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JUNE 30 - JULY 1, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 197

Santa Monica Daily Press

LONDON 2012

LONDON LOOKS TO DITCH BAD FOOD IMAGE
SEE PAGE 7

We have you covered

THE WAY TO GO GRADS ISSUE



Doug Olmedo *news@smdp.com*

PASSING GRADE: **The graduating class of 2012 at Santa Monica High School. Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District graduated more seniors than most schools in California in 2011, beating the statewide average by over 10 percent, according to figures released this week.**

SMMUSD seniors beat graduation goals

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's class of 2011 exceeded national expectations with its high graduation rate, beating the statewide average by over 10 percent.

According to a report released Wednesday, 87.8 percent of students who started a high school program in 2007 left the district with a diploma compared to 76.3 percent statewide.

The rate also represented a nearly 4 percent increase in the district's graduation rate from the 2009-10 school year. Graduation rates at the state level improved by 1.5 percent over the same time period.

Although many factors contribute to the district's success, the continuing commitment to summer programs is a big factor, said Maureen Bradford, director of education services at the district.

"That is so important, otherwise kids are going to give up and they will drop out," Bradford said. "We're fortunate that the school district has been able to support them when other schools across the state have eliminated them because of cost."

Nearly every subcategory of students in the district showed a greater percentage graduating in 2011 than the year before, with the exception of students of one or more races, which fell 5.5 percent.

Graduation rates amongst African American students showed the largest increase, with approximately 10 percent gains between the two school years.

Statewide, schools saw improvement in similar categories, if not as dramatic as in SMMUSD.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson called the public schools "one of the most effective job and anti-poverty programs ever conceived."

"These numbers are a testament to the hard work of teachers and administrators, of parents and, most of all, of the students themselves," Torlakson said.

The improved graduation rates also met and surpassed standards included in the No Child Left Behind Act, a piece of federal legislation passed under the Bush administration that requires schools to hit certain academic benchmarks or face severe consequences.

SMMUSD had to show a graduation rate of 84.3 percent this year to meet its "adequate yearly progress," a moving target that goes up each year. By 2018, the law requires 90 percent of a cohort — those that start together freshman year — to get a diploma.

Eventually that goes to 100 percent, which Bradford hopes legislators will eventually decide is "unrealistic."

In the meantime, schools that do not meet current standards face damaging sanctions, including less flexibility to meet the yearly progress requirements in other areas.

To meet the adequate yearly progress, or AYP, schools have to show that 95 percent of their students take standardized tests and that those students get certain scores.

There's also a provision called "safe har-

SEE GRADS PAGE 10

Cops commit to new policies after cougar shooting

BY HANNAH BERKMAN
Special to the Daily Press

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY The Santa Monica Police Department has committed to new procedures for capturing wildlife, including developing a notification system of local experts and providing training to personnel, following the killing of a mountain lion in May.

On June 25 the Santa Monica Police Department convened a focus group with representatives from City Hall, the California Department of Fish and Game, the National Park Service, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles and local veterinarians to discuss

SEE COUGAR PAGE 10

Board wants voters to change how rent increases are calculated

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL The Rent Control Board voted unanimously Thursday to recommend a change to its charter that would dramatically alter how rent increases are calculated, if not their final amount.

The proposal would calculate the annual rent increases allowed for rent controlled apartments in Santa Monica by 75 percent of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), a measure of the change in costs for goods and services.

It would also give the board the flexibility to impose a cap on the increase of up to 6 percent of the total rent on the unit.

The City Council is expected to take up the change in July, at which point it could begin the process to put the matter on the Nov. 6 ballot.

If passed, it would represent only the third time that the rent control charter has been amended since 1979.

Proponents of the concept say that the

SEE CHARTER PAGE 9

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, June 30, 2012

An afternoon with Paul F. Cummins
Ocean Park Library
2601 Main St., 2 p.m. — 3:30 p.m.
Local author and poet Paul F. Cummins reads from his latest book of poetry entitled "Love and Squalor," and a Q&A will follow the reading. Cummins has published books on education and poetry, and a collection of his poetry was published in 2002. He is the executive director of New Visions Foundation, as well as the primary founder of New Roads School. For more information, call (310) 458-8683.

Wild summer night
The Christian Institute
1308 Second St., 3 p.m.
Everyone is welcome at this free read-along of some of Oscar Wilde's most beloved fairy tales, including "The Happy Prince," "The Selfish Giant" and "The Remarkable Rocket." Free admission, come in anytime. Runs approximately two hours. For more information, call (310) 394-4178 or e-mail cdickens85@yahoo.com.

Codependency made easy
Main Library
Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 3 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.
Darlene Lancer, a local marriage and family therapist and author of "Codependency for Dummies," will lecture on the topic of codependency in relationships, and a book sale and signing will follow the presentation. Lancer's lecture will explain the basics of codependency and how to recover from it, and attendees will also learn how to improve their self-esteem and relationships. For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

'Funny Girl'
Senior Center
1450 Ocean Ave., 12 p.m.
This classic musical starring Barbra Streisand as legendary Ziegfeld Follies comedienne Fanny Brice tells the story of this unconventional beauty from the Jewish slums of New York. Brice dreamed of stardom and eventually became the toast of Broadway, much to the dismay of her husband Nick Arnstein (Omar Sharif), and her career leads to instability in her marriage. Must be a Senior Center Member to participate, with free membership open to all ages 50 and up. For more information, call (310) 458-8644.

Celebrating independence
Santa Monica College, Corsair Field
1900 Pico Blvd., Gates open at 5 p.m.
SMC will honor Independence Day with a fireworks show and live entertainment. More than 8,000 people are expected to attend the 30th anniversary celebration. There will be food trucks and activities for the kids. Feel free to bring food and drinks, but no alcohol. The event is free. Parking is $5. For more information, call (310) 434-4000.

Sunday, July 1, 2012

Mission team food drive
First Presbyterian Church of Santa Monica
1220 Second Street; 9 a.m. — 11 a.m.
The Mission Team Food Drive is held the first Sunday of every month during the morning worship services. Canned food donations go directly to the Westside Food Bank, which provides hunger relief to the Santa Monica community. For more information, call (310) 451-1303.

Fine wine
Ruskin Group Theatre
300 Airport Ave., 2 p.m.
The Ruskin Group Theatre Co. presents "Sideways The Play" adapted by Rex Pickett from his own novel. The story, previously adapted as a major motion picture, is about two friends — Miles and Jack — and their last trip across the Santa Ynez wine country before Jack gets married. In an attempt to face their futures, the pair must first learn to accept its present. This event reoccurs weekly on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. until July 28. General admission is $25. For more information, call (310) 397-3244.

Happy anniversary
The Miles Memorial Playhouse
1130 Lincoln Blvd., 5 p.m. — 7 p.m.
Downbeat 720 is pleased to present its 10th anniversary show hosted by Joe Hernandez-Kolski, Joshua Silverstein and DJ JEDI. Downbeat 720 provides a safe environment for high school singers, poets, M.C.s, dancers, actors or musicians to perform their material in front of their peers. For more information, call (310) 458-8634.

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



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CITYWIDE

SMPD cracks down on tailgating

In the month of July cops are going to crack down on drivers who love to tailgate.

The Santa Monica Police Department's Traffic Enforcement Section has been focusing on different bad driving behaviors in an effort to cut down on the number of accidents.

Ranging from behaviors such as failing to yield to pedestrians in February to speed violations in May, SMPD aims to keep the streets safe for drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians alike.

According to Santa Monica Police Traffic Investigator Chris Dawson, tailgating is a serious issue. A majority of the accidents as a result of following too closely are due to inattention or being in a hurry.

Metro calls on artists for Expo

ADRIANNA DINOLFO

Artists who desire to showcase their work along the Metro Expo Line have a chance to apply before July 2.

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) is inviting artists to submit qualifications for art opportunities at seven new Metro Rail stations in Los Angeles County.

Prior public art experience is not a requirement, and the opportunity is for both emerging and established artists with a background in two-dimensional media and an interest in public art, according to the Metro's qualifications request form.

Seven new stations will be added to the existing 10 stations connecting downtown Los Angeles to Santa Monica.

The new stations will traverse highly trafficked landmarks and destinations in Culver City, west Los Angeles and Santa Monica.

Three of the seven new locations are located in Santa Monica: two on Colorado Avenue and another on Olympic Boulevard.

Metro is also requesting an iconic sculpture be built at one of the new stations located at Colorado and Fourth Street. Applications for this particular task are due July 9.

The all-inclusive budget for design, fabrication, delivery and installation is $500,000.

For more information e-mail artistopportunities@metro.net.

MOLLY PHILBIN





Photo by Devon Meyers

ILLUMINATING: **An orange balloon (right) demonstrates how high field lights will be at Malibu High School. The Malibu City Council on Monday gave the school district the OK to install lights so students can play night games.**

Malibu council OKs play under the lights

Field lights at Malibu High approved for 61 nights a year

BY MELISSA CASKEY
Special to the Daily Press

MALIBU HIGH Councilmembers in Malibu approved a plan on Monday to erect four permanent 70-foot light poles on the football field and track at Malibu High School.

After listening to more than three hours of public testimony and deliberating several amendments to a staff recommendation, Mayor Pro Tem Lou La Monte and Councilmembers Joan House and John Sibert reached a consensus on the item, which grants the school permission for permanent light fixtures that will be paid for with private funding.

Mayor Laura Rosenthal and Councilman Skylar Peak recused themselves from the vote. Rosenthal donated to a private fundraiser for the lights and Peak e-mailed a

SEE **LIGHTS** PAGE 11

Remote Maine puffin colony up close on HD webcam

BY CLARKE CANFIELD
Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine Two high-definition cameras began streaming live video Wednesday of clown-like Atlantic puffins waddling, preening and nesting on a remote Maine island.

The National Audubon Society and Santa Monica-based explore.org teamed up to stream video from Seal Island National Wildlife Refuge to anyone with an Internet connection. Located about 20 miles offshore, the island has the largest puffin colony in the U.S.

The video, which can be seen at www.explore.org/birds, marks the first time high-definition cameras have been used in North America to stream video of Atlantic puffins, said Steve Kress, director of Audubon's seabird restoration program.

One camera shows puffins and other seabirds on the island's rocky ledges, flapping their wings and coming and going while waves crash on shore. The other camera is underground, inside a burrow showing a puffin in her nesting site. It is so close to the bird you can look into its eye.

SEE **CAM** PAGE 9





LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Dumping on others

Editor:

Re: "FAA not objecting to flight school payments," June 29.

The FAA may not object, but I, as a taxpayer, do. With City Hall and the school district talking about running out of money and having to cut services, City Hall seems to have no problem finding ways to waste our tax dollars.

The stupid politicians of Santa Monica and the self-centered residents think the noise caused by the flight schools is too much, but they don't have any problem exporting that noise to some other community and their residences.

Kent Cullom
Santa Monica

Can't see the truth

Editor:

Don Wagner says the Christian displays at Palisades Park are about peace, love and brotherhood, when in fact they promote a sectarian point of view ("Supporting the wrong thing," Letters to the Editor, June 26). It's hard to have peace, love and brotherhood mostly because of self righteous, needless sectarian violence.

Regarding the rusted iron nuclear mushroom, his criticism of [Jerry] Rubin focuses only on the "ugly, rusted mass of iron." But he apparently can't see or understand the sculpture's riveting, ugly truth about the potential reality of sectarian, self righteous violence.

Randy Walburger
Santa Monica

Protecting territory

Editor:

Until this year, I thought the nativity scenes in Palisades Park were just spontaneous, seasonal amateur art ("Nativity scenes no longer allowed in Palisades Park," June 14). I had no idea they were symbols of oppression. As a Christian who doesn't celebrate Christmas (choice, no principle) I never took much notice.

However, I'm disgusted that the City Council lets a bunch of outsiders tell them what to do. I guess I'm territorial.

And regarding Paul Scott's letter blustering about "take a stand against majority rule," that's as sanctimonious as it gets ("No other choice," Letters to the Editor, June 18). As if the atheists, this bunch of wannabe freedom riders, had all done something heroic.

Charles Bennett
Santa Monica





Modern Times

Lloyd Garver — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

There's no place to hide

DID YOU EVER CALL IN SICK AND THEN go hang out with friends? Were you ever supposed to call on clients, but decided to go to a movie instead? Did you ever "forget" to tell your boss that a business lunch has been canceled, and then go out to lunch with your spouse? If you got away with this kind of thing in the past, forget about it. Your days of tricking your boss are over.

People probably called you "paranoid" if you were someone who was positive that "they" always know where we are. Guess what? You're not paranoid anymore. "They" do know where you are. Our friends at Google have come up with a smart phone app that will allow your boss to be able to see where you are at all times. Called "Maps Coordinate," this little devil of innovation is part of a paid business version of Google's map program. An employer can just sit back and watch where his employees go and how long they stay there.

Of course, Google doesn't describe this as a way for bosses to spy on workers. They say that the purpose of the device is to help assign jobs and decide who goes where "more efficiently." Right. And social networking sites don't sell your information to other companies.

Google tested this product on government agencies. If it could be limited to government employees, I probably wouldn't think it was such a bad idea. We could finally find out where members of Congress actually go when they're supposed to be voting on an important bill or when they say they're on the Appalachian Trail.

Unfortunately, this device won't just be used to keep an eye on politicians. Pizza delivery guys were another test group. That's really going too far. What kind of country would this be if pizza delivery guys couldn't goof off on the job?

Google can talk all it wants about how this will make companies more efficient and therefore more profitable. However, that ignores the negative economic impact of this app. For example, one economic sector that will be hit hard is the sleazy motel industry.

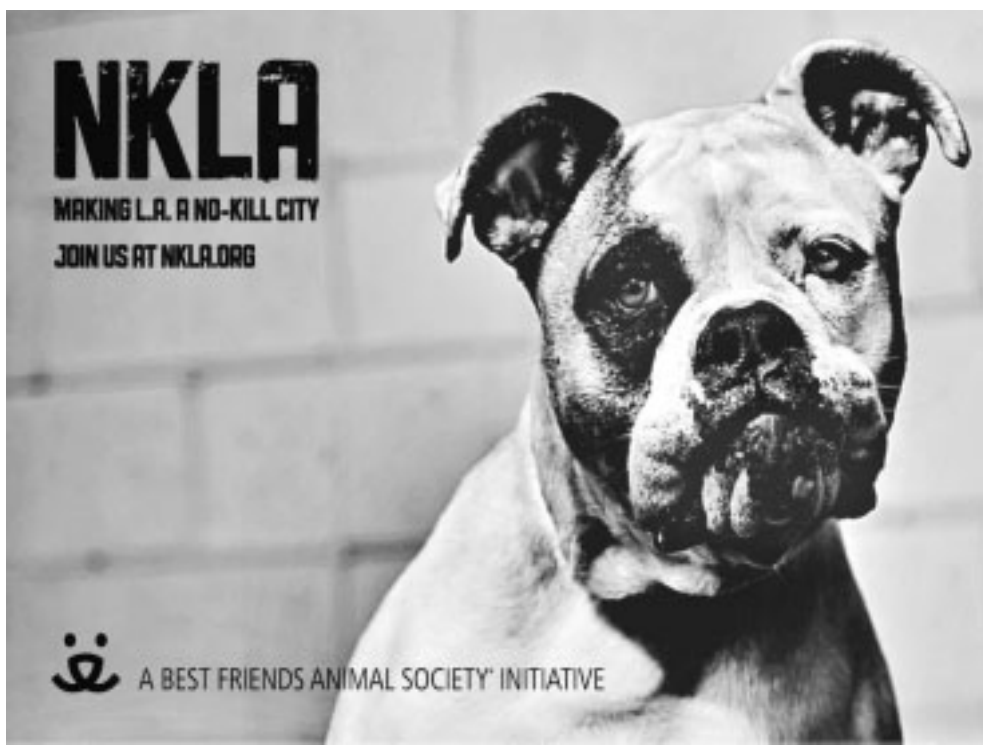
There's another reason to hate these eyes of Big Brother. If it can be used for business purposes, what's to stop it from being used in our personal lives? Won't boyfriends, girlfriends and spouses be able to track people down too?

Young people who actually understand how these things work are probably laughing at me for being concerned about a little app. Let me remind those who scoff that there is another group that will certainly want this device — parents. Do you really want them to know where you go when you tell them that you can't go to dinner with them because you have to go to a friend's house to study?

PEOPLE PROBABLY CALLED YOU 'PARANOID' IF YOU WERE SOMEONE WHO WAS POSITIVE THAT 'THEY' ALWAYS KNOW WHERE WE ARE. GUESS WHAT? YOU'RE NOT PARANOID ANYMORE. 'THEY' DO KNOW WHERE YOU ARE.

It's because of these very same young people that I'm confident that this won't develop into a problem soon. They can make a computer jump through hoops while they watch the latest video of a baby trying to change his own diaper. So some smart computer whizzes will come up with programs to disable things like this Google Snoop. In the meantime, I'll just continue to write my column here in this dusty old library. Or am I at the beach? I'll bet "they" know.

LLOYD GARVER has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Home Improvement" to "Frasier." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He can be reached at lloydgarver@gmail.com. Check out his website at lloydgarver.com and his podcasts on iTunes.



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The Q Line

Future of park's residents

The Planning Commission last week approved a proposal to develop one of the city's remaining trailer parks, potentially displacing its residents....

This past week, Q-line asked:
What do you think would be fair compensation for the Village Trailer Park's current residents and why?

Here are your responses:

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"TO ANSWER THIS WEEK'S QUESTION I think fair compensation would be that older residents that have been in this place can move into that new complex with the same amount of rent or payment that they meet right now. It is time for everybody to stop throwing people out of their homes just to make money. That's not the American way. We need to keep these people living where they are; most of them are elderly and it's just not right."

"FAIR COMPENSATION FOR EACH current resident should be at least $1 billion. The developers can easily afford that."

"CONSIDERING THE STRESS AND TRAUMA that the residents are going through — and will be going through — a new trailer and a new park location close by would be adequate compensation."

"OK, LET'S SEE IF I CAN UNCONFUSE this. City Council, in a mutual bargain with greasy developers, are going to displace old-time, low-income trailer park residents for new-time, socialist-voting, low-income, tax-supported renters. Wow, who in this town saw this coming? Yes, financially support the next to the last trailer park evictees. Here's how. All City Council members, rent-control Stalinists with their lower-grade, high-paid lawyers — and what the heck, let's add school board members; they are just as incompetent as anybody else — sucking the life essence from this town. Start with a 25 percent tax on their yearly incomes. Transfer that to a financial plan that Warren Buffet oversees, which would compensate the ousted with a monthly dividend. The reward for the rest of us would be a City Hall that is less conceited about further destroying Santa Monica."

"I THINK THE RESIDENTS OF VILLAGE Trailer Park should be compensated by living in Santa Monica at a price that is just and is fair and that is equitable. They should not be thrown out."

"IF CITY COUNCIL ACTS TO ACCEPT THE proposal, compensation should include, at very least, remunerations for home buy-in costs and realty-value accrual over time because relocation expenses and harms-benefit for having had a unique life situation of many years were unilaterally taken without good cause."

"THEY [TRAILER PARK RESIDENTS] DO not, nor have they ever, owned the land. In this country there is such a thing as private property rights. These selfish individuals have wasted enough time and taxpayer money on something which should never have been debated. All they have done is drive up the development costs of this project."

"IN 1991, THE TRAILER PARK HOMEOWNERS at 505 Olympic Blvd. were paid a settlement amount of $25,000 to vacate the land so the SAMOSHEL facility could be built. In today's dollars, that settlement amount is $42,183. Why should the Village Trailer Park residents be paid less? Only a just cash settlement will mitigate their loss of home, equity and community. And what if this project is not even built? They will be on the street with only their cash settlements."

"I DON'T WANT COMPENSATION TO MOVE out of the park. I want to stay in this park and, on behalf of the owners of Village Trailer Park, prevent a speculator from making his millions. They need to take into consideration the disruption to current tenants of Village Trailer Park and comply with all laws including the Mobile Home Residency law (state legislation Section 798.1)."

"THEY ARE TRAILERS. TOW THEM AWAY."

"OF COURSE THE TWO LADIES THAT OWN the land should stay at the Village Trailer Park. Those that are not low income should receive $20,000 per trailer space and leave the park. The others should be put in a lottery for space at Mountain View Mobile Home Park on Stewart St. Those that don't win in the lottery should either get emergency Section 8 vouchers, be put into senior buildings in Santa Monica, or immediately be put into a Community Corp. building."

"CITY HALL MIGHT GIVE THE TRAILER park residents an option along with monetary compensation to live in the new planned housing free or on a reversed mortgage plan."

"ALL THEY ARE ENTITLED TO IS MOVING expenses — period. These people knew when they purchased their trailers that they were still only renters and were not guaranteed a plot for eternity. At any time the owner of the trailer park as the right to go out of business and no longer spend money on making repairs, etc. What if this owner simply went bankrupt and no one else wanted to or had the funds to purchase the park? What would happen to those residents then? Priority should be given to those who are elderly or disabled. They should be allowed to live in the city-owned trailer park or one of the new units once the development — if ever — is completed. The rest should do like the rest of us when we are told our lease is up, find a new place to live, suck it up and take responsibility for the choices you have made. I'm tired of people crying for a handout."

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Saturday
August 11, 2012

at The Sheraton Delfina Hotel
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$100 Buy in
(Includes $1500 in chips & a buffet dinner)

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The Re-View
Merv Hecht
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Straight talk on Westside's Thai

A FEW YEARS AGO WE ATE AT WHAT WAS then considered to be the best restaurant in the world. The name was El Bulli (The Bulldog) and it was located in Rosas, Spain, just north of Barcelona.

For me it was more of a tasting test than a savory meal. Many of the dishes were made to taste very different than you would expect from looking at them. But they truly did have amazing flavors.

One that I remember the best was called "Three countries." This consisted of three ceramic spoons, each filled with a liquid, each of which was a different color. There was no indication of what countries were represented. And there was no need to: as soon as we tasted the liquid, we knew exactly what country was connected to that flavor.

One of these spoons was indisputably Thailand. I love Thai food. And I've eaten at more than one dozen Thai restaurants in this area (and also at a number of them in Thailand itself). But what is it about Thai food that makes it so distinctive?

Well, one is the mix of herbs. There is cilantro, lemongrass, basil and mint. Sometimes there is ginger, galangal, tamarind, turmeric, garlic, lime — and, best of all, several types of chilies. And most dishes have nam bplah, a strong tasting fish sauce, which gives a salty flavor to the cuisine. In fact there are a lot of fish-based sauces and pastes, and lots of spice mixes. Thai is a mix of foods from a half dozen adjacent countries, plus Persia. And there is often a touch of sweetness in the sauces.

But we don't get as much variety in local restaurants as one might hope for. Most of the local restaurants have the same dishes, at least by name. But the taste and preparation does vary greatly.

One of my favorite local Thai restaurants is Thai Dishes. It's been around a long time. There used to be two of them in Santa Monica, but the one on Second Street and Santa Monica Boulevard closed recently, leaving the one on Wilshire Boulevard.

Our family had a meal at Thai Dishes recently. There was an excellent papaya salad, and as usual we had the excellent "chicken on fire" appetizer, served with garlic sauce. We moved on to sharing a coconut chicken soup, with those special galangal and coconut flavors, pieces of chicken and little mushrooms. And it's so nice that they serve the soups in a metal pot with a flame under it to keep the soup hot.

Then came one of my favorites, the red squid curry with shrimp and cashew fried rice. The curry consists of squid pieces and many sliced vegetables in a rich sauce filled with flavors of coconut and spices. The fried rice comes in a pineapple, a nice touch. The two dishes together seem perfect, but so different from Indian curries, which I also love.

I think there must be over 50 Thai restaurants in west Los Angeles. If you took away the Thai restaurants and automotive stores just on Lincoln Boulevard you would have a deserted wasteland. But no one that I talked to feels very strongly about any one particular Thai restaurant being a lot better than the others.

The Cholada Thai Beach Cuisine on the Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu gets good ratings on the Internet. I eat there often because we have friends that live nearby who like to meet there. It's very small and usually crowded. The food seems very authentic, and certainly the people serving it are. But I don't see anything special about the food.

A little further east is Natalee Thai. Here we've had some very good food. Big, meaty, tender pork ribs arrived in a well-marinated, mildly sweet barbecue sauce. These three very tasty ribs really could qualify as a main course. Then we tried the naked shrimp, which came to the table in six small square containers, each with one shrimp in a green sauce!

Fortunately we love very spicy foods, so we loved the tender shrimp, and drank its very spicy marinade with a lot of pleasure — along with a lot of Thai beer.

Finally a tantalizing sole arrived consisting of a generous portion of fish filets in vegetables and a brown sauce redolent with garlic, lime and traditional Thai spices.

The food here is not significantly different from other Thai restaurants, but perhaps the preparation is a bit superior.

Finally I tried a little place in Culver City that I've heard about, Thai Boom. The ribs were not nearly as good as either Thai Dishes or Natalee Thai. The red curry was OK, but not as intense as others. In general, it was deja vu all over again, as the great Yogi used to say.

All said, Thai food is wonderful, and we are fortunate to have so many small delicious Thai restaurants all over the Westside. Hopefully some day we will begin to see regional Thai specialties promoted.

If you go

Natalee Thai
998 S. Robertson Blvd. # 101
Los Angeles
90035
(310) 855-9380
www.nataleethai.com

Thai Dishes Santa Monica
1910 Wilshire Blvd
Santa Monica, Calif.
90403
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http://thaidisheswilshire.com

Thai Boom
10863 Venice Blvd.
Los Angeles
90034
(310) 842-8291
http://thaiboomLA.com

Cholada Thai Beach Cuisine - Malibu
18763 Pacific Coast Highway
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90265
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www.choladathaicuisine.com

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Britain uses Olympics to shed stodgy food image

BY JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON Boiled potatoes, stringy beef and overcooked vegetables. If that's your impression of British food, you're not alone.

The country hosting the Summer Olympics has an international image as a culinary wasteland, but with hundreds of thousands of tourists, athletes and journalists descending on London in less than a month, British chefs and tourism chiefs hope to change that dire reputation.

To be sure, the Olympic and Paralympic Games will feature an industrial-scale catering operation that aims to serve 14 million meals — much of it fast food — to those coming for the July 27-Aug. 12 games. And workers at the Olympic Park are putting the finishing touches on four temporary McDonald's — including the world's largest, a two-story giant capable of serving 14,000 people a day.

But British foodies say the country has much more to offer.

"London is one of the three best cities in the world to eat in right now," said Heston Blumenthal, an ebullient celebrity chef who has been instrumental in challenging Britons' palates with his mad-scientist enthusiasm for innovative "molecular gastronomy."

"But if people haven't been to Britain for 15 years or 20 years, they're going to go 'Oh my God, it's horrible,'" he admitted.

Blumenthal, whose Fat Duck restaurant in the southern England village of Bray is consistently rated among the world's best, has been hired by British Airways, along with chef Simon Hulstone, to create special Olympic menus celebrating British food to be served on flights this summer.

Starters include mackerel with pickled cucumber and golden beetroot and peppered goat's curd salad; mains range from fish pie with parmesan pomme puree to braised British beef with mustard and horseradish mash. The recipes seek to combine strong flavors — rare in airplane meals — with British traditions harkening back to 1948, the last time London hosted the Olympic Games.

In typical Blumenthal fashion, creating the menus involved science, with research into the degrading effects of altitude on a passenger's sense of taste.

Hulstone said the key turned out to be using foods that are rich in umami, the savory "fifth taste" that goes along with bitter, sweet, salty and sour. The goal was "simple but memorable" food.

"Just simple ingredients: parmesan cheese, goat's cheese, mackerel, tomatoes, soy sauce, mustards and mushrooms," Hulstone said. "But they work."

BA says 3 million people will be served the Olympic meals, offered on long-haul flights out of Heathrow airport between July and September. Hulstone also has created a special menu for inbound flights from the U.S.

The culinary enticements continue at Olympic Park, where McDonald's is not the only option. In the athletes' dining hall, competitors can chose from British, European, Mediterranean, African and Caribbean dishes, with Halal, Kosher and low-salt meals available.

Spectators can sample British favorites such as roasted pork on a roll, Red Leicester cheese and apple chutney sandwiches and cod and chips — as well as international fare such as pizza, Singapore noodles and jerk chicken wings.

Across Britain, there is a new pride in local food.

"From sticky toffee pudding from Cartnmel to oysters from Whitstable, salt marsh lamb from North Wales, or smoked salmon from Scotland, our food is key to our cultural identity," Prime Minister David Cameron said at a reception to celebrate British cuisine. "British food showcases our heritage, openness, creativity and diversity."

It's a big change for a cuisine that, according to food historian Ivan Day, really did live down to its image.

The decline began in the late 18th century, when the Industrial Revolution forced millions of people off the land and into cities, where many lost touch with old ways of growing and preparing food.

"We were the very first industrialized nation in the world," said Day, who specializes in unearthing England's pre-industrial cooking traditions. "We were the first people to be fed out of factories."

In the decades that followed, World War I killed hundreds of thousands of Britons, including many skilled cooks, bakers and butchers. World War II left the country victorious but impoverished — "a Third World country with a cold climate," Day said. Food remained strictly rationed for several years after the war.

"We lost what France, Italy, bits of Germany, Portugal and Greece had — a regional, rural cuisine," he said. "A friend of my father's saw a red pepper for the first time in the 1960s, and he called it 'foreign muck.'"

That attitude is now rare. Immigration has transformed British cuisine to such an extent that chicken tikka masala, a hybrid Anglo-Indian curry, is often called the country's national dish.

And older British traditions are being rediscovered. During recent celebrations of Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee, picnics and parties across the land featured fruit jellies, Victoria sponge and other old-fashioned comfort foods.

Once-humble dishes — like the stew known as Lancashire Hotpot or sugary Treacle Tarts — now appear on fashionable restaurant menus. Blumenthal's London restaurant, Dinner, draws inspiration from centuries of British cooking, with dishes including roast marrowbone, spiced pigeon and "meat fruit" — a medieval confection of chicken liver parfait in mandarin jelly.

Good food is not limited to high-end restaurants. The "gastropub revolution" has brought fine dining to pubs, where food choices were once limited to potato chips and pickled eggs. Quality varies, but the best are very good indeed.

Farmers' markets have sprouted across the land, offering everything from organic asparagus to homemade pork pies. The biggest, such as London's Borough Market, are major tourist attractions.

Britain's large supermarkets also have a range of produce, meats and cheeses.

And yet, to Day's frustration, the dire image lingers.

"It's one of these silly historical cliches," he sighed. "You've always been able to get good food in England. Sometimes it's been more difficult than others. At the moment, it's dead easy."

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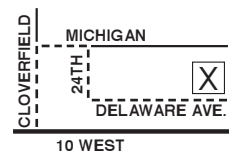


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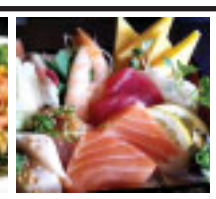
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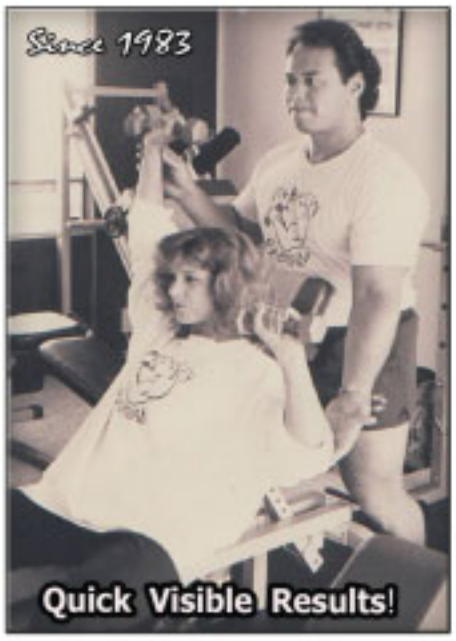
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Water battle looms between L.A., high Sierra town

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MAMMOTH LAKES, Calif. Los Angeles and Mammoth Lakes, a small ski town high in the Sierra Nevada, are locked in a court battle over a crucial water source, fueling century-old resentment over the efforts of the metropolis to supply its thirsty millions.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power filed suit in Mono County Superior Court six months ago to gain control of Mammoth Creek. The creek 300 miles north of Los Angeles is the main water supply for Mammoth Lakes.

The town of 7,700 argues that the state for decades has given it the right to 2,760 acre-feet of water a year from the creek that runs through town.

The DWP contends the state lacked authority, and the agency has owned the water since 1905.

The outcome of the dispute could stifle the town, whose livelihood depends largely on the estimated 1.5 million people who drive from southern California each winter to ski.

If the Mammoth Community Water District loses the case, it would be forced to buy water from the DWP, and that could raise local water rates by at least 100 percent to about $840 a year, an official told the Los Angeles Times.

In a community where 40 percent of the residents are low-income, that could prompt people to move and dissuade new development.

"There are lots of other places for people to go that aren't under the thumb of the DWP," water district board member Tom Cage said.

"Mammoth Lakes would cease to exist" if the DWP wins, added water district manager Greg Norby.

The battle already has cost the town $300,000 in legal expenses, which it can ill afford. A few years ago, the town flourished as the region had record snowfalls. There was a real estate boom and coffers were full.

But then the snow stopped — and so did the economy. The area's largest employer, Mammoth Mountain ski resort, laid off 70 full-time workers last winter.

Home prices have plunged. The city itself is preparing to file for bankruptcy because it has been ordered to pay $43 million in a breach-of-contract lawsuit brought by a developer.

The town argues that the DWP shouldn't have the right to seek control of its main water supply since it didn't challenge state allocations decades ago.

"Los Angeles never protested any of them," Norby said. "Where the hell was the city 50 years ago?"

Martin Adams, DWP's water project director, said it was not a big issue when Mammoth Lakes was small, but the town added population and a golf course and now diverts an amount of water equal to 1 percent of the supply flowing into an aqueduct from the eastern Sierra to Los Angeles.

"Every drop counts, and under the city charter we are mandated to protect every drop," Deputy City Attorney Bill Carter said. "The city of Los Angeles does not want to harm Mammoth or its residents."

Still, the conflict has fueled old resentments. The region has been prone to massive dust storms since Los Angeles opened an aqueduct in 1913 that drained Owens Lake. More recently, however, the city has agreed to provide some water to parts of the lake, give up some water to maintain levels in Mono Lake and restore a 62-mile stretch of the Lower Owens River.

The Mammoth Lakes water district has started a campaign to stop what it calls a water grab by asking customers to swamp the DWP and Los Angeles city officials with complaints.

"The DWP is a rapacious agency," said Paul Rudder, Mammoth Lakes attorney. "The people of Los Angeles aren't going to shed a lot of tears over a poor little mountain town being stepped on by an elephant."

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CHARTER
FROM PAGE 1

new method would make rent increases far more transparent than the current formula, which breaks down the monthly rent on an apartment into "slices" that represent the costs landlords pay to keep up an apartment.

Some of those components, like property taxes and business license fees, are fixed, while others are determined to be percentages of the rent.

Confusing and arcane it may be, it's the way rent increases have been managed in Santa Monica for the last 30 years.

Opponents of the plan say that landlords should get the full amount of the CPI increase, arguing that as the cost of goods and services throughout the economy increases, costs of maintaining apartments and providing services to tenants does as well.

"Seventy-five percent of CPI is not CPI," said Wes Wellman, of the Action Apartment Association, which represents landlords in Santa Monica. "If your purchasing power is reduced less than the CPI, it's been reduced."

The CPI method appears to undercut landlords' profits further.

For the most part, the "pie" method imposed rent increases in line with the proposed CPI adjustment, just at much higher cost to the Rent Control Agency.

According to a staff report, the old method of rent adjustment has resulted in an increase of approximately 77.85 percent of the CPI over the course of the last 25 years, but the analysis costs between $15,000 and $25,000 each time.

The proposal came out of six months of work on the part of the Rent Control Board and its subcommittee, which put the matter out to public comment on June 14.

It made it through its final meeting Thursday almost entirely intact.

The only change was a decision floated by Commissioner Marilyn Korade-Wilson to increase the ceiling on rent increases from 5 percent as written in the proposal to 6 percent.

That figure represented a compromise between caps put out by Commissioner Todd Flora and Chair William Winslow.

Flora pushed for the lower ceiling, which would guarantee landlords a lower rent increase each year.

"Let's be gutsy, let's be bold," Flora implored his fellow commissioners.

Winslow was more content with a 7 percent cap, similar to that seen in other cities like Berkeley, Calif. and West Hollywood, Calif.

He feared that a lower cap would be an invitation to a lawsuit by landlords eager to make more money off of their properties.

The Rent Control Board recently lost one such lawsuit that was fought over the ability of landlords to pass certain taxes onto renters through their rent.

Korade-Wilson, who had been a proponent of the 5 percent cap, suggested the 6 percent figure, which was ultimately accepted by the board.

The board is not bound by the cap. It can choose a dollar amount anywhere up to 6 percent of the unit's rent if it so chooses.

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CAM
FROM PAGE 3

The goal is to engage the public and spur interest in seabird restoration, said Kress, who has worked with puffins for nearly four decades.

"About a third of all seabird species in the world are threatened with extinction," Kress said. "It's the most troubled group of birds in the world. And the puffin is the bird among seabirds that people can relate to."

The Atlantic puffin is sometimes called the "clown of the sea" with its colorful striped beak, its diminutive stature and the comical way it waddles.

The birds live across a vast expanse of the North Atlantic from Maine to northern Russia, but they almost disappeared from Maine when settlers hunted them to near-extinction for food and feathers in the 1800s. By 1900, only small numbers of puffins nested on just two Maine islands.

Kress has been working to restore puffin and other seabird populations to Maine's islands since 1973, when he founded the Project Puffin restoration project.

Today, puffins breed on five Maine islands, with Seal Island having the largest population, about 550 pairs. The birds arrive each April and leave in August, spending the rest of their lives at sea.

Scientists count 3 million to 4 million pairs of Atlantic puffins worldwide, with roughly 60 percent of them breeding in Iceland.

Project Puffin put a web camera on Maine's distant Matinicus Rock, home to about 300 pairs of puffins, in 2005 in an effort to stream video, Kress said. But the video was low-quality and worked only intermittently.

The latest project, with its high-definition cameras, gives views of puffins that were previously unavailable.

The project also includes a third camera on Seal Island that is aimed at common terns, and a fourth camera on another island elsewhere off Maine that's focused on a family of ospreys.

The project is funded by explore.org, a philanthropic organization in Santa Monica, and a division of the Annenberg Foundation.

Tom Pollak, executive producer of explore.org, said his organization has other cameras streaming video of a panda, a polar bear, a beluga whale and other animals, with the aim of having people "fall in love with the world."

"The feedback has been very positive," he said. "One of the best experiences we had was when we covered a polar bear migration in Manitoba and somebody commented, 'This is better than football.'"











GRADS
FROM PAGE 1

bor" which allows schools to show progress from year to year rather than meet hard-and-fast benchmarks.

If a district doesn't make its graduation requirements, however, it can no longer rely on "safe harbor" to help it through the other progress goals.

"It's to drive home the importance of the graduation rate, putting that into the accountability piece," Bradford said. "If your kids are not finishing high school, that's not OK."

There are ways to lift graduation rates that have nothing to do with improving education, however.

Each year, a certain number of students leave the district, either to go to other schools or even leave the state. If the district cannot prove that the student actually enrolled in a new district, that child is counted against the graduation rate as a dropout.

Part of the improved graduation rate between 2010 and 2011 had to do with the district getting better at tracking down those students, Bradford said, particularly at Santa Monica High School where there are more of them.

"In 2010, there were almost 100 kids who were on the list called 'lost transfers,'" she said.

Despite the good news, there are still areas for improvement at SMMUSD. The biggest discrepancy in graduation numbers was between the genders.

Even when broken down by ethnic groups, female students far outpaced their male counterparts in graduating from high school in every category.

It represents a challenge to the district to make learning more engaging to male students, Bradford said.

Officials hope to accomplish that with a new initiative called "Linked Learning" that teaches skills as it imparts school lessons.

"It's really helping kids know why their learning is important and how it will serve them in the future," Bradford said.

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COUGAR
FROM PAGE 1

safer solutions in case another wild animal finds its way into the city.

The focus group discussed the importance of public safety and the risks associated with wild animal capture, and formulated a plan to prevent the killing of wildlife when faced with such a difficult situation.

The Police Department committed to develop a system to notify local wildlife experts and provide training to personnel in order to ensure an efficient wildlife capture process. The Police Department also agreed to take preventative measures such as obtaining better equipment and working on finding long-term solutions to prevent wildlife from entering urban neighborhoods.

On the morning of May 22, a 95-pound, 3-year-old mountain lion wandered into an urban area just a block from the popular Third Street Promenade. Santa Monica police officers were notified and set up a perimeter. After a failed attempt to tranquilize the lion, officers opened fire, killing the cougar. Many attendees of the focus group felt very strongly about the prevention of such incidents, not only to protect public safety but also to protect wildlife.

Communications director of In Defense of Animals, Jack Carone, attended the meeting and is optimistic that the ideas discussed will be carried out.

"I think that the exchange of ideas was good and I hope that the suggestions and offers of help and assistance are all actually followed up," Carone said.

However, Carone is concerned about the many regulations that may get in the way of these new procedures.

Dr. Jennifer Conrad, founder of the Paw Project, also attended the meeting and expressed her willingness to participate and help with tranquilization in the future.

"But the law is that the Department of Fish and Game is the only one that is allowed to tranquilize a mountain lion," Carone said. "There are just a lot of technicalities, but hopefully that can all be worked out and agencies can take advantage of local experts."

One of the long-term solutions discussed was the creation of a wildlife crossing near the U.S. Route 101. Because of urban encroachment, mountain lions are being squeezed out of their habitat but cannot safely pass to other forest areas or areas of undeveloped land without directly crossing freeways or roaming through neighborhoods.

The creation of a crossing in the form of a tunnel under the freeway through which wild animals could cross to get from one area to another would decrease the likelihood of wildlife entering urban and heavily populated areas.

"It is safe for wildlife to cross and it is safe for people as well," Madeline Bernstein, president of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles said. "It expands their habitat; they don't want to be in urban areas, they want to be in their natural habitat."

The focus group attendees hope that this project will receive enough funding and help solve the problem at hand.

"The young males are being pushed out and need to find territory," Carone said. "This would give them a safe way to go and I hope that my organization can promote this."

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LIGHTS
FROM PAGE 3

California Coastal Commission member in August 2011 advocating for temporary light fixtures for the football field.

The school rented temporary light fixtures during seasons past.

Opponents of the lights who spoke during public comment raised concerns over possible skyline and night sky obstruction, bird fatalities, traffic congestion, light spills, sky glow and light pollution.

The height of the light poles also came into question several times. Initial proposals of the fixtures — under discussion since 2009 — described the installation of 53-foot poles.

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District contracted Musco Sports Lighting for the installation project. Ryan Marsh, a representative from Musco, told the council that 70-foot fixtures provide optimum light and less spillover than 53-foot fixtures.

Those in support of the permanent lighting system also brought up a range of positive effects for Malibu High School and its student body.

Students said playing night games would keep them from having to leave class early because of early game start-times, and give working parents the chance to see their children participate in extracurricular activities after the workday is over. They also hoped to hold a nighttime homecoming game and dance.

Residents who live in the immediate area surrounding the track and field passionately argued against the lights and aimed part of their frustrations at the city for not notifying residents of the installation of floating balloons that gauged the skyline impact.

After listening to the public speakers, the three-person council agreed that lights should be installed at the school.

A group of attendees who had fervently argued against the lights yelled, "Why didn't you listen to us?" as the council members hashed out the plan's details.

"Changes are always very difficult," House said. "I hope that everyone can be very happy with this decision."

The council outlined lighting standards that will allow Malibu High to use the fixtures as late as 10:30 p.m. for up to 16 nights between Sept. 1 and May 31 and as late as 7:30 p.m. for 45 nights a year from Oct. 1 to March 31, making it possible for the school to use the fixtures for up to 61 nights a year.

But the lights cannot be used on consecutive nights until 10:30 p.m., and lighting between June 1 and Aug. 31 is also forbidden.

The lights can only be used for events pertaining to "school-related practices and games" and will be installed on the outer ring of the school's track at the football 10-yard lines.

Each light pole will hold two 12-foot-wide arms with six lights on each arm, making for 48 total 1,500-watt lamps. The council instructed Musco to construct the poles in such a way that each arm can be removed during the offseason when sports events are not taking place.

The council invited Malibu High administrators to return next year for a report on the functionality of the lights and whether the school needs to use the lights for more than the 61 nights the council allotted.

CIVIC CENTER SEWER ONE STEP CLOSER TO REALITY

The council also approved a motion to finance the first phase of the much-debated Civic Center wastewater treatment facility. The first phase requires all commercial properties in the area to hook up to the treatment center by 2015.

The motion established a Community Facilities District (CFD), a tool used by municipal governments to issue bonds to finance the construction of facilities, as well as impose and collect special taxes for the same purpose.

In this case, the CFD consists of property owners within the outlined Civic Center area. The CFD will issue bonds to reimburse the city for the costs of design, environmental and consulting work on the project.

The total cost for study and design has been pegged at $6.5 million, $5 million of which will be doled out by the CFD. The city of Malibu has already spent $2.5 million on the planning and design of the treatment center.

CFD funds will originate from a proposed special property tax on property owners within the outlined area. The special tax can be an annual maximum of $19,707 per acre of commercial property and $3,941 per acre of residential property.

Despite the vote, a public hearing is still required on Aug. 13 in regards to the formation of the CFD and the proposed special tax levies. A special election of registered voters would follow the hearing if there are less than 12 registered voters within the CFD. A two-thirds vote would be necessary for the measures to pass.

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This article first appeared in the Malibu Times.



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Congress passes student loans, highway jobs bill

BY ALAN FRAM & JOAN LOWY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON Congress emphatically approved legislation Friday preserving jobs on transportation projects from coast to coast and avoiding interest rate increases on new loans to millions of college students, giving lawmakers campaign-season bragging rights on what may be their biggest economic achievement before the November elections.

The bill sent for President Barack Obama's signature enables just over $100 billion to be spent on highway, mass transit and other transportation programs over the next two years, projects that would have expired Saturday without congressional action. It also ends a bare-knuckle political battle over student loans that raged since spring, a proxy fight over which party was best helping voters muddle through the economic downturn.

Obama signed a one-week temporary measure Friday evening, permitting the highway and loan programs to continue until the full legislation reaches his desk.

Under the bill, interest rates of 3.4 percent for subsidized Stafford loans for undergraduates will continue for another year, instead of doubling for new loans beginning on Sunday as scheduled by a law passed five years ago to save money.

Had the measure failed, interest rates would have mushroomed to 6.8 percent for 7.4 million students expected to get the loans over the coming year, adding an extra $1,000 to the average cost of each loan and antagonizing students — and their parents — four months from Election Day.

The Democratic-led Senate sent the measure to Obama by a 74-19 vote, just minutes after the Republican-run House approved it 373-52. The unusual display of harmony, in a bitterly partisan year, signaled lawmakers' eagerness to claim credit for providing transportation jobs, to avert higher costs for students and their families and to avoid being embarrassed had the effort run aground.

This year has seen the two parties mostly drive each other's plans for tax breaks and economic revival into a stalemate, although lawmakers have enacted bills retaining the Social Security payroll tax cut for a year and renewing a government agency that promotes U.S. exports.

"It's important for Congress to act, not just talk about problems we have but to get things done," said Rep. John Mica, R-Fla., a chief House author of the transportation measure.

"We have a bill that will boost this economy," said Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., a sponsor who said the measure would create or save 2.8 million jobs. "We have a bill that is supported by conservatives and liberals, progressives and moderates. I think this is a great day."

All the no votes were cast by Republicans.

The compromise ended up sprinkled with unrelated nuggets dealing with Asian carp, roll-your-own tobacco and federal timber aid. But its most significant provisions dealt with transportation and student aid.

The final transportation measure dropped a provision — which had drawn an Obama veto threat — that would have forced government approval of the controversial Keystone XL oil pipeline from Canada to the Texas coast. But it contains curbs on environmental reviews of transportation projects. Republicans sought those curbs in hopes of cutting construction time almost in half.

The bill consolidates federal transportation programs and gives states more flexibility in spending money from Washington. It also contains an array of safety initiatives including requirements aimed at enhancing bus safety. And it makes advocates of bike and pedestrian paths compete for money with other transportation projects.

White House spokesman Jay Carney said the administration was glad Congress acted "before middle class families pay the price for inaction." He said Obama will keep pressing for approval of more of his job-creating proposals from last year, to hire teachers, police officers and firefighters and for tax credits to companies that hire new workers.

Most of the overall measure was financed by extending federal taxes on gasoline and diesel fuel for two more years. Those levies, unchanged for nearly two decades, are 18.4 cents a gallon for gasoline and 24.4 cents for diesel and now fall well short of fully financing highway programs, which they were designed to do.

About $20 billion would be raised over the next decade by reducing tax deductions for companies' pension contributions and increasing the fees they pay to federally insure their pension plans. In return, a formula was changed to, in effect, let companies apportion less money for their pensions and to provide less year-to-year variation in those amounts.

To raise other revenue, the government will start charging interest on subsidized Stafford loans no more than six years after undergraduates begin their studies. Today no interest is charged until after graduation, no matter how long that takes.

In addition, a loophole was tightened to make it harder for businesses with roll-your-own cigarette machines to classify the tobacco they sell as pipe tobacco — which is taxed at a lower rate than cigarette tobacco. The change is expected to raise nearly $100 million.

Some federal workers would be allowed to work part-time as they gradually retire, saving the government money because the workers would receive only partial salaries and retirement annuities.

As often happens with bills that are certain to win the president's signature, the measure became a catch-all for other unrelated provisions.

One would order the government to accelerate work on a plan for preventing Asian carp, which devour other species, from entering the Great Lakes from the Mississippi River. It drew opposition from Sen. Dan Coats, R-Ind., and some other lawmakers arguing that blocking the fish could interfere with shipping, but the Senate turned their objections aside.

Federal flood insurance programs that protect 5.6 million households and businesses were extended, allowing higher premiums and limiting subsidies for vacation homes to help address a shortfall in the program caused by claims from 2005's Hurricane Katrina.

The measure also steers 80 percent out of billions in Clean Water Act penalties paid by BP and others for the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil rig explosion to the five Gulf states whose beaches and waters were soiled by the disaster. The money would have otherwise gone to federal coffers.

Federal timber subsidies worth $346 million would be distributed for another year to rural counties, while other funds would be steered to rural school districts. The bill also eases restrictions that force most American food aid to be shipped abroad on U.S.-flagged vessels.

Justice won't prosecute Holder for contempt

BY LARRY MARGASAK & PETE YOST
Associated Press

WASHINGTON The Justice Department declared Friday that Attorney General Eric Holder's decision to withhold information about a bungled gun-tracking operation from Congress does not constitute a crime and he won't be prosecuted for contempt of Congress.

The House voted Thursday afternoon to find Holder in criminal and civil contempt for refusing to turn over the documents. President Barack Obama invoked his executive privilege authority and ordered Holder not to turn over materials about executive branch deliberations and internal recommendations.

In a letter to House Speaker John Boehner, the department said that it will not bring the congressional contempt citation against Holder to a federal grand jury and that it will take no other action to prosecute the attorney general. Dated Thursday, the letter was released Friday.

Deputy Attorney General James Cole said the decision is in line with long-standing Justice Department practice across administrations of both political parties.

"We will not prosecute an executive branch official under the contempt of Congress statute for withholding subpoenaed documents pursuant to a presidential assertion of executive privilege," Cole wrote.

In its letter, the department relied in large part on a Justice Department legal opinion crafted during Republican Ronald Reagan's presidency.

Although the House voted Thursday to find Holder in criminal and civil contempt, Republicans probably are still a long way from obtaining documents they want for their inquiry into Operation Fast and Furious, a flawed gun-tracking investigation focused on Phoenix-area gun shops by Justice's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

The criminal path is now closed and the civil route through the courts would not be resolved anytime soon.

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee chairman, Rep. Darrell Issa, R-Calif., is leading the effort to get the material related to Operation Fast and Furious.

"This is pure politics," White House spokesman Jay Carney said.

"Remarkably the chairman of the committee involved here has asserted that he has no evidence that the attorney general knew of Operation Fast and Furious or did anything but take the right action when he learned of it.

"No evidence, so if you have no evidence as he has stated now about the White House and the attorney general, what else could this be but politics?"

More than 100 Democrats walked out of the House chamber to boycott the first of two contempt votes, saying Republicans were more interested in shameful election-year politics than documents.

Republicans demanded the documents for an ongoing investigation, but their arguments focused more on the need for closure for the family of slain Border Patrol agent Brian Terry. Two guns identified by the Fast and Furious tracking operation were found near his body after a shootout in Arizona.

Democrats promised closure as well, but said a less-partisan Republican investigation was the only way to get it.

Adding to the emotion of the day, the family of the slain agent issued a statement backing the Republicans.

"The Terry family takes no pleasure in the contempt vote against Attorney General Eric Holder. Such a vote should not have been necessary. The Justice Department should have released the documents related to Fast and Furious months ago," the statement said.

The contempt votes happened on the day that Obama's health care law survived in the Supreme Court, prompting some Democrats to speculate that the votes were scheduled to be overwhelmed by news stories about the ruling.

About five hours after the court ruled, with news sites flooded with information about the health care ruling, the House voted 255-67 to declare Holder in criminal contempt.

A second vote of 258-95 held Holder in civil contempt and authorized the House to file a lawsuit.

In past cases, courts have been reluctant to settle disputes between the executive and legislative branches of government.

The issue became more complicated when Obama invoked a broad form of executive privilege, a legal doctrine designed to keep private certain communications of executive branch agencies.

Issa's committee will consult with the House counsel's office about a court challenge to the administration's decision not to cooperate, spokesman Frederick Hill said.

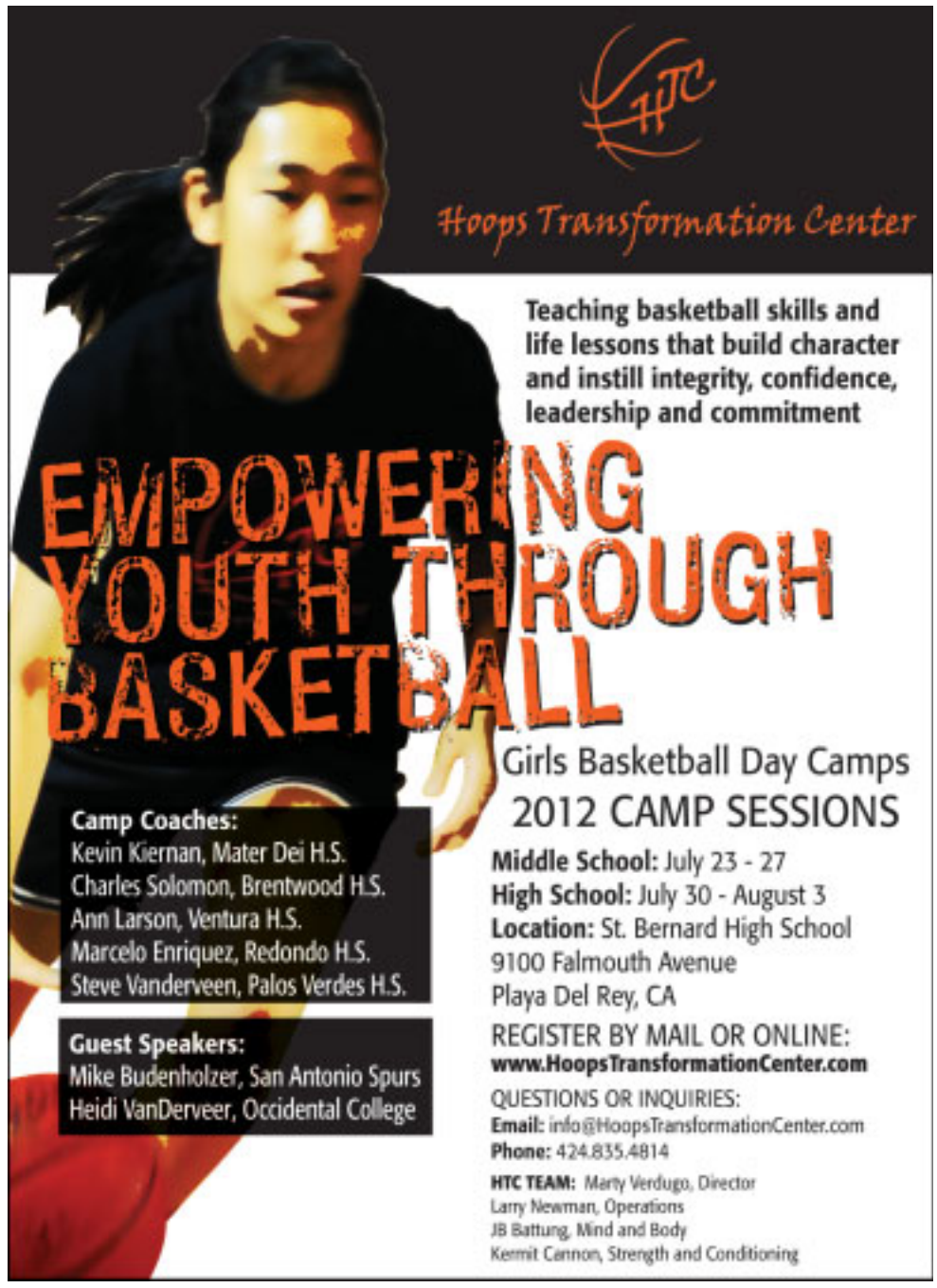
The documents were written after Fast and Furious was shut down. The subpoena covered a 10-month period from February 2011, as the Justice Department expressed growing concern that the Fast and Furious operation had employed a risky investigative tactic known as "gun-walking." In early December 2011, the department finally acknowledged that the initial denial of gun-walking was in error.

Republicans said the contempt citations were necessary because Holder refused to hand over documents that could explain why the Obama administration took 10 months to acknowledge the gun-walking.

In Fast and Furious, ATF agents abandoned the agency's usual practice of intercepting all weapons they believed to be illicitly purchased, often as soon as they were taken out of gun shops. Instead, the goal of the tactic known as "gun-walking" was to track such weapons to high-level arms traffickers, who had long eluded prosecution, and to dismantle their networks.

Gun-walking long has been barred by Justice Department policy, but federal agents in Arizona experimented with it in at least two investigations during the George W. Bush administration before Operation Fast and Furious. These experiments came as the department was under widespread criticism that the old policy of arresting every suspected low-level "straw purchaser" was failing to stop tens of thousands of guns from reaching Mexico, more than 68,000 in the last five years. A straw purchaser conceals that he is buying guns for others.

Fast and Furious identified more than 2,000 weapons suspected of being illicitly purchased. But agents lost track of many of the guns. Some 1,400 of them have yet to be recovered.





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When You Hear About a Personal Injury or a Personal Injury Lawsuit, What Does It All Mean?

A personal injury is a type of harm that an individual suffers as a result of someone else's wrongful act or omission (failure to act when they should have). The types of injuries suffered vary depending on the circumstances and can include, among others, broken bones, lost sight, severed limbs, and death. Also, the wrongful injury causing event could be something caused without fault or intentionally. An example of an unintentional harm is when somebody accidentally rear ends the car in front of them because they simply were not paying attention. This is commonly referred to as negligence. Negligence, in a nutshell, means that a person either did something or did not do something, which resulted in someone else getting hurt. The actual legal requirements are a little more complex, but this simplified explanation will work for now.

Regarding personal injuries caused by the intentional or reckless acts of others, intentional acts include rape, assault, battery, and other types of physical and emotional abuse. Examples of reckless conduct that can cause harm to innocent people are drunk driving, discharging a firearm in public or detonating explosives in public places.

Whether we are talking about personal injuries caused by negligent, intentional or reckless acts, the law generally provides that victims of such conduct who suffer harm are entitled to compensation. And in some instances, victims are also eligible to receive punitive or exemplary damages to ensure that the person or business that caused the harm in the first place does not repeat its bad conduct. More about punitive damages in a minute. For now, let us talk about injury compensation.

What can the law do for you if you have suffered personal injuries caused by someone else? In a perfect world, the need to bring a lawsuit to receive compensation for your injuries would not be necessary because the person who caused the harm would apologize and then endeavor to pay for the damage they caused. The current Court system requires, and actually prefers, that those responsible for harming someone else accept responsibility and pay to the victim reasonable compensation. Reasonable compensation includes such things as lost wages, lost future wages if the hurt person can no longer do their job, the payment of past and future medical bills, and the costs of future and ongoing care if the person can no longer care for themselves. There are additional items that constitute reasonable compensation but the list can be infinite because each person and each harm is unique.

Regarding punitive damages, the imposition of punitive damages is designed to prevent more people from getting hurt. The prevention aspect of punitive damages is to create a "sting" to the defendant. A proper "sting" is only effective if the defendant feels it financially. Stated differently, generally, punitive damages are determined on an ability to pay basis. So do not be surprised when you hear or read about a jury that made a big punitive damage finding because it likely means that someone got hurt real bad or died, the defendant did something really bad, and the defendant has the financial wherewithal to pay the damages.

As a public service announcement, be leery of the argument and those promoting it that customers pay when there are big punitive damages awards. This is not really accurate because safe business practices actually save money in the short and long terms. And do not forget, we live in a civilized society and quick profits should never trump personal safety and well-being. Pass it on.

Why personal injury or victim compensation lawsuits? A lawsuit is necessary because sometimes those responsible for causing harm do not take responsibility for the harm. The Court case is designed to address issues of fairness. If the bad person caused the harm, the jury is empowered by law to tell that bad person to fix it. The concept is simple and injury victims should not be frowned upon because they were forced to file a lawsuit in the first place. After all, they did not ask to get hurt.

One more thing, if you have been hurt be someone else, or you know of someone who has been hurt by someone else, make sure medical attention is the first thing on everyone's mind. Take care of the injuries first. Worry about lawyers and lawsuits as a last resort and trust that the person or business that caused the harm will fix it. If not, then call a lawyer. To ensure that you receive what the law provides for your situation and injuries, be sure to seek the assistance of a lawyer.

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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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European leaders' breakthrough defied most expectations

BY DAVID MCHUGH & PAUL WISEMAN
AP Business Writers

BRUSSELS Europe's leaders finally rose to the challenge of a debt crisis that has hobbled economic growth and threatened the global financial system.

Markets roared their approval after leaders of the 27 European Union countries backed bold ideas to help weak countries cope with rising debt levels and frail banks.

For the first time in 19 summits since the start of the crisis, the EU leaders defied low expectations Friday by announcing plans to:

— Bail out banks, without putting any financial burden on strapped governments.

— Ease borrowing costs on Italy and Spain, the euro region's third- and fourth-largest economies.

— Seek stronger, centralized regulation to European banks.

— Rescue floundering countries, without forcing them to make painful budget cuts if they've already made economic reforms.

—Tie their budgets, currency and governments more tightly.

Europe's leaders trumpeted the agreement. The prime minister of Ireland — one of the five euro countries that has required emergency funds — said the plans marked a "seismic shift in European policy." British Prime Minister David Cameron said that "for the first time in some time we have actually seen steps ... to get ahead of the game."

The Dow Jones industrial average recorded one of its biggest gains of the year, and stocks advanced even further in Europe — in strong and weak countries alike. The benchmark stock index in Germany rose 4.3 percent, by far its best performance this year. Germany has the healthiest economy in Europe, and a warm reaction there was a crucial sign of approval for the plan. Prices for oil and other commodities shot higher.

The decisions made at the European Union summit in Brussels won't end the crisis that has gripped Europe for nearly three years. Plenty of questions remain about how the bank bailouts would work, whether there's enough money committed to rescue banks and governments and whether impoverished, indebted Greece will be forced out of the euro club.

But for EU leaders who have consistently underwhelmed their exasperated publics and nervous financial markets, Friday's plans marked a breakthrough.

At first it looked like the summit would produce little more than a modest plan to stimulate growth in Europe. But Italy and Spain, whose borrowing costs have soared to dangerous levels, refused to sign off on a $150 billion spending plan unless something was done to ease their financial burdens.

So the leaders signaled a willingness to expand the use of Europe's two rescue funds. The money could be used to buy bonds to drive down a country's borrowing costs. Or it could be loaned directly to troubled banks, which would EU leaders said would help break "the vicious cycle" in which weak banks and weak governments threaten to drag each other down.

Before the summit, European leaders insisted that bailout funds be used only to rescue governments — like Ireland, Portugal and Greece. If money was going to be used for banks, it had to first go to a government, which then funneled it to the troubled banks. But that added to the debt on a government's books because it was responsible for repaying the money.

So efforts to help the banks ended up raising fears about governments. That is why Spain's borrowing costs rose dramatically after the eurozone countries agreed to lend it $125 billion to rescue its banks.

The EU plans also call for a single regulator — probably the European Central Bank — to oversee Europe's banks. Currently, banks are regulated by their national governments such as Spain's, which have been slow to recognize loan problems and shut down the worst banks.

As part of a broad "banking union" the new regulator will likely get power to close failing banks if their national regulators won't do it. The plan is also expected to include deposit insurance across Europe. Individual European countries now insure bank deposits within their borders. But bank failures could overwhelm those national funds.

The bank overhaul is supposed to be completed by the end of the year.

The leaders said they were committed to linking their countries closer together economically and politically. But they put off the hard work of closer integration, which is likely to require countries to give up some of their taxing and spending powers to a European budget authority.

Most analysts cheered the EU plans but worried about the questions left unanswered. And they said the bailout funds are too small to handle the tasks that could be thrown at them.

Europe's two bailout funds have a combined $625 billion in lending power; up to $125 billion of that is already committed to helping Spain bail out its banks. The remaining $500 billion looks small compared to $3.1 trillion in Spanish and Italian bonds outstanding.

The solution hovering in the background, say some economists, is the European Central Bank. The ECB could buy any necessary amount of government bonds, backed if need be by the bank's theoretically limitless power to create new money. So far the bank has been unwilling to take this step, which could risk running afoul of its mandate to fight inflation and a ban on central bank financing governments. The ECB's next policy meeting is Thursday in Frankfurt.

The summit deal leaves out crucial details of just how any bank bailouts would work. Would bank creditors have to take a loss on their investments, or would taxpayers foot the whole bill? The deal didn't specify.

If the banking regulator and a rescue fund take ownership stakes in failed banks, manage those stakes in the taxpayer interest while forcing losses on shareholders and creditors, it could be positive, said Clemens Fuest, an expert in public finance at Oxford University's Said Business School.

Otherwise, simply charging taxpayers could be "a huge burden on growth in Europe for a very long time," Clemens said.

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NFL

Goodell sends memo on LA guidelines

BY BARRY WILNER
AP Pro Football Writer

NEW YORK Sensing for the first time in years that stadium issues are solvable in Los Angeles, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has established guidelines for a franchise's potential move to the area.

In a memo sent by the commissioner Friday and obtained by The Associated Press, Goodell said no single team has any "presumptive right" to play in Los Angeles and that only the league as a whole can make a decision on relocation. The league is satisfied with its current 32-team setup, although expanding to include one — or two — teams in LA is still possible.

Any franchise interested in relocating there for the 2013 season must apply between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15 of that year, and prove it has exhausted all attempts to remain in its current location. No plans are yet in place if no teams apply for 2013.

If a team applies to relocate, it should not expect a league-wide vote on the application before the NFL's annual meetings in late March.

Goodell emphasized that any new stadium must be capable of hosting two franchises. Two groups currently are competing to develop a stadium complex, one downtown and one in City of Industry.

"Given that simultaneous league-wide investment in two stadiums in the same community is unlikely," Goodell wrote, "we believe that the best approach will be a single site where an iconic facility could credibly both host two teams and provide ancillary entertainment and development opportunities."

Los Angeles has not had an NFL team since the Rams moved to St. Louis and the Raiders went back to Oakland in 1995.

The Los Angeles Times first reported details of the memo.

Any new stadium in the L.A. area would be attractive to franchises that struggle at the gate, are located in a smaller metropolitan area or are saddled with a bad lease in an outdated stadium. Among the teams mentioned as potentially moving have been the Jacksonville Jaguars, San Diego Chargers, Buffalo Bills, St. Louis Rams and the Raiders.

The NFL itself would love a showcase stadium where it could regularly hold Super Bowls.

Goodell even mentioned in the memo a Hall of Fame, studios for NFL Network and youth football facilities accompanying a stadium.

Any team seeking to move to LA must show it "has secured a long-term stadium solution that is financeable and preserves the league's option for use as a two-team facility."

That team also must have a viable interim stadium plan while the new building is being built; a marketing plan with respect to personal seat licenses, premium seating, and naming rights; and must give certain financial guarantees to the league.

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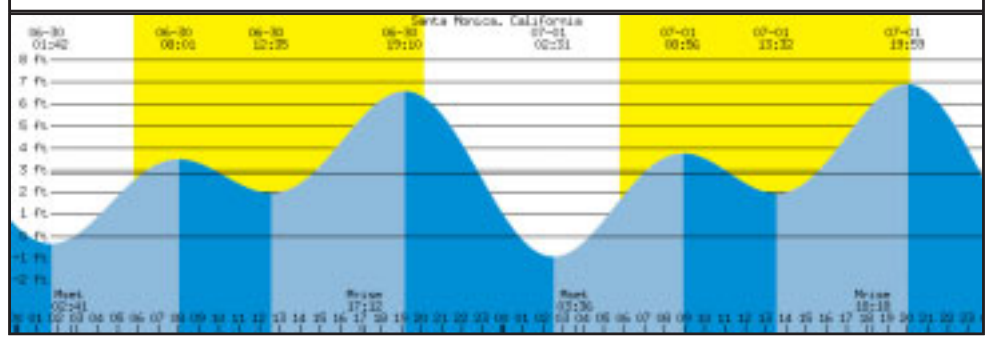
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NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

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QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)
- Number of sewage spills – 8
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill – 8
- Number of wet days – 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather – 38 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather – 0 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation; Goodbrook Family Foundation; simplehuman; LAcarGUY; SIMA

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
Dread 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 Don Blocker County Beach.	D	ns
Pearce State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pearce Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	A	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony lanes.	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 19648 PCH stairs.	A	ns
Pena Creek at Los Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna 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

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.

MOVIE TIMES

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

Saturday, June 30
Stop Making Sense (NR) 1hr 28min
Stax Revue 1967 (NR) 1hr 18min
7:30pm

Sunday, July 1
Monterey Pop (NR) 1hr 18min
Jimi Plays Monterey (NR) 50min
Shake! Otis At Monterey (NR) 20 min
7:30pm

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

Men in Black 3 (PG-13) 1hr 46min
11:50am, 2:30pm

Snow White and the Huntsman (PG-13) 2hrs 07min
12:45pm, 4:00pm, 7:10pm, 10:15pm

That's My Boy (R) 1hr 54min
12:30pm

Prometheus (R) 2hrs 04min
11:55am, 3:15pm, 6:30pm, 9:30pm

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

Safety Not Guaranteed (R) 1hr 25min
3:20pm, 5:45pm, 8:15pm, 10:30pm

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
2:15pm, 7:45pm

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

Prometheus 3D (R) 2hrs 04min
10:30am, 1:35pm, 4:45pm, 7:50pm, 10:55pm

Ted (R) 1hr 46min
10:45am, 11:45am, 1:30pm, 2:30pm, 4:30pm, 5:30pm, 7:30pm, 8:30pm, 10:15pm, 11:15pm

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

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

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

Turn Me On, Dammit (Fa meg pa, for faen) (NR) 1hr 16min
1:30pm, 3:40pm, 5:50pm, 8:00pm, 10:10pm

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

Your Sister's Sister (R) 1hr 30min
1:00pm, 3:10pm, 5:30pm, 7:50pm, 10:10pm

Paul Williams Still Alive (PG-13) 1hr 27min
11:00am

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

Peace, Love & Misunderstanding (R) 1hr 36min
4:20pm, 9:40pm

Invisible War (NR) 1hr 37min
1:50pm, 7:10pm

Follow Me: The Yoni Netanyahu Story (NR) 1hr 27min
11:20am

Bill W. (NR) 1hr 44min
11:10am

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

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

Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter 3D (R) 1hr 45min
2:00pm, 7:30pm

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

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

People Like Us (PG-13) 1hr 55min
11:20am, 2:05pm, 5:00pm, 7:55pm, 10:45pm

Magic Mike (R) 1hr 50min
11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:20pm, 8:15pm, 11:00pm

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

Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection (PG-13) 1hr 54min
11:15am, 2:00pm, 4:50pm, 7:45pm, 10:40pm

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

Think romance tonight, Taurus

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Allow others to dominate a conversation. You are looking for some answers, and you will get them if you listen. Note what is not being said. Detach and give someone the benefit of the doubt. Tonight: Use your dreams as a source of ideas.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ Others command the ship today, no matter what. You might as well go along with the present trend; you cannot fight it. Someone close to you will want some personal time. You might misunderstand this person's message at first, but it will come through loud and clear if you listen carefully. Tonight: Sprinkle in some romance.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Complete a project or venture early on. You'll want to accept a suggestion or invitation that forces you out and about. Your immediate reaction might be to say no. Don't. It will be worth every single minute. Tonight: Go with a friend's suggestion.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Your creativity allows more spontaneity than is the norm. Don't allow yourself to be cornered into a situation or obligation. Play plans by ear, as you could be far more tired than you are aware. Make it OK not to always be in top form. Tonight: Know when enough is enough.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You might be slow to get going, but once you do, you could be quite a force to deal with. The unexpected occurs out of the blue. Many different options mark your decisions. Tonight: Go with the flow.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ Squeeze in an important get-together for brunch or early on. You will feel more upbeat as a result. A misunderstanding could become a problem if you do not remain easygoing. Tonight: Entertain from home.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ A purchase does not need to break the bank. Do some shopping around and a bit of research. Though you might be confused at first, a resolution will appear soon enough. Screen your calls if you feel overwhelmed. Tonight: Lots of people, lots of chatter, lots of fun.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Use the daylight hours to the max, as a misunderstanding could mar your evening. Do not allow it to become a big deal, or you could be sorry. What happens was not intended to be a slight. Tonight: Relish every moment.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Get your key errands done early on. You could be overtired and dragging. A nap also might not hurt. When you perk up, you engage others -- especially your immediate circle -- in a dynamic manner. You might be taken aback by someone's offer. Tonight: Let your hair down.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ You waver between establishing your presence and becoming more detached. Others might not properly interpret these changes. Verbalize your thoughts and be as clear as possible. Step back and center yourself. Tonight: A force to be dealt with.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Interactions with friends and loved ones are best had before sundown, if not earlier. Still, you might hit a misunderstanding, as one word you use means something different to someone else. Detach and understand where this person is coming from. Tonight: Follow the music.

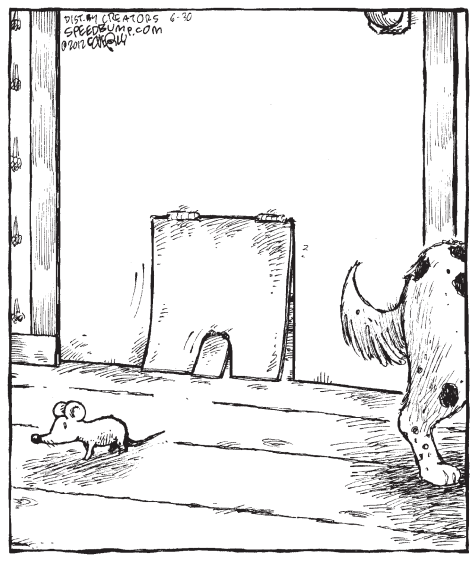
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★★ Others seek you out. Be flattered by all the attention rather than feel overwhelmed. You may have to sort through your priorities and make choices accordingly. Finally, a treasured loved one opens up. Tonight: Add more spice to your life.

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 fit in a substantial amount of time for enjoying loved ones and friends. You could be friskier than you have been in the past; however, you will need to juggle this wildness with your daily life. You want structure, plans and a routine for health and exercise. If you are single, try not to put a potential sweetie on a pedestal -- your vision of this person is not realistic. You will not want to commit until a year from now. If you are attached, both of you exude a combination of mischief and fun. Spend more time together, and your bond will cement even more. SAGITTARIUS plays a key role in your days and weeks.

Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



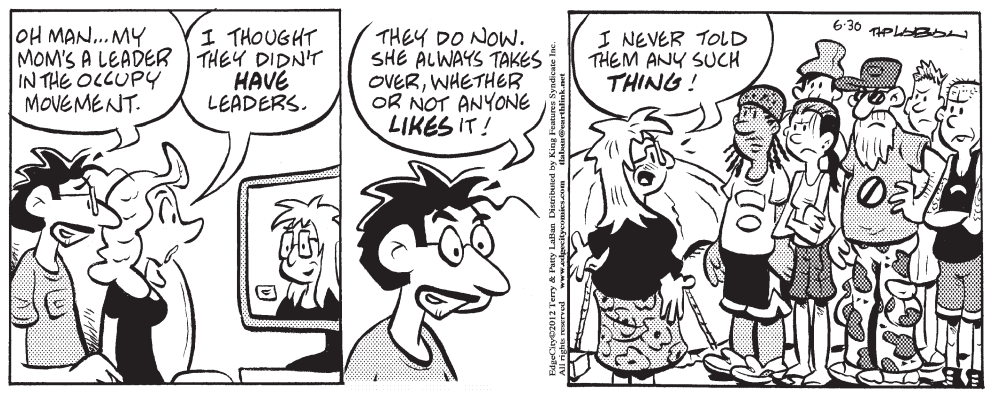
Strange Brew
By John Deering



Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



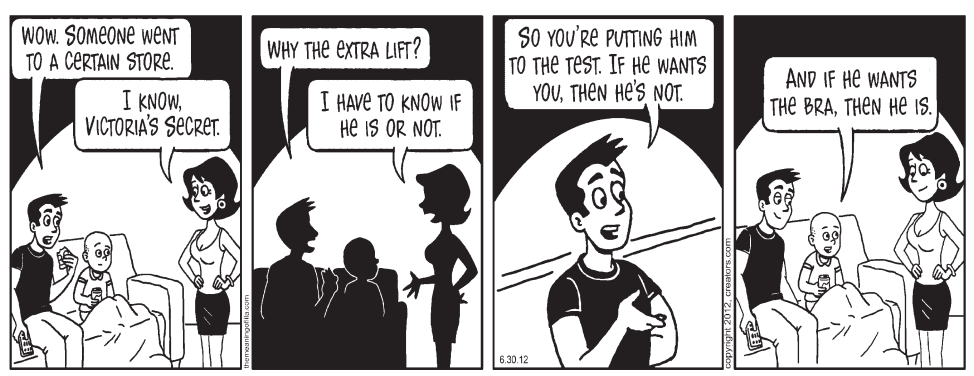
Edge City
By Terry & Patty LaBan



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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

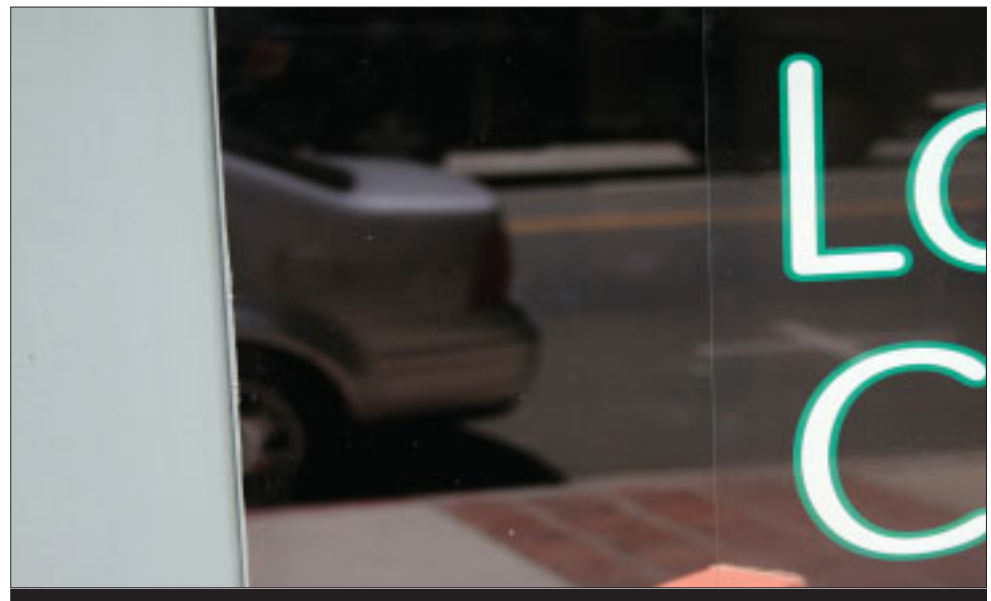
9	5	1	2	8	4	7	3	6
8	4	7	3	6	5	1	2	9
6	2	3	1	7	9	4	8	5
1	7	8	5	4	2	9	6	3
5	3	6	7	9	1	8	4	2
4	9	2	6	3	8	5	7	1
7	1	5	4	2	6	3	9	8
3	6	9	8	5	7	2	1	4
2	8	4	9	1	3	6	5	7

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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 Parade site
7 Amused look
11 Source of wisdom
12 Gambling city
13 Belongs
14 Mil. sch.
15 Aids in crime
16 Bawl out
17 Blood fluids
18 Wonder of music
19 "Get lost!"
21 Wrap up
22 Military command
25 Wheel track
26 "Jurassic Park" beast
27 Wipes off
29 Door fastener
33 Caravan creature
34 Defame, in a way
35 Stepped down
36 Leg bone
37 Late-night star
38 No longer in bed
39 Free from fat
40 Abhor

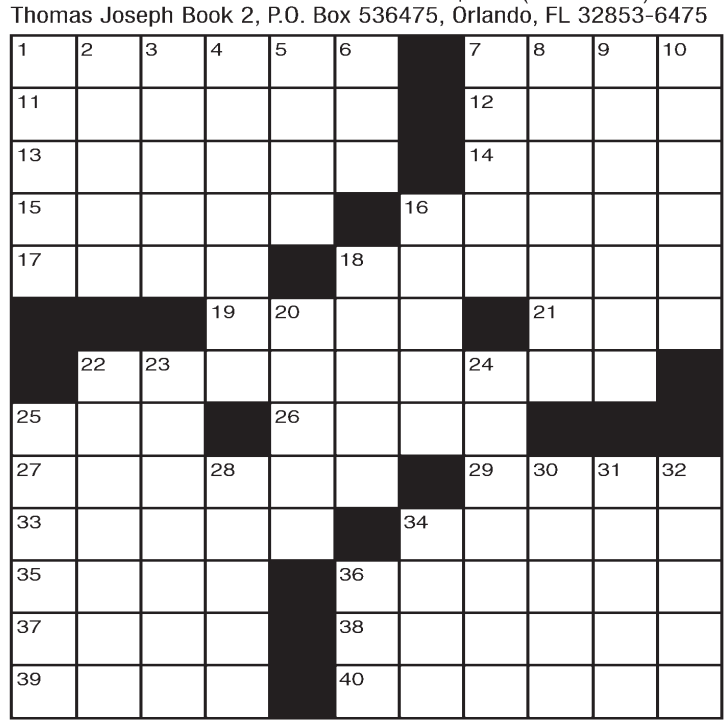
DOWN

1 Remote locales?
2 "Survivor" team
3 Insurance worker
4 Bliss
5 Yale students
6 Highish card
7 Effortless charm
8 Get back
9 Queued up
10 Assented, in a way
16 Vermont resort
18 Whiskey drinks
20 Travel stop
22 Song that "Love Me Tender" is based on
23 Vitality
24 Museum show
25 Bring to mind
28 Attack
30 Mistreat
31 Graf rival
32 Garden item
34 Former Italian money
36 Rage

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

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



6-30



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ The most recently reported morbidly obese person who required that her home be partially torn apart by firefighters so that she could be lifted out to be taken to a hospital was teenager Georgia Davis in Merthyr Tydfil, Wales. Davis, 19, weighs nearly 800 pounds, and 40 people were involved in extricating her in May from her upstairs bedroom, via scaffolding. (Several years ago, Davis enrolled in a weight-loss camp in the U.S. and got down to about 250 pounds, but she quickly gained it back.)

■ A time-honored defense used by many older men when charged with having sex with underage girls is now so common that it must be retired from circulation. In February in Bridgeport, Conn., Norberto Millet, 60, denied raping the 9-year-old girl, accusing her of actually attacking him -- and said he had to fight her off. In fact, Millet told police, a lot of girls 8- to 10 years old try to have sex with him. And in Winnipeg, Manitoba, in May, Lyle Moodie, 47 at the time, said much the same about his 16-year-old accuser. "She just suddenly grabbed me by the pajama bottoms. I pulled back and said, 'No, stop.' I didn't know what to do."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1921 - U.S. President Warren G. Harding appoints former President William Howard Taft Chief Justice of the United States.

1922 - In Washington D.C., U.S. Secretary of State Charles Evans Hughes and Dominican Ambassador Francisco J. Peynado sign the Hughes-Peynado agreement, which ends the United States occupation of the Dominican Republic.

1934 - The Night of the Long Knives, Adolf Hitler's violent purge of his political rivals in Germany, takes place.

1935 - The Senegalese Socialist Party holds its first congress.

WORD UP!

agemate
**\ EYJ-meyt ** , noun;
1. A person of about the same age as another.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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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.

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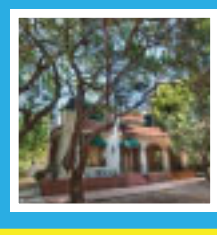




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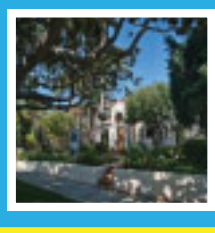
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