters care about, saying: "They fight him every step of the way and talk about things that don't matter, like gay marriage."

"It's none of anybody's business," Galdarisi said. "It doesn't affect me in the least."

For years, Obama faced pressure from the left to announce his support for gay marriage, and he spent a chunk of his presidency signaling that he would do just that by saying that he was "evolving" on the issue.

While the economy continues to dominate the presidential race, Obama's team was mindful that anything — including social issues like gay marriage — could shift the balance in a contest that appears close five months from the election. Even so, Obama announced his reversal and risked turning off some conservative, moderate and independent voters across the nation and in states like Virginia and North Carolina that hadn't voted for a Democratic presidential candidate in decades until Obama won them four years ago.

But the AP-GfK poll suggests that voters, at least nationally, didn't flee the president.

When asked which candidate Americans trust to do a better job of handling social issues such as abortion and same-sex marriage, there was little change from a poll taken about a week before Obama's May 9 announcement; 52 percent now side with Obama, compared with 36 percent for Romney.

And more Democrats and liberals said they strongly approved of the president's handling of gay marriage than they did in August; 41 percent of Democrats now say that, compared with 26 percent then, and 48 percent of liberals have that view, up from 28 percent almost a year ago.

But his announcement may have fired up the right against him. More Republicans and conservatives said they strongly disapproved of his handling of the issue now than before; 53 percent of Republicans said that, compared with 45 percent in August, and 52 percent of conservatives say as much now, up from 43 percent back then.

The issue could compel more conservatives to turn out to vote against Obama.

Self-described social conservative Bethel Hissom of Knoxville, Tenn., is among those who plan to back Romney and don't support allowing gays to wed.

"It's not marriage," the 65-year-old retired speech therapist said. Of Obama's position, she said: "It will probably help his chances at being re-elected. It will get the gay population in favor of that and that could swing votes to his favor. But it is not marriage."

Obama's announcement clearly affected some — and in personal ways.

Trevor Rzucidlo, a 22-year-old who graduated last month from the University of Connecticut, had a roommate who is gay, and said that hearing the president speak out in support of someone he cared about "was huge."

"My peers are just way more chilled out than older people are," said Rzucidlo, who considers himself an independent and plans to vote for Obama. "They're less concerned with how other people live their lives."

Indeed, support for gay marriage remains a more popular position with younger voters: 50 percent of people under age 35 said they would favor allowing same-sex couples to be legally married in their state, compared with 36 percent of those ages 35 and up.

Among those under 35, overall approval of the president's handling of same-sex marriage has held steady, but those who back him do so more strongly now. His "strong" approval numbers have doubled, jumping from 17 percent last August to 34 percent in the AP-GfK survey.

The Associated Press-GfK Poll was conducted June 14-18, 2012, by GfK Roper Public Affairs and Corporate Communications. It involved landline and cellphone interviews with 1,007 adults nationwide, including 878 registered voters. Results for the full sample have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 4.0 percentage points and for registered voters it is 4.2 points.







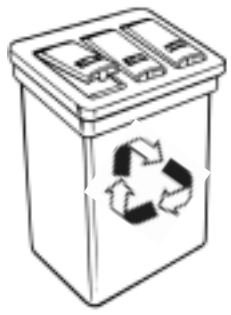
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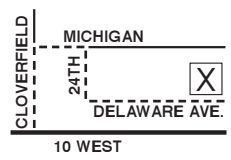
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Breivik ends massacre trial by defending brutal attacks

BY KARL RITTER
Associated Press

OSLO, Norway With a rambling monologue depicting Norway's worst peacetime massacre as a necessary evil, confessed mass killer Anders Behring Breivik got the last word as his 10-week trial ended Friday amid conflicting claims about his sanity.

Relatives of his 77 victims said they hope it's the last they hear of him.

"For me this is not about whether he's mentally competent or not," said Unni Espeland, whose 16-year-old daughter Andrine was killed in Breivik's shooting massacre on a political youth camp. "For me this is about him never being let out again."

Since the self-styled anti-Muslim fanatic admitted to the twin attacks on July 22 - a car bomb in downtown Oslo followed by the shooting spree at the governing Labor Party's youth camp - his sanity was the key issue to be resolved in the trial.

Breivik, 33, rejected prosecutors' assertion that he is insane, but it was unclear whether he helped his case with a closing statement that included complaints against the TV show "Sex and the City" and the Eurovision Song contest.

He demanded to be set free, saying his actions "were preventive attacks to defend the indigenous Norwegian people" and vowed that he would be exonerated by history.

But it was the relatives of victims who left the strongest impression on the court on the final day as they tried to put their loss in words.

Lara Rashid, 17, told the court she was consumed with feelings of guilt for having survived the Utoya massacre, while her two years older sister Bano was killed.

"It should have been me," Rashid said, her voice cracking.

Their Kurdish family fled from Saddam Hussein's Iraq to build a new life in safe and peaceful Norway. Despite the grief and emptiness, Rashid said she had begun to feel hope.

"Bano fought for a multicultural Norway, and at her funeral she showed that a priest and an imam could go side by side," Rashid said.

Kirsti Loevlie, whose 30-year-old daughter Hanne was killed in the bombing, moved the courtroom to tears as she described the shock of finding out her daughter was dead, the grief of cleaning out her room and the first Christmas without her.

Still, Loevlie said she felt a need to attend the trial, seeing Breivik in a position where he couldn't hurt anyone anymore.

"I am not going to be afraid of this man," Loevlie said. "I decided I would go to court. I felt I owed it to Hanne."

The court room burst out in applause and audible sobs as she finished her statement.

Breivik remained motionless, his face blank.

Earlier Friday, defense lawyer Geir Lippestad had tried to prove to the court that Breivik's claims of being a resistance fighter in a struggle to protect Norway and Europe from being colonized by Muslims are not delusional, but part of a political view shared by other right-wing extremists.

"He realized that it is wrong to kill, but he chose to kill. That's what terrorists do," Lippestad said. "The ends justify the means. You don't understand this if you don't understand the culture of right-wing extremists."

Lippestad also formally entered a plea for acquittal, but it was made out of principle, without any realistic chance of success.

When Breivik addressed the court, he lashed out at everything he finds wrong with the world, from the Labor Party's immigration policies, to non-ethnic Norwegians representing the country in the Eurovision Song Contest and the sexually liberated lifestyle of the characters "Carrie" and "Samantha" in "Sex and the City."

> **IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN ME."**
>
> **Lara Rashid,**
> 17, survivor of the Utoya massacre.
> Her sister was killed in the attack.

"These are the ideals that are presented to our sisters and daughters today," he said. "They should be censored and removed from our society."

Incorporating current events into his statement, he claimed that fellow right-wing extremists were behind a small amount of explosives found outside a Swedish nuclear plant this week. Swedish police spokesman Tommy Nyman said he had no comment, "especially not if he says it."

Two teams of psychiatrists reached opposite conclusions about Breivik's mental health. The first team diagnosed him with "paranoid schizophrenia," a serious mental illness. The second team found him legally sane, saying he suffers from a dissocial and narcissistic personality disorder, but is not psychotic.

Prosecutors on Thursday called for an insanity ruling, saying there was enough doubt about Breivik's mental state to preclude a prison sentence.

The five-judge panel will announce its ruling on Aug. 24, chief judge Wenche Elisabeth Arntzen said.

If deemed mentally competent, Breivik would likely be given Norway's maximum prison term of 21 years. A sentence can be extended beyond that if a prisoner is considered a menace to society. If declared insane, he would be committed to a mental institution for as long as he's considered sick and dangerous to others. Prosecutors suggested Thursday that could mean he would be held for the rest of his life.

Either way, the discussion about what prompted Breivik to commit an atrocity that Norway had never imagined is likely to continue.

"Whether or not he will be declared sane there are political ideas political motives behind this attack," said Eskil Pedersen, the head of the Labor Party's youth wing and an Utoya survivor.

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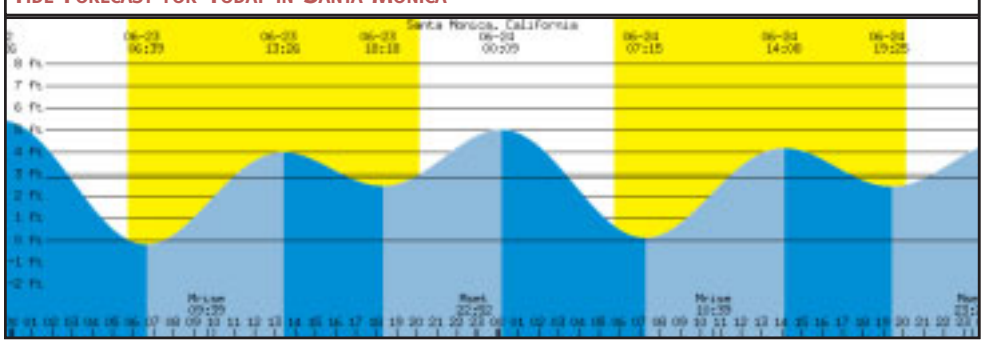
Swell Forecast

South facing breaks are likely to drop to waist max, but west facing breaks could increase from incoming NW wind swell with occasional chest high sets from time to time.

Long Range Synopsis

West facing breaks are looking at waist to chest high surf.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



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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 -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 38 / 16
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 10

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

Heal the Bay reminds you not to swim or surf within 100 yards of any flowing storm drain or for 3 days after a rainstorm. After a rain, indicator bacteria counts at beaches throughout California usually far exceed health criteria 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.	ns	ns
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.	F	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Ben Blocker County Beach.	D	ns
Pearce State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pearce Beach, at 21672 Malibu Rd.	A	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (beach location) - daily.	B	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	F	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	B	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	B	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A	ns
Pena Creek at Los Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Topanga Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	C	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17208 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.	B	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A+	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.	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	B	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 CIWW 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 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

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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.

Schilling: Company crash cost me baseball fortune

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PROVIDENCE, R.I. Former Boston Red Sox pitcher Curt Schilling said Friday that the collapse of his 38 Studios video game company has probably cost him his entire baseball fortune, and he placed part of the blame on Rhode Island officials, including Gov. Lincoln Chafee.

Schilling said during a 90-minute interview on WEEI-FM in Boston that he put more than $50 million of his own money in the company and that he's had to tell his family that "the money I saved during baseball was probably all gone."

Schilling said he hopes to return to work soon as an analyst for ESPN. He took a leave of absence from the network after 38 Studios filed for bankruptcy protection on June 7. The firm was lured to Providence from Massachusetts in 2010 after Rhode Island offered a $75 million loan guarantee. The state is working to determine how much it's on the hook for after the company's collapse.

While he conceded that he "absolutely" was part of the reason the company failed, he said public comments made by Chafee last month questioning the firm's solvency were harmful as the firm tried — but failed — to raise private capital to stay afloat.

"I think he had an agenda," Schilling said about Chafee.

Chafee vocally opposed the state's loan guarantee to 38 Studios when he was running for governor in 2010. But after it was a done deal, he was the company's "biggest cheerleader," Chafee spokeswoman Christine Hunsinger said Friday.

"The success of 38 Studios would have meant success for Rhode Island through the contribution a company makes to the overall economy," she said in a statement. "There is no victory in the failure of 38 Studios. People have lost their jobs and Rhode Island taxpayers are now potentially responsible for the repayment of tens of millions of dollars."

Schilling also accused Chafee of failing to work with an investor who was willing to put $15 million to $20 million into the company to help it succeed. He said the investor walked away because of Chafee's inaction.

38 Studios laid off its entire workforce — nearly 300 employees in Providence and more in Maryland — last month. That move came after it was more than two weeks late on a $1.1 million payment to the state; officials have said that was the first indication the company was in financial trouble.

The firm had sought millions of dollars in tax credits from Rhode Island as it struggled to stay afloat, but Schilling said Friday that he wasn't looking for a bailout.

State and federal authorities, meanwhile, are investigating 38 Studios' finances. Citizens Bank also has sued Schilling to recover $2.4 million in loans it made to 38 Studios.

Schilling, who also pitched for Baltimore, Houston, Philadelphia and Arizona, won the World Series three times and is perhaps best remembered for pitching Game 6 of the 2004 American League Championship Series with an injured ankle that stained his sock with blood.

Schilling said he hasn't done anything wrong. He said he never took any money from the company, not even a salary. He said the company was close to succeeding but just couldn't raise enough private capital. He also said he never intended to hurt the firm's workers.

"It's been kind of a surreal 60 days or 65 days," Schilling said. "It's crushing and devastating to see it fail the way it did."

Schilling was asked how the company's collapse has affected him personally.

"I don't know. ... It's not over yet," he said. "I would imagine the next foreseeable time in our lives is going to be consumed by this. It's a life-changing thing."

But he added, "I'm not asking for sympathy. It was my choice."

NHL

LA Kings to re-sign Jarret Stoll, Colin Fraser

BY GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES The Los Angeles Kings reached agreements in principle Friday to re-sign centers Jarret Stoll and Colin Fraser, two big contributors to their Stanley Cup title run.

Stoll's three-year deal is expected to be worth $9.75 million, while Fraser will get a two-year deal worth $1.65 million.

The Kings have the entire core of their first championship team under contract except power forward Dustin Penner.

Stoll, who turns 30 on Sunday, is the Kings' third-line center and faceoff specialist. He also plays extensively on the Kings' penalty kill while providing veteran leadership.

Stoll has become a fan favorite while spending the past four seasons with Los Angeles, which acquired him in a 2008 trade with Edmonton. Although he matched his career low with 21 points in the regular season, he contributed five points in the playoffs, including the series-winning overtime goal in the first round to knock out Presidents' Trophy-winning Vancouver.

Fraser is a gritty, defense-minded forward who played extensively for the Kings on their depth lines before appearing in 18 playoff games. He scored only one goal in the postseason, but it was Los Angeles' first goal of the Stanley Cup finals, kicking off the Kings' victory over New Jersey in Game 1.

Fraser, who also won a championship in 2010 with Chicago despite playing in just three postseason games for the Blackhawks, is one of Los Angeles coach Darryl Sutter's favorite players for his no-nonsense work ethic. The Kings acquired Fraser last summer from Edmonton for center Ryan Smyth, who demanded a trade to the Oilers.

Penner is the only major contributor to the Kings' Cup run who is still slated to be an unrestricted free agent on July 1. Los Angeles is scheduled to meet with representatives for Penner, who is eager to return and has acknowledged he would consider taking less than his full market value for the chance to defend the second Stanley Cup title of his career.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Saturday, June 23
Forbidden Zone (R) 1hr 14min
The American Astronaut (NR) 1hr 31min
7:30pm
Discussion between films with "Forbidden Zone" director Richard Elfman, actress and production designer Marie Pascale Elfman, and production designer John Muto, who created the animation for the film.

Sunday, June 24
Casino Royale (PG-13) 2hr 24min
Quantum of Solace (PG-13) 1hr 46min
7:30pm
Discussion between films with director Martin Campbell.

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

Dictator (R) 1hr 23min
11:55am, 2:10pm, 4:40pm, 7:15pm, 9:45pm

Prometheus (R) 2hrs 04min
12:15pm, 3:30pm, 6:45pm, 10:00pm

Seeking a Friend for the End of the World (R) 1hr 34min
11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:10pm, 7:50pm, 10:20pm

Safety Not Guaranteed (R) 1hr 25min
11:50am, 2:15pm, 4:45pm, 7:10pm, 9:40pm

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

Brave in Disney Digital 3D (PG) 1hr 40min
11:50am, 2:30pm, 5:10pm, 7:50pm, 10:30pm

Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted 3D (PG) 1hr 33min
11:00am, 1:30pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm

Brave (PG) 1hr 40min
11:00am, 1:40pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Snow White and the Huntsman (PG-13) 2hrs 07min
11:00am, 2:00pm, 5:00pm, 8:00pm, 11:00pm

Prometheus 3D (R) 2hrs 04min
10:55am, 2:05pm, 5:10pm, 8:15pm, 11:10pm

Rock of Ages (PG-13) 2hrs 03min
10:50am, 1:50pm, 4:55pm, 8:00pm, 9:40pm, 11:00pm

Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (PG) 1hr 33min
11:45am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:25pm

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

Cat in Paris (Une vie de chat) (PG) 1hr 05min
11:10am

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

First Position (NR) 1hr 30min
11:00am

Peace, Love, & Misunderstanding (R) 1hr 36min
1:10pm, 3:20pm, 5:40pm, 8:00pm, 10:15pm

Invisible War (NR) 1hr 37min
1:50pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:55pm

Follow Me: The Yoni Netanyahu Story (NR) 1hr 27min
1:00pm, 3:10pm, 5:20pm, 7:40pm, 10:00pm

Bill W. (NR) 1hr 44min
11:00am

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

Marvel's The Avengers (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
12:20pm, 7:00pm

Men in Black 3 (PG-13) 1hr 46min
11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:40pm

Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter 3D (R) 1hr 45min
12:05pm, 2:45pm, 5:30pm, 8:15pm, 11:00pm

Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (R) 1hr 45min
11:15am, 2:00pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

That's My Boy (R) 1hr 54min
11:20am, 2:15pm, 5:15pm, 8:15pm, 11:00pm

Moonrise Kingdom (PG-13) 1hr 33min
11:30am, 2:10pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:15pm

Marvel's The Avengers 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
3:40pm, 10:20pm

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

Go 'til the wee hours, Aries

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Put your best effort into bringing loved ones of all areas of your life together. A partner or dear friend does not see eye to eye with you. Tonight: Go 'til the wee hours.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Complete as much as you can before you meet up with friends. As a result, you will relax more and feel good about what you have accomplished. If you follow your feelings, you will land on your feet. Do not hesitate to slow down a bit if you become tired. Tonight: The action will be at your pad.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You might want to think through what is really happening beyond the words you hear from a child or loved one. You only hear one side of this person's thinking, so help him or her connect to any suppressed feelings in order to make a good choice. Tonight: Catch up on a friend's news.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Touch base with someone you can relax and have some fun with. Make plans. It is important to get out of the house and break regular patterns. Try something new. Enjoy the moment. Tonight: Anywhere you have not been.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You get the gist and understand the importance of a situation. Do not undermine what a sibling or neighbor is trying to do. He or she has the best intentions. Discussions with your sweetie or a very special person might give you an idea; follow through on that. Tonight: Your call.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★ You might need some time to get away from the same old, same old. A change of environment can and will make all the difference in how you feel and what you think. Tonight: Do what you know.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Make sure you surround yourself with friends, even if you are feeling a bit down. Just getting out helps you revitalize your energy and spirit. Someone in your daily life could become evasive. Might this person have a crush on you? Tonight: You are the party.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ You might need to handle a responsibility or two before you can really relax. Catch up on an older person's news. The plans you conjure up later in the day will draw someone out of his or her cocoon with a smile. Tonight: Not everyone has to know everything.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Make calls, and prepare to go somewhere different in order to help someone feel more at home. Go to his or her turf. Let go, and enjoy a totally different experience. You'll be able to identify with this person more as a result. Tonight: Wherever there is music.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You could be taken aback by what is going on around you. If you feel that way, can you imagine how the person directly involved might be reacting? Tonight: Follow through with someone's suggestion.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ You have many people you would like to see, yet at the same time you might want to spend some time with just one person. Try mixing different people together, even though your first reaction might be not to. Tonight: Go with the moment.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You have an idea in your mind that will distract you if you do not indulge it. Why not go for it? A partner might question the idea at first, but eventually he or she will go along with it. Tonight: Slow down a little.

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

Happy birthday

This year you will use your intuition to guide you. Some of you might start a spiritual study and/or choose to travel. Regardless of what you choose, you will open yourself up to new horizons. Education could play a role as well. If you are single, you could make the acquaintance of someone unusual, who also could be an eye-opener. If you are attached, you need to judge less and be more open to your sweetie's thought process. A new sense of togetherness will bond you. LEO is determined to have what he or she wants.

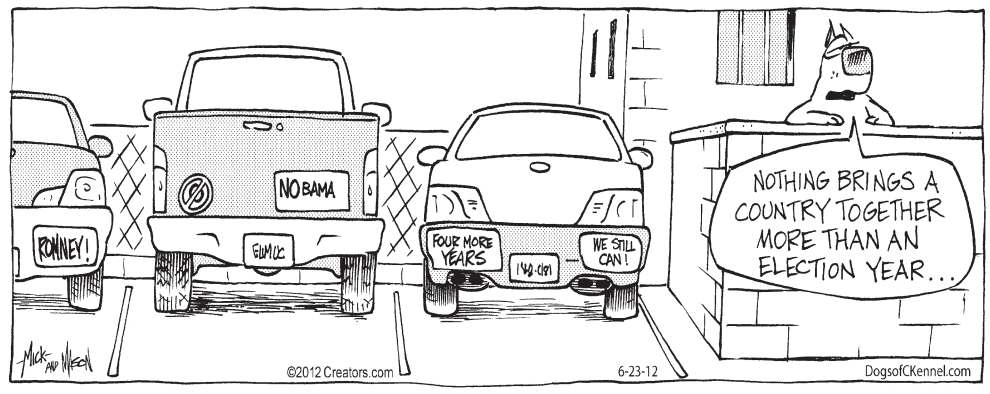
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



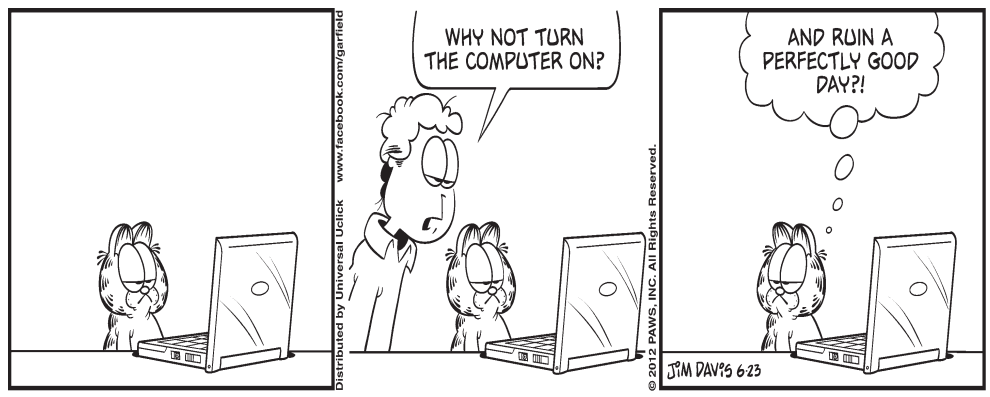
Strange Brew
By John Deering



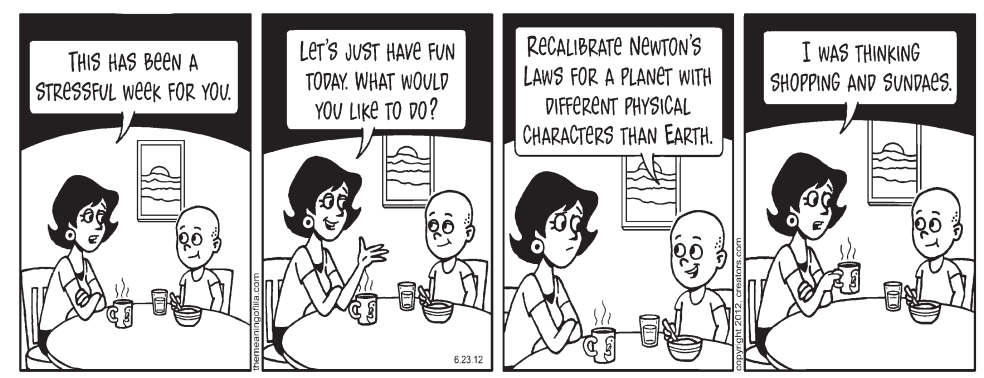
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



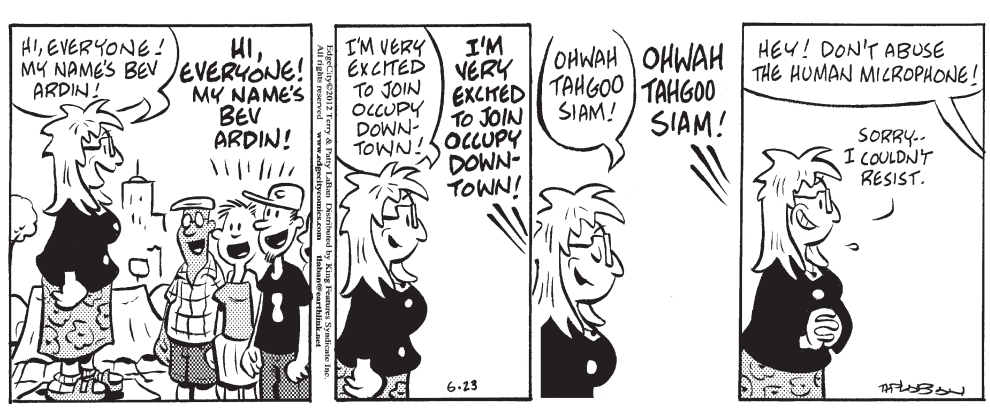
Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



Edge City
By Terry & Patty LaBan



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 ★★★★

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

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

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

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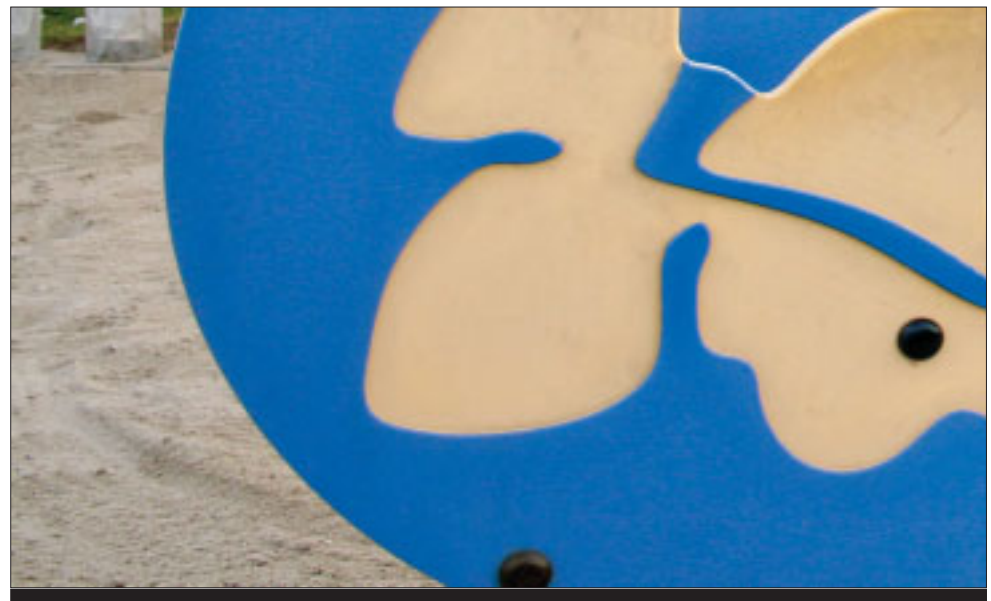
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Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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 All there
5 Praise
9 Spelunking sites
10 Choir group
12 Blatant
13 Incline
14 Court order
16 Films, slangily
17 Mayo ingredient
18 Steam engine
20 Vacillate
22 Falls behind
23 George Jetson's dog
25 Database option
28 Map key
32 Ballroom dance
34 Bar topic
35 Copying
36 Uranium 235, for one
38 Made over
40 Swindler's aide
41 "Goosebumps" writer
42 Studio stand
43 Map areas
44 Conks out

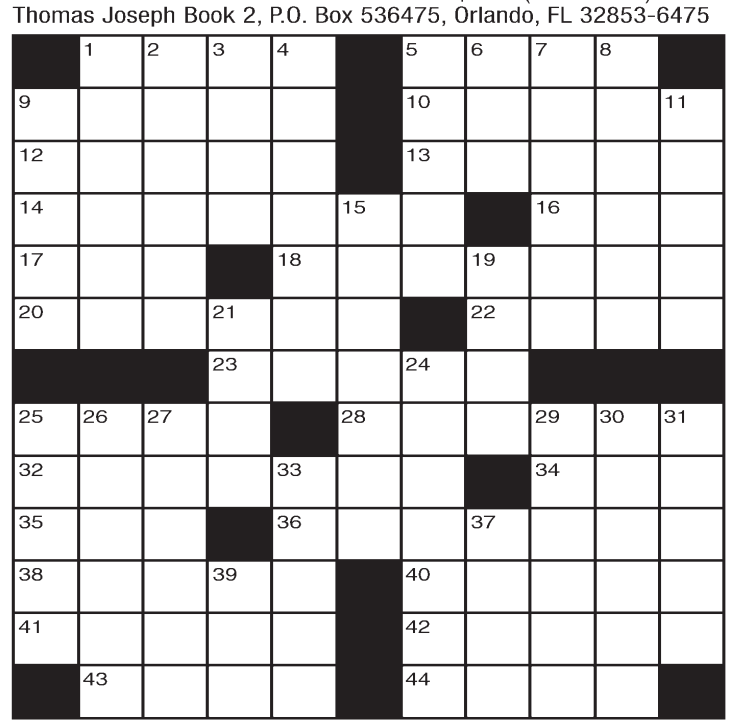
DOWN

1 Untamed
2 Get satisfaction for
3 Bully's target
4 Fancy homes
5 Surgical tool
6 Completely
7 Perfect place
8 No-no at a horse race
9 Telescope sight
11 Sides in an ongoing battle
15 Pecan candies
19 Online journal
21 Skin art, slangily
24 Lay back
25 Night lights
26 Young hooters
27 Band aide
29 Precocious Plaza resident
30 City near Capri
31 Reside
33 Ocean's motions
37 Asian cuisine
39 — bind

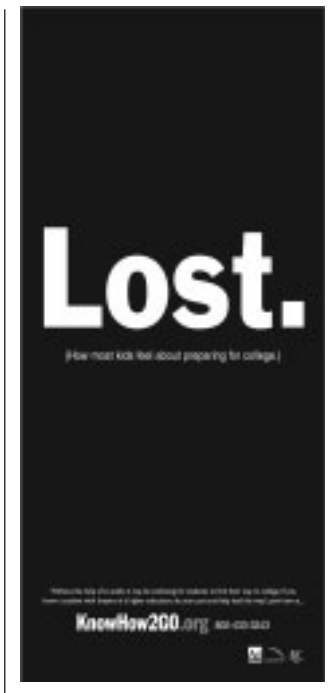
F	U	S	E	■	■	L	O	S	S	■
I	N	A	W	E	■	A	R	U	L	E
A	L	L	E	Y	■	P	A	G	A	N
T	O	T	■	E	M	U	L	A	T	E
S	C	A	L	L	O	P	■	R	E	M
■	K	N	E	E	S	■	C	A	R	Y
■	■	D	O	T	■	P	A	N	■	■
R	I	P	S	■	L	O	A	D	S	■
A	G	E	■	J	O	I	N	S	U	P
M	U	P	P	E	T	S	■	P	I	E
P	A	P	E	R	■	E	V	I	T	A
S	N	E	A	K	■	D	I	C	E	R
■	A	R	T	Y	■	■	M	E	S	S

Yesterday's answer

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



6-23



NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Most public officials caught "sexting" immediately turn remorseful, but not Michigan appeals court judge Wade McCree III. In April, when the husband of a female bailiff in McCree's court saw that the judge had sent the bailiff a shirtless photo of himself, McCree told a curious reporter for Detroit's WJBK-TV, "Hot dog, yep, that's me." "I've got no shame in my game." "I'm in no more clothes than I'll be at the Y this afternoon when I swim my mile." The still-irate husband said he would pursue a judicial commission complaint against McCree.

■ (1) Calvin Hill, 54, was arrested in Greenwood, S.C., in May after allegedly stabbing a 41-year-old man with whom he was arguing in the back seat of a car. The police report stated that the men were arguing "about who can have the most sex." (2) WJBK-TV reported in June that two men in the Brightmoor neighborhood of Detroit wound up in a gunfight over which one made Kool-Aid better. (Neither man was hit, but two bystanders were reportedly wounded.)

■ In Stockholm, N.Y., in May, a 24-year-old man became the most recent to have a friend shoot him just because the man wanted to know what it felt like to get shot. The friend, Shawn Mossow, 25, relented, finally, and fired a .22-caliber rifle shot into the man's leg, but the man is expected to make a full recovery.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1968 – 74 are killed and 150 injured in a football stampede towards a closed exit in a Buenos Aires stadium.

1972 – Watergate Scandal: U.S. President Richard M. Nixon and White House Chief of Staff H. R. Haldeman are taped talking about using the Central Intelligence Agency to obstruct the Federal Bureau of Investigation's investigation into the Watergate break-ins.

WORD UP!

subitize
\ SOO-bi-tahyz \ , verb;
1.
To perceive at a glance the number of items presented.

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DBAS

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2012083432 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 06/03/2012 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as WALKMYDOGIE.COM, VALENTINO X, VXORGANICBOX. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: VALENTINO X 2637 S. CENTINELA AVE #8 SANTA MONICA CA 90405. This Business is being conducted by: Husband and Wife. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:VALENTINO X. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 06/03/2012. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 06/02/2012, 06/09/2012, 06/16/2012, 06/23/2012.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2012087934 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 05/09/2012 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as NO TACOS, PLEASE! SUAZO GRILL, NO TACOS, PLEASE!. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: BLANCA SUAZO 13101 OXNARD ST #5 VAN NUYS CA 91401, EDUARDO TINOCO 6940 SEPULVEDA BLVD #108 VAN NUYS CA 91405. This Business is being conducted by: a Partnership. The registrant has not yet commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above. /s/:EDUARDO TINOCO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 05/09/2012. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 06/09/2012, 06/16/2012, 06/23/2012, 06/30/2012.

Statement of Abandonment of Use of Fictitious Business Name
Document Record #2012111060
Current File No. 20091183925
State of California, County of Los Angeles
The following person(s) has/have abandoned the use of the fictitious Business name:
GUITAR SALON INTERNATIONAL
The fictitious business name referred to above was filed on 08/03/2009 in the county of LOS ANGELES.
Registered owners: G.S. INTER, INC.
This business is conducted by: A COPORATION
/s/ GEORGE LEON
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of Los Angeles County on 06/06/2012
Published: SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS 06/23/2012, 6/25/2012, 7/2/2012, 7/9/2012

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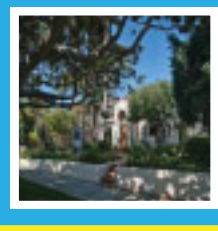
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North of Montana	=	$3,310,000
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$2,700,000
South of Wilshire	=	$899,000
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