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Santa Monica Daily Press
THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2013
Volume 12 Issue 196



Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

WANT TO BUY ELVIS' RIDE?
SEE PAGE 3

THE FREEDOM ROCKS ISSUE

City Council approves over $1B in spending

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The Santa Monica City Council passed its two-year budget deep into Tuesday night, approving over $1 billion in spending that will keep city services running as officials prepare to tackle multi-million deficits that loom in the future.

The budget represents a trim from nearly every department, cutting 3.7 percent from

SEE BUDGET PAGE 11

Police: Elder scammed by local couple

BY ILEANA NAJARRO
Special to the Daily Press

BROADWAY A local married couple took advantage of a 99-year-old World War II veteran by stealing about $2,500 from him when they would assist him with his grocery shopping, authorities said Wednesday.

Susan and Jim Taylor each plead guilty in April to elder abuse by a caregiver and received probation and were ordered to pay restitution, stated a Santa Monica Police Department press release.

The victim met Susan Taylor in October 2012 outside of a Vons grocery store located at 710 Broadway. She was most likely panhandling, said SMPD spokesman Sgt. Richard Lewis. The victim felt sorry for her and offered to pay $20 for helping him shop from then on, which she accepted.

Once the victim's health began to deteriorate he needed help driving to the store, which Jim Taylor took on as his responsibility since his wife could not drive.

Lewis added that the couple lived a few

SEE SCAM PAGE 8

Santa Monicans celebrate gay marriage rulings

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITYWIDE The Supreme Court handed gay rights advocates twin victories Wednesday morning, striking down a California ban on same-sex marriage and a provision of federal law that denied homosexual couples the rights of their heterosexual counterparts.

In a 5 to 4 decision, the justices found that ProtectMarriage.com, a socially conservative organization, did not have standing to defend Proposition 8, a 2008 voter-approved initiative in California that defined marriage as the union of a man and a woman.

With no state officials willing to fight for the law, that leaves Prop. 8 out in the cold, and opens the possibility that gay couples could marry within the month.

Gov. Jerry Brown has already given the order to the Department of Public Health to tell counties to issue marriage licenses as soon as the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal declares it open season.

At the same time, five Supreme Court Justices ruled that the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), discriminated against homosexual couples by denying

SEE MARRIAGE PAGE 10



PLAYING THE PART

Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

ABOVE: Visitors try on paper mache masks during a sneak peek performance of the newest work from the members of the Rogue Artists Ensemble at the Annenberg Community Beach House on Tuesday evening. The play, 'Hyperbole Bard,' will premiere in mid-July at the beach house.

RIGHT: Paper mache masks used in previous performances are displayed for visitors to try on. They feature a range of emotions and vibrant colors.



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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, June 27, 2013

Fun, games for the family
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
3:30 p.m. — 5 p.m.
Families with children ages 4 and up can spend a summer afternoon at the library enjoying a variety of video and board games.

Raider at the bookstore
Barnes & Noble Booksellers
1201 Third Street Promenade,
7 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Oakland Raiders football player Chris Kluwe will sign his new book, "Beautifully Unique Sparkleponies: On Myths, Free Speech, Football, and Assorted Absurdities." In his book, Kluwe muses on an eccentric and wide berth of topics, including anything from gay marriage to the Pope's Twitter account. There is no cost to attend. Call (310) 260-0158 or e-mail crm2575@bn.com for more information.

Yoga, music, bundt cakes
Naam Yoga LA
1231 Fourth St.,
7 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.
Naam Yoga LA will host an evening of yoga and meditation to celebrate the summer solstice. Attendees are asked to bring their own yoga mat, cushion and water. Tickets cost $50 on the day of the event. Naam Yoga founder Dr. Joseph Michael Levry will be in attendance. For more information, call (310) 751-7550 or visit naamyoga.com.

Standup with the stars
Westside Comedy
1323-A Third St.,
8 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.
Stars who have appeared on popular movies and television shows such as "The Hangover" trilogy, "MADtv," "Mad Men" and "Kimmel" are coming to Santa Monica for a night of standup comedy and acoustic comedy rock. Admission costs $10. For more information, e-mail info@westside-comedy.com or call (310) 451-0850.

Friday, June 28, 2013

Two men and a camera
haleARTS SPACE
2443 Main St., 5 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Photographers Charles Christopher and John Rosewall will open an art exhibit at the haleARTS SPACE gallery with a reception. Refreshments of popcorn and white wine will be provided. The exhibit will continue through the next week and will close on July 10. Admission is free. For more information, call (310) 314-8038 or visit the gallery's website at halearts.com.

Dance with a pulse
The Miles Playhouse
1130 Lincoln Blvd., 8 p.m.
The Hart Pulse Dance Company will debut three showings of new choreographic work by director Amanda Hart at its seventh season performance of "Singe." The company will also perform at the Miles Playhouse on Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets cost $15 for presale at hartpulsedance.com or $20 at the door. Free parking will be available at the AT&T building on Lincoln Boulevard. Call (661) 755-2182 for more information.

Roots live
McCabe's Guitar Shop
3101 Pico Blvd., 10 p.m.
Musical sensation and Grammy nominated singer Maria Muldaur will be performing in the area. Muldaur has recorded 39 solo albums of a variety of American roots music including gospel, R&B, jazz and big band. Tickets are on sale for $24.50. For more information call (310) 828-4497.

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

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

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



ASPCA uses USDA photos in fight over puppy mills

SUE MANNING
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is bolstering its campaign against puppy mills by showing photos of sick puppies and harsh kennel conditions taken by the federal agency that licenses commercial breeders.

The organization has added 10,000 photos to its "NoPetStorePuppies" website showing dogs at breeders across the U.S. with matted hair, bloody stool, long nails, injured eyes and dental disease.

The pictures were taken by the U.S. Department of Agriculture over the past few years and were obtained through a public-records request. The breeders were warned or given citations to correct the problems.

The ASPCA wants people to boycott puppy sales in pet stores and on the Internet, the places where most puppy mill animals are sold. It included the photos in a database that can be searched by breeder, license number or ZIP code.

"A lot of pet stores will say, 'We don't get pets from puppy mills, but from USDA-licensed breeders," said Cori Menkin, senior director of the ASPCA puppy mills campaign.

Rod and Lindsey Rebhan bought a miniature Australian shepherd for $1,000 at a Novi, Mich., Petland store in 2011. The newlyweds considered Jack "our first baby, our little boy," Lindsey Rebhan said.

About a month later, the dog had its first seizure. After 25 seizures over the next four months, he had to be put down.

Because Jack's epilepsy was so severe, vets said it was probably hereditary. The store refunded the sale price, but didn't pay vet bills.

"I'm pretty sure it was hush money," Lindsay Rebhan said.

If the couple had seen the website, they would never have been in the pet store, Lindsey Rebhan said.

Jack came from Evergreen Designer LLC, owned by Daniel Schlabach in Fresno, Ohio, according to purchase papers and the

SEE **PUPPIES** PAGE 12



MUSIC MEETS ART MEETS CULTURE

Photo courtesy Sara Al Hemaidi

Syrian-American hip hop artist Omar Offendum (left) speaks to a group of students during the opening of the exhibit, 'Aber: Expressions of Culture, Identity and Language,' on Monday at ADC Contemporary & BUILDING BRIDGES International Art Exchange at Bergamot Station. The exhibit, which highlights common bonds between Los Angeles and Qatar, will run through July 13.

Elvis' Cadillac among auction items at SMO's Barker Hangar

ADRIAN SAINZ
Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. Elvis Presley's Cadillac, Steve McQueen's old truck and prescription sunglasses worn by John Lennon are among hundreds of items once owned by celebrities that are scheduled to be auctioned next month.

The Mecum Auction Company said Wednesday it will be displaying and auctioning about 2,000 pieces of celebrity-related memorabilia in Santa Monica on July 26-27 at Santa Monica Airport's Barker Hangar.

Mecum, which specializes in the sale of collector cars, says one of the auction's highlights will be Elvis' 1972 Cadillac Custom Estate Wagon. "The King of Rock n' Roll" owned the car from 1972 until his death in 1977, according to Mecum's Web site.

The car was kept in the Las Vegas home of Colonel Tom Parker, Elvis' manager, and then at the Las Vegas Hilton. It was later sent to Graceland, Elvis' longtime Memphis home, before the car was auctioned off with other Elvis possessions in 1999, according to Mecum.

Elvis' Cadillac is among several vehicles being auctioned, including a 1969 Chevrolet C/10 Baja race truck and two motorcycles owned by McQueen, a motorcycle owned by Dennis Hopper, and cars that belonged to Frank Sinatra, Ringo Starr and Bette Davis.

Other Elvis-related items included in the auction are his Army induction and discharge papers and rare photos.

The auction will feature other unique pieces of pop culture history, such as Lennon's 1970s-style aviator prescription sunglasses with black plastic frames and amber-tinted lenses. The glasses were consigned by May Pang, Lennon's former personal assistant, who will be in attendance for the auction to authenticate the item, according to Mecum.

Also on the auction block are items from the collection of John Hagner, curator of the Hollywood Stuntman's Hall of Fame. His collection includes a 1944 Captain America costume and a whip used by the main character in the film "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade."

Mecum says items with ties to John Wayne, Marilyn Monroe, Jack Nicholson, Roy Rogers, Hunter S. Thompson, Jimmy Stewart, Burt Reynolds and Gene Kelly also will be auctioned.

Select items will be available online for silent auction beginning July 5 at www.mecum.com.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Paula Deen's breaking, clogging America's hearts

Editor:

Paula Deen needs to back up her apology with action. Her fatty, cholesterol-laden foods have exacerbated the country's poor health and caused an increase in obesity, diabetes and heart disease. Consuming red meat, fatty cheese and fried food increases the risk of diabetes, which is inextricably linked to other deadly health problems.

Most people might be surprised to learn that diabetes is 66 percent more prevalent in Hispanics and 77 percent more prevalent in African-Americans than in whites. But a low-fat, plant-based diet of fruits, vegetables, legumes and whole grains can help prevent, reverse and manage diabetes – regardless of race or ethnicity.

As a clinical researcher and dietitian, I hope that Paula Deen, the Food Network, and Smithfield Foods take action to combat the rise of type 2 diabetes by offering healthful, low-fat, plant-based foods and recipes – foods that will help to curb our country's deadly health problems.

Joseph Gonzales
Staff dietitian
Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine
Washington, D.C.

Bill's gone bonkers

Editor:

Bill Bauer uses the same kind of overheated rhetoric and misrepresentation that he claims are being used by opponents of the Miramar redevelopment ("Have anti-Fairmont forces gone bonkers," My Write, June 24). According to him, people like myself who are on "the list" of opponents don't really care about what happens at the Miramar site anymore. Why? Because we don't go to all the meetings. How about another possibility, that we all remain as adamantly opposed to the Miramar plans and tactics, but we're too busy earning a living to make a lot of 6 p.m. meetings?

We will make our presence felt at major meetings and the ballot box.

The meeting at the Civic Auditorium several weeks ago was all anyone should need to conclude that this issue – and the tone and pace of development being jammed into the lives of Santa Monica's citizens – have galvanized the will of large sectors of the community as few other issues have before.

Martyn Burke
Santa Monica

Selling out to tourists

Editor:

Unless I missed an issue of the SMDP, I was very surprised and sad that the closing of the Downtown Michaels Arts & Crafts did not get more publicity.

All my friends that use it were unaware of its recent relocation. The new one on Olympic Boulevard did not get favorable reviews. To me it seemed the only store in Downtown that actually had a steady stream of customers. I guess it's not tourist friendly so "off with its head."

The closing of Norms and now the convenient Michaels really show the total sellout of our city officials to "Touristdom." I think the name "Santa Moneyca" really should be its new moniker.

Louise Steiner
Santa Monica





Life Matters

Dr. JoAnne Barge — Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Losing my daughter, marriage

DEAR LIFE MATTERS,

I am so upset with my husband because he will not stop enabling our daughter and her drug use! I have watched him deteriorate much like she has! I'm beginning to think he is sicker than she is!

And this is bad because she's very sick with drug addiction. She's been in and out of so many rehabs and seen countless therapists, but she always ends up right back where she started, on heavy drugs. My husband keeps giving her money, bailing her out of bad situations, including jail. He thinks he's saving her!

I am really afraid she's going to die; she's using hard-core drugs and doing nothing else with her life. If this happens it will kill him, and I will blame him.

This has created great tension in our marriage and we no longer get along. He is so preoccupied with saving her that he has forgotten about our marriage. He just keeps insisting that he is saving her, and if he doesn't help her he believes he will lose her. I think it's the reverse. He's making no sense and we can't agree on anything anymore!

What can I do to save my daughter and maybe my marriage?

Please help. I am at a complete loss!

Signed,
Upset, scared and angry

DEAR UPSET,

If this will help you feel any better, please know that I have heard this exact same scenario over and over again, both in my practice and in classes I have taught.

From your description, it does sound like your husband is sick or becoming sick. He is obsessed, but actually for good reason. He loves your daughter and doesn't want to see her die or end up in jail. However, his notions about what will actually help are completely distorted.

Many people in similar situations do all the wrong things, but for the right reasons. They simply cannot see the forest for the trees and are too scared to stop and really analyze what they are doing. They are running so scared that they often do not even think about seeking professional help from the right people, such as those who really understand addiction.

Your husband is an addict too. It is called a co-dependent. My definition of this is a "cooperative dependence on unhealthy behaviors in order to maintain a relationship." This, of course, runs the gamut of situations, but in your case it is a serious, if not grave, situation.

You are correct that it is the wrong thing to be doing with your daughter. Your husband is only enabling the behavior that might lead to the thing he fears most!

And yes, this has caused great strain in many relationships and marriages. It often leads to the end of them.

Because you are asking for help, I am going to assume that you want to save, if possible, both your daughter and your marriage. My first thoughts are that you should see if your husband would accompany you to a therapist for marriage counseling. He must know that things are strained. If he agrees, make sure that the therapist is someone who is truly schooled and knowledgeable about chemical dependency and co-dependency.

Like your husband, some well-meaning therapists can do more harm than good if they do not fully understand the issue.

If he will go, this counseling should help him to begin to understand that his best intentions are causing more harm than good. It will not be easy for him, but if he also goes to Al-Anon, which the therapist should suggest, he will gradually begin to see.

Unfortunately, it is not an overnight success, but rather a process. Hopefully your husband sees the light before something horrible happens to your daughter. But at the very least his trying should help you to understand him and begin to both forgive him and feel closer to him.

If he won't go to counseling with you, I would recommend you consult with a top interventionist. The intervention may have to start with your husband and then, all going well, move on to your daughter.

In the meantime, you should consider attending Al-Anon or similar groups for the family and friends of addicts. You might want to consider counseling for yourself as well. This is a serious and very disturbing situation that few people, if any, can truly handle by themselves.

I wish you the best of luck with this and if you need referrals, please feel free to contact my office.

DR. JOANNE BARGE is a licensed psychologist and licensed marriage and family therapist with offices in Brentwood. Visit her at www.drbarge.com or e-mail your anonymous questions to newshrink@gmail.com. Got something on your mind? Let me help you with your life matters, because it does!



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Culture Watch

Sarah A. Spitz
Send comments to editor@smdp.com



Photo by Peter Day

COOL: Louis Pearl, 'The Amazing Bubble Man,' will be performing at the Edgemar Center for the Arts.

The Paine of independence

THOMAS PAINE WAS AN IDEALIST WHOSE name defined him. An early, and extreme, egalitarian radical, he was crucial to the founding of America with his inspirational writings, but a pain to some of the founding fathers. Despite authoring the best-selling American book of all time, by the time he died only six people attended his funeral.

If you find reading history a bit dry, watch it come to life onstage as writer/performer Ian Ruskin brings his one-man show, "To Begin the World Over Again: The Life of Thomas Paine," to the Electric Lodge in Venice. But hurry, there are only four more performances, including tonight, June 27.

The production brings to light the life of an influential, but overlooked, British-born American citizen whose writings helped galvanize the cause of the American revolution and was, controversially, an early anti-slavery activist and freethinker. He believed in equal rights for all and that the common man was the backbone of the new nation, in contrast to those who preferred it to be run by the elite landowners.

His views on religion were controversial; born a Quaker, he was against organized religion and became a deist, someone who believes that God is revealed through human reason and in the workings of nature. This, above all, earned him vast enmity and infamy.

The phrase, "These are the times that try men's souls." That's Thomas Paine, who wrote "Common Sense," "The American Crisis," "The Rights of Man" and "Age of Reason." While these books brought him great renown, they did not bring him wealth. He gave away the publishing rights and was always wanting for money.

He failed as a corset maker and became a tax collector in England. Writing a petition demanding that tax collectors be paid more got him fired. An avid debater who inhabited the "café culture" of his age, he met Benjamin Franklin and with nothing to lose, moved to the British-American colonies, settling in Philadelphia, where he became a journalist, crusading writer and political theorist.

"Common Sense" was essential to advancing the cause of independence from England, and "The American Crisis," written between 1776 and 1783, fired up the troops that would fight the battles to win that independence.

Later Paine moved to France, and wrote "The Rights of Man," a defense of the French revolution. Through no effort of his own, he was elected to the French National Convention but got caught in the crossfire between the revolutionary factions and was imprisoned. He nearly died in the dungeon, and was released just prior to his scheduled execution.

A proto-Marxist, Paine penned "Agrarian Justice," proposing the Americans pay property and estate taxes to fund pensions and to give men a fixed sum upon maturity to create their own futures and fortunes.

A man far ahead of his time, his complicated personality and political insights are

SEE WATCH PAGE 7

The Q Line

Building up

The City Council has ordered a survey to gauge how residents feel about development Downtown. We figured we'd cut to the chase and ask our readers what you think.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
What are your feelings on development and why?

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



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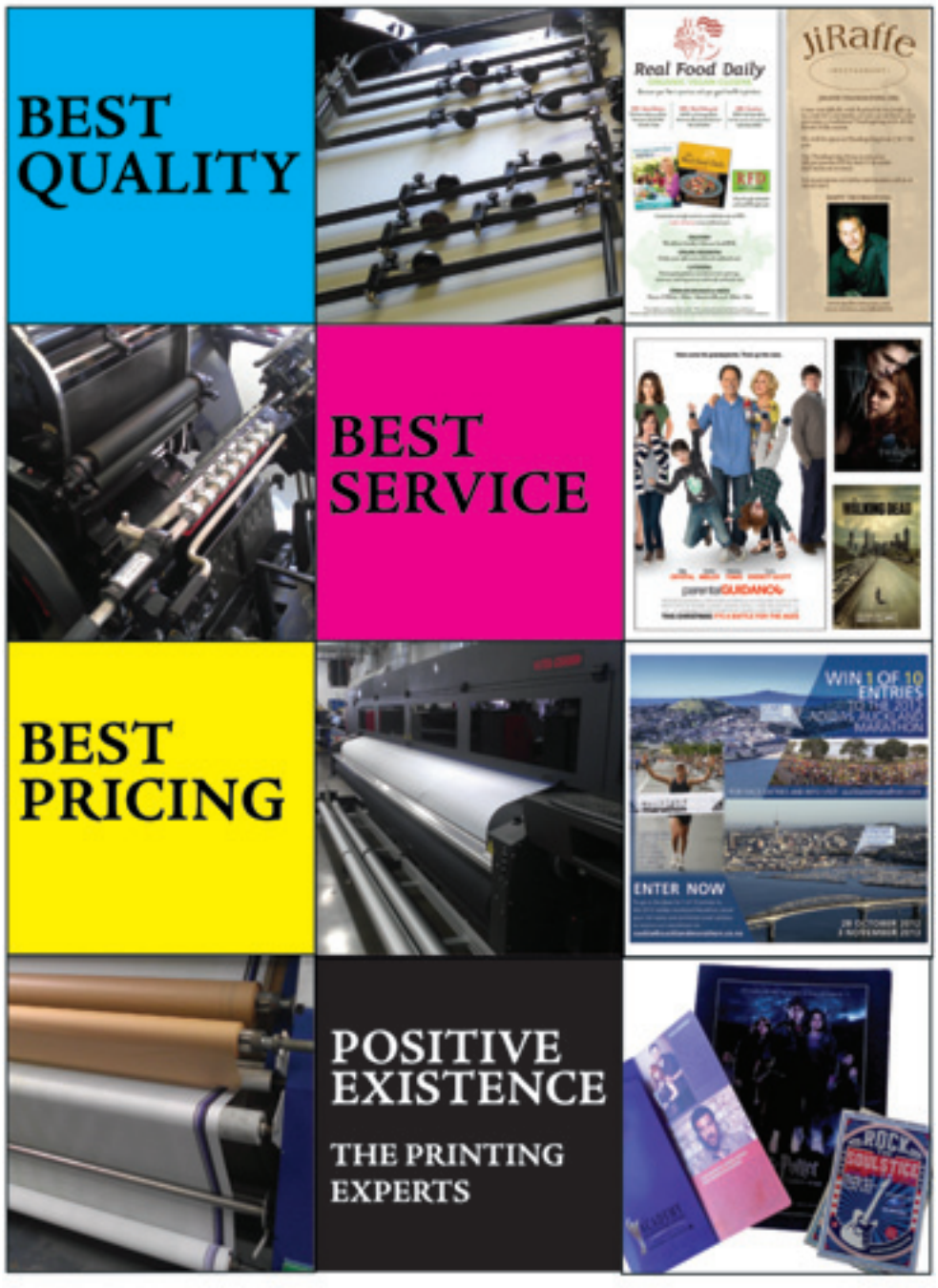
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Play Time

Cynthia Citron
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Photo by Ed Krieger

THE CAST: **Peter Lefcourt's 'The Assassination of Leon Trotsky: A Comedy' is now playing.**

Trying to find the funny

PETER LEFCOURT'S "THE ASSASSINATION of Leon Trotsky: A Comedy" is alleged to be in a similar vein as Michael Frayn's ever popular play "Noises Off." The most significant difference is that Frayn continually rewrote his play from its original incarnation in 1982 to its most recent revival in 2002. Lefcourt's play could use a few dozen more drafts.

Set in artist Frida Kahlo's Mexican villa, the plot revolves around the arrival of Leon Trotsky and his wife, Natalya Sedova, who were exiled by Stalin and sought refuge with Kahlo and her on-again, off-again husband, Diego Rivera.

It's been recorded that Trotsky had an affair with Kahlo, but in this play everybody sleeps with everybody else.

With nothing much to go on, the actors then take over the play and begin to improvise. Some of it is funny and the improvised soliloquies are recognizable from the plays from which they are hijacked, but the problem with this conceit is that the hijacked speeches have very little to do with the original play in progress. It's a play within a play that does nothing to advance or elucidate the "Assassination" play.

Then there is a third play; the actors being the actors and talking about the play together as they move the scenery around. It's not as confusing as it sounds, but it's not as riotous either.

To give credit where it's due, there are some funny moments and the acting, under Terri Hanauer's loose direction, is admirable. The fact that Joe Garcia is the image of Diego Rivera helps, as does Murielle Zuker's resemblance to Frida Kahlo. The off-note in the performance, however, is that Zuker goes flitting around the stage like a ballerina when in real life Kahlo was crippled and in constant pain from a childhood accident and spent much of her time in bed.

In this 14-person ensemble Joel Swetow stands out as Leon Trotsky, donning multiple accents as he recites the various speeches from his previous stage roles. And Christopher Rivas shows his nimbleness and versatility as the gardener, Jesus.

Kudos must be given to award-winning designer Joel Daavid as well, who created the interior of Frida Kahlo's Blue House as the set design. You can imagine that the actual house, which is now a museum in Coyoacan, Mexico, looks very much like that.

And lest you think I've been too harsh in critiquing this play, here's what Peter Lefcourt wrote in the program notes about "Assassination."

"Rest assured that the play has absolutely no redeeming social value. Should you find any hidden meaning in it, keep it to yourself."

"The Assassination of Leon Trotsky: A Comedy" will continue as a guest production at the Odyssey Theatre, 2055 S. Sepulveda Blvd. in Los Angeles, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. through July 28. Call (323) 965-7735 for tickets.

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Paula Deen dropped by Wal-Mart

DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK Paula Deen was dropped by Wal-Mart and her name was stripped from four buffet restaurants on Wednesday, hours after she went on television and tearfully defended herself amid the mounting fallout over her admission of using a racial slur.

The story has become both a day-by-day struggle by a successful businesswoman to keep her career afloat and an object lesson on the level of tolerance and forgiveness in society for being caught making an insensitive remark.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. said Wednesday that it ended its relationship with Deen and will not place "any new orders beyond what's already committed."

Caesars Entertainment Corp. said it had been "mutually decided" with Deen to remove her name from its restaurants in Joliet, Ill.; Tunica, Miss.; Cherokee, N.C.; and Elizabeth, Ind.

At the same time, Deen's representatives released letters of support from nine companies that do business with the chef and promised to continue. There's evidence that a backlash is growing against the Food Network, which tersely announced last Friday that it was cutting ties with one of its stars.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson said Deen had called him and he agreed to help her, saying she shouldn't become a sacrificial lamb over the issue of racial intolerance.

"What she did was wrong, but she can change," Jackson said.

During a deposition in a discrimination lawsuit filed by an ex-employee, the chef, who specializes in Southern comfort food, admitted to using the N-word in the past. The lawsuit also accuses Deen of using the slur when planning her brother's 2007 wedding, saying she wanted black servers in white coats, shorts and bow ties for a "Southern plantation-style wedding."

Deen said she didn't recall using the word "plantation" and denied using the N-word to describe waiters. She said she quickly dismissed the idea of having all black servers.

Deen told Matt Lauer on "Today" on Wednesday that she could only recall using the N-word once. She said she remembered using it when retelling a story about when she was held at gunpoint by a robber who was black while working as a bank teller in the 1980s in Georgia.

In the deposition, she also said she may also have used the slur when recalling conversations between black employees at her restaurants. Asked in the deposition if she had used the word more than once, she said, "I'm sure I have, but it's been a very long time."

Her "Today" show appearance was a do-over from last Friday, when Deen didn't show up for a promised and promoted interview. Deen told Lauer she had been overwhelmed last week. She said she was heartbroken by the controversy and she wasn't a racist.

"I've had to hold friends in my arms while they've sobbed because they know what's been said about me is not true and I'm having to comfort them," she said.

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WATCH
FROM PAGE 5

made manifest in Ian Ruskin's "To Begin the World Over Again: The Life of Thomas Paine." The play will be seen at London's Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts Festival, and is onstage at The Electric Lodge in Venice June 27 through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets and info can be found at http://theharrybridgesproject.org.

MASTERS OF THE VINE

Have you ever wondered about the world of the sommelier, the expert who helps choose just the right wine to pair with your meal? Did you ever think they were nothing more than snobby tasters who were just imposing their tastes on you, or worse, pulling a fast one?

The wonderful new documentary film "SOMM" will change your mind as it reveals the highly secretive world of the Master Sommelier, a 40-year-old organization whose members comprise an elite group of fewer than 200 people worldwide.

We are privileged to meet and follow the lives of four outstanding young practitioners who are about to embark on the hardest challenge of their lives: the nearly impossible-to-pass Master Sommelier test.

The antithesis of the hyperactive Iron Chef contests on TV, this film offers an incredibly engaging, quietly dramatic, enlightening, humorous and human look at the journey undertaken by these intensely dedicated wine lovers.

The four characters the film focuses on are a surprisingly unstuffy lot and the outcome of their test results also surprised me. We meet bearded Brian, dapper DLynn, bald-pated Dustin and hyper-diligent Ian, dubbed "Dad" by the others.

The studying is relentless, wives and girlfriends put their lives on hold, and mentors provide grueling tutelage. We travel the world in a wine glass as we follow their progress from months out to minutes before and after their tests, and we're in the room as they're told whether or not their sacrifice has paid off.

Instead of competing against each other, each candidate becomes a support system for the other; they learn to face and handle stress, fatigue and the emotional rollercoaster that the Master Sommelier test involves.

What drives each of them to achieve the ultimate prize for their obsession is unique and we follow that struggle and where it will take them.

You can still catch "SOMM" at Sundance Sunset Cinemas in West Hollywood or find it on iTunes. Highly recommended.

LAST MINUTE SUGGESTIONS

West L.A.-based choreographer Raiford Rogers presents his "bracingly contemporary" company's newest ballet "Schubert's Silence," partially funded by a Kickstarter campaign, at 8 p.m. this Saturday, June 29 at Cal State L.A.'s Luckman Theatre. www.luckmanarts.org

City Garage features an audience Q&A with Polish playwright Magda Romanska following the Sunday, June 30 4 p.m. performance of her world premiere play, "Opheliamachine," now onstage at the Bergamot Station-based theatre. Tickets at www.citygarage.org.

And back by popular demand, Louis Pearl, "The Amazing Bubble Man," will be at Edgemar Center for the Arts on June 29 and 30, with performances at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. He's been thrilling audiences around the world for over 30 years with the art, magic, science and fun of bubbles. Call (310) 392-7327 for tickets.

SARAH A. SPITZ is a former freelance arts producer for NPR and former staff producer at public radio station KCRW-Santa Monica. She has also reviewed theatre for LAOpeningNights.com.



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SCAM
FROM PAGE 1

blocks away from the victim.

As the Taylors assisted the elderly victim with his transportation and shopping needs, the victim entrusted Jim Taylor with his debit card and pin number.

The victim would authorize one of the two to withdraw $200 for groceries, but they would take out an additional $100 for themselves. The couple would reportedly yell at the victim when questioned about the extra funds. The victim finally contacted authorities, who approached the couple April 9, 2013.

In total investigators found at least 25 unauthorized withdrawals from the victim's account.

Molly Davies, vice president of Elder Abuse Prevention and Ombudsman Services at WISE & Healthy Aging, a nonprofit that provides services for seniors, said this kind of elder abuse is unfortunately a common occurrence.

"Although it's common I am always shocked at how people will take advantage of our seniors," Davies said.

She added that the extended time the couple took to steal the victim's money is a recurring feature of scams.

"Scam artists really take their time with seniors and fill a need," Davies said.

To prevent a run-in with caregivers like the Taylors, Davies recommended seniors find vetted assistance through a trusted source and agencies like WISE as well as staying connected with relatives or community networks. Studies have proven that elders who are socially isolated are more perceptible to abuse and scams, Davies said.

Even with a trustworthy caregiver, Davies recommended that seniors keep confidential documents hidden somewhere secure to prevent any identity theft from caregivers — especially given that identify theft is one of the more common forms of elder abuse.

SCAM ARTISTS REALLY TAKE THEIR TIME WITH SENIORS AND FILL A NEED."

Molly Davies,
Vice president of Elder Abuse Prevention and Ombudsman Services at WISE & Healthy Aging

Though the veteran met the Taylors in person, Davies said that a lot of seniors are solicited over the phone and by e-mail, often told that Medicare and Medicaid programs are requesting their Social Security number or some other confidential information. Seniors should keep in mind that if they are registered with these programs this information is already logged in, Davies said.

Davies also urged seniors not to feel rude or bad about hanging up on a scam artist and that if something sounds too good to be true it most likely is. A frequent example is a phone call alerting a senior that she won the lottery and needs to send in a couple thousand dollars to cover taxes.

For additional preventative tips and resources, Davies recommended seniors visit or contact WISE & Healthy Aging at (310) 394-9871, which provides consumer education for the elderly as well as education for those in charge of responding to cases of elderly abuse, including social workers and law enforcement.

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MARRIAGE

FROM PAGE 1

them rights enjoyed by heterosexual spouses.

Celebrations erupted in West Hollywood, and while there were no reports of street parties in Santa Monica, residents of the city by the sea that the Daily Press met Wednesday expressed a deep satisfaction with the decisions.

"It's a more universal thing than civil rights," said Felicia O'Connor, who was hanging out at Douglas Park with her child.

Santa Monica resident and former State Assembly candidate Torie Osborn, who has advocated on LGBT issues for decades, called Wednesday a "great day for gay rights."

She was working on then-Sen. Barack Obama's presidential campaign in 2008 when California voters passed Prop. 8.

Prop. 8 proponents captured the groundswell of minority voters that came out to support Obama, and those against the measure stumbled in their efforts to fight the message. It was a learning experience, Osborn said.

"Out of the horror of Prop. 8 was invented a social movement that was more successful at changing hearts and minds," she said.

She and Los Angeles City Councilmember Mike Bonin spearheaded the Camp Courage program, which trained hundreds of activists in a new set of tactics inspired by the successful Obama campaign.

They put messages of love and personal stories over appeals about civil rights, something that changed the tone and direction of the LGBT movement.

Prop. 8's demise will not impact every member of the LGBT community tomorrow, although wedding bells may chime a bit more in the future, but the affirmation of the right to marry is an important one for those who have been denied it for so long.

Osborn got married in 2003 when San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom began handing out licenses to same-sex couples in what she calls her "favorite civil disobedience act of all time."

Some, however, view the loss of Prop. 8 as a disappointment.

Sister Ginger Brandenburg volunteers at the Santa Monica Institute, which teaches religious classes for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints across from Santa Monica College. She advocated for Prop. 8, one of those who went door to door discussing the issue with voters.

Those in favor of Prop. 8 felt that gay couples already had many of the same rights as heterosexuals under state law, and that by denying them the ability to marry, they were protecting a religious institution.

"We truly were not trying to be discriminatory. We were trying to value the sanctity of marriage," Brandenburg said.

While California does have many protections in place for same-sex couples, the same could not have been said about the federal government until Wednesday.

In that decision, Justices Anthony Kennedy, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan found that the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, signed into law by then President Bill Clinton, violated the equal protection provision of the Fifth Amendment by discriminating against same-sex couples.

There are more than 1,000 federal laws in which marital status matters, which covers everything from income and inheritance taxes — the issue involved in the case brought to the Supreme Court — to health benefits and pensions, the Associated Press reports.

Santa Monica has been a leader on gay rights in both arenas.

The Church in Ocean Park went against the teachings of the Methodist Church, of which it is a part, when it married gay couples in 2008. The Rev. Janet Gollery McKeithen risked official censure from the Methodist Church by performing the ceremonies in back yards and "lots of places."

"Though many of us have been working hard to change it, we are still not allowed to officiate at the weddings of [same-sex] persons, and could be brought up on charges and lose our ordination if we do so," McKeithen said.

It didn't stop her from marrying eight couples that year and she "will do so again if the opportunity presents itself."

In 2011, the Santa Monica City Council joined seven other California cities by passing an ordinance that required most city contractors to provide the same health care and other benefits to workers' same-sex spouses and domestic partners that they provide to heterosexual couples.

"The bottom line is about human rights and being tolerant of other people," said Mayor Pam O'Connor. "It's a human right to marry the person you love."

That law exempts banking institutions, city grantees and nonprofits, but then-Mayor Richard Bloom, now a member of the state Assembly, called it a "small but significant step." Bloom applauded the court decisions Wednesday, calling them "courageous and heroic."

"These dual rulings will give respect and dignity to millions of gay and lesbian Americans," Bloom said. "The decision is pivotal for Californians and a historic step forward in the struggle for full marriage equality across the country."

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BUDGET
FROM PAGE 1

the 2013 year and 5 percent from the 2014 fiscal year in an effort to keep City Hall in the black for the next two years despite a $20 million hit from the loss of its Redevelopment Agency.

After that, finances begin to sink under the weight of employee pensions and benefits, leaving City Hall with a $5.8 million deficit in the General Fund as soon as 2015-16, the first year of the next biennial budget. That is projected to increase to $18.1 million by the 2019-20 fiscal year.

City Hall suffered from a double whammy, both because of the rich benefits offered to employees as well as changes to the California Public Employee Retirement System, or CalPERS.

The organization, which manages $257.4 billion in assets for governmental entities across the state, plans to increase employer contribution rates, settling on policies that will increase costs as much as 50 percent over the course of five years.

The City Council did not try to address those concerns, instead focusing on largely cosmetic changes.

The most dramatic switch was a $3.5 million shift from the 2012-13 budget into the 2013-14 budget to pay for a parking project that was too complex to finish in the original budget cycle, although it will not impact the bottom line.

Most of the night focused on money going to social service providers that focus on older teens and young adults, changes to the amount candidates pay to run in elections and a City Council discretionary fund for pet projects.

The council signed off on a funding plan to give Social Environmental Entrepreneurs (SEE) $225,000 to run the Pico Youth & Family Center as a drop-in and referral center for at-risk youth.

Supporters of the center protested the change, which cuts out roughly one-third of the funding that City Hall has traditionally given to the center as part of its grant program.

It also fundamentally changes the programming at the center, which currently offers case management services to its clients. City Hall has taken issue with the way that the organization is administered as well as its record-keeping, which fails to document how services help kids.

"That kind of record keeping has never been a strong suit of what happens here," said Julie Rusk, assistant director of the Community & Cultural Services Department.

Roughly $90,000 of what was cut from PYFC's funding would go instead to the Cradle to Career initiative's Youth Resource Team, a multi-agency group that has worked for several years to try and address problems facing young people between 16 and 24 years old in Santa Monica. Critics of the initiative say it has shown little progress.

City Councilmember Tony Vazquez resisted giving more money to the Cradle to Career initiative, saying that the organization didn't have a detailed enough plan or specific outcomes for the population it was trying to serve.

The council struggled a bit with the issue of fees to run for the City Council, which officials proposed to set at $25 for a candidate filing fee and an additional $300 to cover the costs of printing and handling of candidate statements.

Councilmember Kevin McKeown said it would be "pretty cheap" to require people to pay the $25 to run for City Council, and ultimately included the cost in a laundry list of items that will absorb $576,688 from funds under the City Council's control.

Other items on that list include $100,000 to design city signage, $25,000 for an assessment of playground equipment north of the Santa Monica Pier and $100,000 to support Section 8 vouchers.

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Water Temp: **66.4°**

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

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

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

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

BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of: **June 19, 2013**

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QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)
- Number of sewage spills -- 4
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 1
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 33 / 1
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 0

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: simplehuman, LAcarGUY, SIMA, and Grousbeck Family Foundation

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	F	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kanter 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.	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of DWW jetty).	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	ns

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

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

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PUPPIES

FROM PAGE 3

ASPCA website. Phone messages left for Schlabach were not returned.

Photos of the kennel taken Nov. 2, 2011, show a dog with scabs and ulcerations on his muzzle; an underweight dog; four dogs with diarrhea; dirt and hair buildup in den boxes; two dogs with raw skin on their paws; one with a cloudy left eye; and one with a runny nose and a cough.

In a reply to an email query, Petland Novi said it didn't discuss customer claims because its customers are entitled to privacy.

The puppy mill fight started long ago. Agencies took up the cause as the number of pet owners telling heartbreaking stories of illness, death and costly vet care swelled. The sale of puppy mill dogs has been banned in some cities, including Los Angeles. Stores can sell shelter animals or hold adoption events on weekends.

The ASPCA and other animal welfare groups claim the way dogs are kept at some breeders — where they are producing hundreds of puppies at a time — cause chronic physical ailments, genetic defects or fear of humans.

Breeding females are overbred, kept in unsanitary, crowded cages without vet care, adequate food or water. When they can no longer breed, they usually are killed, experts say.

When the puppies are sold, they often are stuffed into crowded trucks and hauled thousands of miles, sometimes getting sick from the trip itself, arriving in bad shape and unable to bounce back from illness or parasites.

"Not all breeders run puppy mills," Menkin said. "Breeders without violations typically won't appear in the database, but if they're only meeting USDA standards, and not exceeding them, then we would consider their operation a puppy mill."

The database photos go back to 2010, and the number for each breeder varies.

"I have not studied it because it's a waste of time," said Karen Strange, a lobbyist for the Missouri Federation of Animal Owners. "Much of the information is old, and it's a publicity stunt for the ASPCA ... and other radical animal rights groups to garner money from the unknowing public."

USDA records show a third of the 2,205 licensed dog breeders in the country are in Missouri.

Republican state Sen. Mike Parsons of Bolivar, Mo., recently told the Legislature there that commercial dog breeding in Missouri was a $1 billion industry that employs thousands and spends millions every year on dog food, veterinarian services and utilities.

Strange said some breeders contacted her when they heard about the photos, wondering how they should react. She said they were told to conduct business as usual and if they were in compliance with state and federal law, they had nothing to worry about.

Menkin disagrees, citing legal loopholes. For example, she said, federal law says a breeder must have an attending veterinarian, but it doesn't say dogs have to be handled by the vet.

Tanya Espinosa, a legislative and public affairs spokeswoman for the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said the agency would not comment on the website.

The ASPCA obtained the photos through the Freedom of Information Act and plans to continue posting pictures, Menkin said.

Heather Nyein in Syosset, N.Y., bought a Shiba Inu at a pet store in January. She said Kiku, now 7 months old, came from an Iowa puppy mill.

It had kennel cough, and the store reimbursed Nyein $160 for two vet visits and medicine. Kiku survived.

"I completely lucked out with her," Nyein said after looking at some of the photos on the website.

If she had seen the pictures before getting Kiku, "I wouldn't have done it. I wouldn't do it again."

She's getting another dog, "but this time it will be from a Shiba rescue."



FAME Senior Apartments
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A brand new nonsmoking, pet friendly senior 62+ community located at 1924 Euclid St.,1753 18th St. & 1755 18th Court., Santa Monica, CA will be offering Studios and 1 bedroom apartments.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

A Safe Place (NR) 1hr 32min
Someone to Love (NR) 1hr 45min
7:30pm

The Aero Theater presents a double-feature of works by director Henry Jaglom and actor/director Orson Welles. Jaglom will host a discussion between the two films.

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

Iron Man 3 (PG-13) 2hrs 15min
1:10pm

Fast & Furious 6 (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
4:15pm, 7:20pm, 10:30pm

Now You See Me (PG-13) 1hr 56min
1:30pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:25pm

Star Trek Into Darkness 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 03min
1:00pm, 4:05pm, 7:10pm, 10:20pm

Bling Ring (R) 1hr 30min
2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:40pm, 10:15pm

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

Man of Steel (PG-13) 2hrs 23min
11:15am, 2:40pm, 6:00pm, 9:30pm

Monsters University (G) 1hr 47min
11:00am, 1:45pm, 3:15pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

World War Z (PG-13) 1hr 56min
11:10am, 5:00pm

World War Z (PG-13) 1hr 56min
10:45pm

This Is The End (R) 1hr 47min
11:40am, 2:30pm, 5:25pm, 8:15pm, 11:00pm

White House Down (PG-13) 2hrs 17min
7:00pm, 10:20pm

Internship (PG-13) 1hr 59min
12:45pm, 3:50pm

Heat (R) 1hr 57min
10:00pm

Monsters University 3D (G) 1hr 47min
12:30pm, 6:15pm

World War Z 3D (PG-13) 1hr 56min
2:00pm, 8:00pm

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

Mud (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
1:30pm, 7:00pm

Frances Ha (R) 1hr 26min
3:20pm, 8:00pm

Much Ado About Nothing (PG-13) 1hr 49min
1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:10pm, 9:50pm

Before Midnight (R) 1hr 48min
1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:20pm, 10:00pm

Kings of Summer (R) 1hr 33min
1:00pm, 5:40pm, 10:15pm

Dirty Wars (NR) 1hr 30min
4:40pm, 9:55pm

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

Happy Birthday

Kelly Van Amberg: Santa Monica softball league regular with a crazy strong right arm.

Your treat tonight, Gem

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You might opt to say less and stay more centered as of late. Perhaps the best action to take is to be receptive to others' inquiries. Though it is not natural for you to assume a passive role, it might be best. Tonight: Get some extra R and R.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Domestic matters could be problematic right now. You might even get into a quarrel with a family member if you are not careful. You seem to be more rigid than you have been in the past. Tonight: Happy at home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Someone might be demanding more than you want to give. Realize what is driving you in certain areas of your life. Know what is going on within your circle of friends. Tonight: Your treat.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You might be touched by recent exchanges between you and a loved one. Know that this feeling is allowing a suppressed emotion to emerge. You'll need to deal with those feelings in order to prevent a strong reaction from occurring. Tonight: Let your imagination lead the way.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You would be well-advised to relate to key individuals directly. Communication continues to be out of sync for you, and others as well. Tonight: Dinner with a favorite person at a favorite place.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You could be a lot more reflective than you have been in a while. Your wheels might be spinning in order to ensure that you have the responses you'll need when it is impossible to make a prediction. Give up a need for control, and go with the flow. Tonight: Defer to a partner.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Focus on a recent accomplishment. You often use flattery to get what you want. Be careful, as you won't know what to do when someone reverses your technique and uses it on you. Tonight: Get the job done.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You might be confronted with a pressing issue. Understand that you'll be able to pass right through it, no matter how many hurdles you already might have jumped over. Accept this with grace. Tonight: Have fun

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ You will see life with more openness because of the implications in a special relationship. The result of feeling so good in the company of this person could trigger more openness. Tonight: Togetherness is the theme.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You'll find the right words to compliment someone -- be sure to let him or her know how sincere you are. A compromise with a loved one seems inevitable. You also are able to identify with others, which will make you extremely popular. Tonight: At a favorite spot.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ You could be overthinking a risk, and you might not be sure of which way to go. Realize that a decision needs to be made, but doing it to please someone else might not be enough. Value this person's feedback, but know that ultimately, the decision will be yours. Tonight: Your treat.

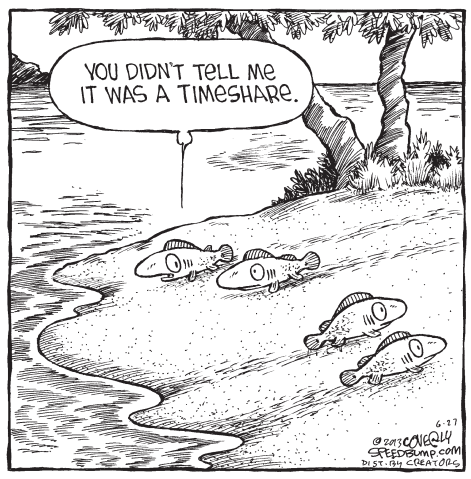
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Be aware of what is happening beyond the obvious. Someone who is important to your daily life might be beaming, and his or her happiness will be contagious. Open up to this positive energy. You might have a sense of what is about to occur. Tonight: The world is your oyster.

Thursday, June 27, 2013

This year you have the unique opportunity to let your mind grow past preconceived concepts. By the end the year, you will note how fundamental judgments can limit your thoughts. You will relate to others better, and you also will experience more success and inner content. If you are single, someone quite bohemian could enter your life and become the flame that warms and nurtures you. If you are attached, you will experience more compassion between you and your significant other. PISCES is as emotional as you are.

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

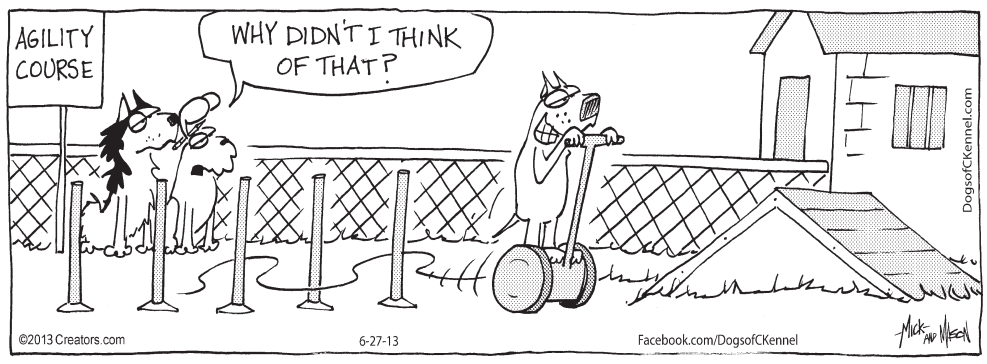
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



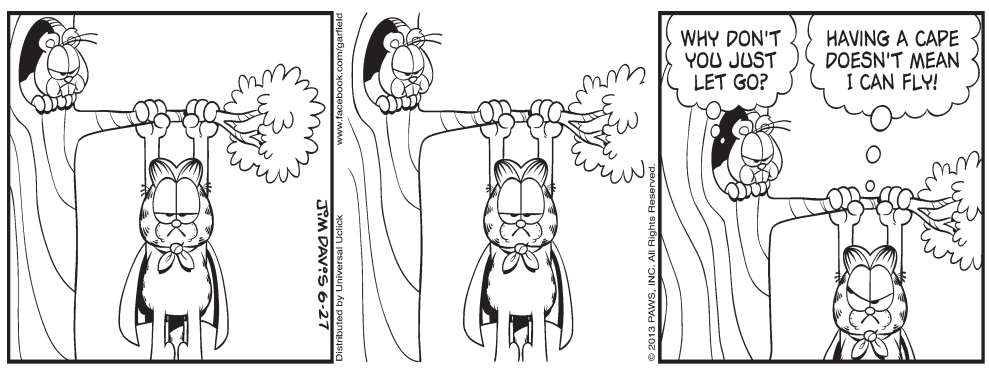
Strange Brew
By John Deering



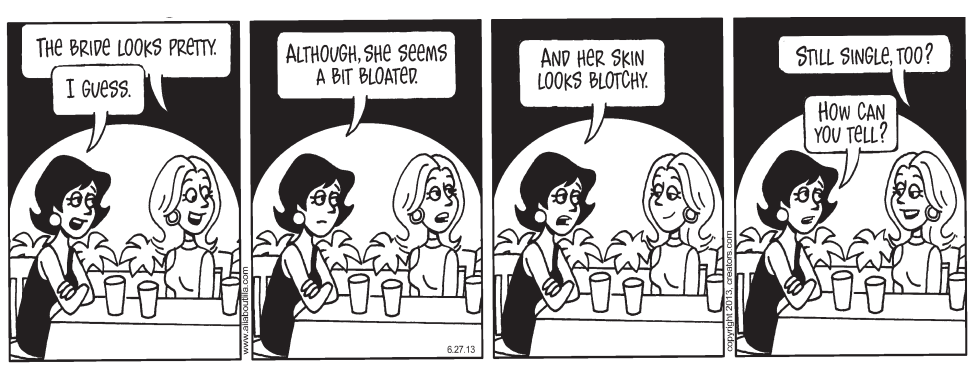
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



Sudoku

Fill in the blank cells using numbers 1 to 9. Each number can appear only once in each row, column, and 3x3 block. Use logic and process of elimination to solve the puzzle. The difficulty level ranges from ★ (easiest) to ★★★★★ (hardest).

Difficulty Level ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

Difficulty Level ★★★ 6/26

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Useful skill
6 Tumbler, e.g.
11 King or czar
12 Ham's need
13 Singer Green
14 Dark wood
15 Spots
17 Ballpark souvenir
19 Squid's squirt
20 Lass
23 Beethoven symphony
25 Large: Prefix
26 "Not to worry"
28 "Lucky Jim" author
29 Meadowlark's cousin
30 Squealer
31 Shiverer's sound
32 Puzzle
33 Peaceful
35 Cook's herb
38 Temple scroll
41 Even a little
42 City on the Mohawk River
43 Tube, to Brits
44 Doled out

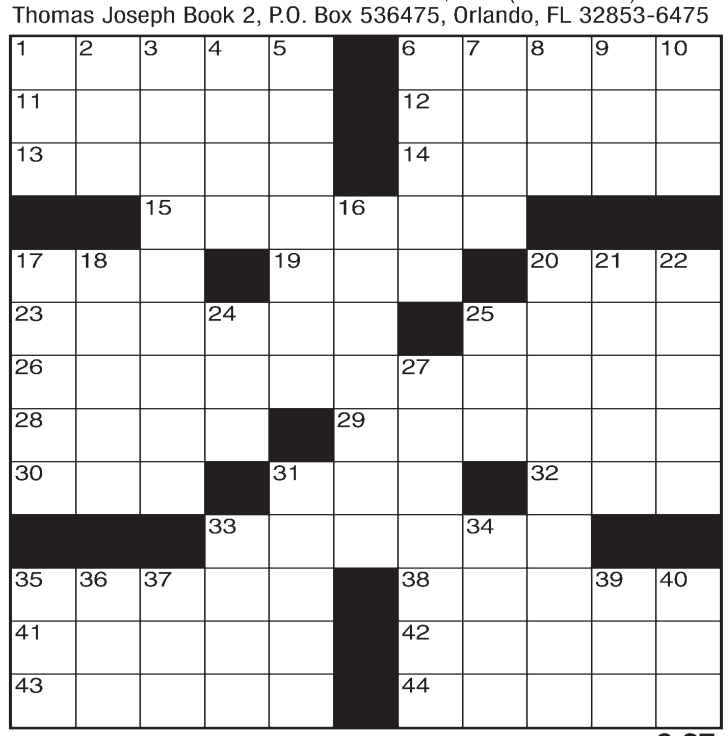
DOWN

1 Rainbow shape
2 Take to court
3 "Don't decide now"
4 Snaky swimmers
5 Hot spots
6 Like Zeus and Hera
7 Research settings
8 Hoopla
9 Naughty act
10 Kind of milk
16 Succinctly
17 Fragrant wood
18 Bakery come-on
20 "Stop complaining!"
21 Acrobatic
22 Rubber source
24 "— Now or Never"
25 Avril follower
27 Book typo
31 Gut
33 Window part
34 Carry
35 Night flier
36 Corroded
37 Mineo of movies
39 Trick taker, often
40 Suffered from

O	T	T	E	R	■	■	B	U	L	B
N	E	A	T	O	■	R	E	N	A	L
R	A	N	A	T	■	O	N	C	U	E
A	S	K	S	■	E	N	D	U	R	E
M	E	T	■	A	S	S	■	T	A	D
P	R	O	D	U	C	T	S	■	■	■
■	S	P	O	T	■	A	M	O	S	■
■	■	■	C	O	N	D	U	C	T	S
R	I	M	■	H	U	T	■	T	E	E
A	R	A	R	A	T	■	D	O	W	N
T	E	N	O	R	■	P	A	P	A	S
O	N	T	A	P	■	A	Z	U	R	E
N	E	A	R	■	■	R	E	S	T	S

Yesterday's answer

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



6-27

DAILY LOTTERY

POWERBALL
Draw Date: 6/26
1 18 33 39 46
Power#: 33
Jackpot: $40M

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 6/25
3 5 28 33 51
Mega#: 16
Jackpot: $61M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 6/22
9 23 25 27 34
Mega#: 12
Jackpot: $23M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 6/26
12 24 30 34 36

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 6/26
MIDDAY: 8 7 1
EVENING: 0 3 2

DAILY DERBY
Draw Date: 6/26
1st: 05 California Classic
2nd: 02 Lucky Star
3rd: 01 Gold Rush
RACE TIME: 1:48.70

Although every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the winning number information, mistakes can occur. In the event of any discrepancies, California State laws and California Lottery regulations will prevail. Complete game information and prize claiming instructions are available at California Lottery retailers. Visit the California State Lottery web site at **http://www.calottery.com**

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Religious Messages From All Over: (1) A catering company in Leicestershire, England, became a holy site in May after the Hindu owner found an eggplant that resembles the elephant-headed Lord Ganesh. He said that he prays to it now twice daily and has so far welcomed about 80 visiting worshippers. (2) As part of his recent U.S. tour, the Dalai Lama, introduced to a University of Maryland audience by Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, greeted the governor on stage by rubbing noses with him.

■ Expectant North Carolina parents Adam and Heather Barrington (who is due in July) have disclosed that they will accept underwater midwifing from the Sirius Institute of Pahoa, Hawaii, which arranges for the mother to swim with dolphins pre- and post-natally. "It is about reconnecting as humans with the dolphins so we can ... learn from one another," said Heather. Said Adam: "Dolphins are very intelligent and healing, which ... calms mother and baby. ..." Biologists writing for the Discovery Channel, however, reminded readers that underwater births are extraordinarily dangerous and that dolphins are "wild animals" that gang-rape female dolphins and "toss, beat and kill small porpoises." Said another, the Barringtons' plan is "possibly the worst idea ever."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1985 - The U.S. Route 66 is closed

1988 - Gare de Lyon rail accident In Paris a train collides with a stationary train killing 56 people.

1991 - Slovenia, after declaring independence two days before is invaded by Yugoslav troops, tanks, and aircraft starting the Ten-Day War.

WORD UP!

snood
\ snood \ , noun;
1. a netlike hat or part of a hat or fabric that holds or covers the back of a woman's hair.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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DISHWASHER
UPSCALE retirement community in Santa Monica is looking for a part time dishwasher to assist washing dishes and cleaning kitchen in the evenings. Pre employment drug test and clear criminal background required EOE If interested, please come to 2107 Ocean Ave. and fill out an application.

Taxi drivers needed. Age 23 or older, H-6 DMV report required. Independent Contractor Call 310-566-3300

Upscale assisted living community looking for PT and FT cooks to prepare delicious meals for senior clientele. Experience preferred. Pre employment drug test and fingerprint background check required. If interested, fax resume to (310) 314-7356 or come to 2107 Ocean Ave. and fill out an application. EOE

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Lost & Found

LOUISE'S PLASTIC bag on Ocean Ave. 6/23 w/ prescription glasses and hearing aid batteries. If found call 310-393-4366 REWARD

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