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Santa Monica Daily Press
TUESDAY
07.05.16
Volume 15 Issue 191

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Foster slams SMMUSD over legal fees

District forced to defend itself in lawsuit, board president says

BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff Writer

Silence fell over the public meeting room in the Santa Monica-Malibu school district's headquarters as Craig Foster's voice was transmitted through a laptop's video chat software and broadcast with a nearby microphone.

Participating from afar, the local Board of Education member didn't sound happy.

The school board on Wednesday was preparing to approve another $1.5-million open payment to Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, the law firm hired to defend the district in litigation over chemical testing and cleanup in Malibu.

And Foster, the governing body's only Malibu resident, said he was deeply troubled by the expenses racked up by SMMUSD since the discovery of polychlorinated biphenyls at schools in the enclave city more than two years ago.

"It's been difficult because I know I'm a clear minority of the board on this, and I try not to spend too much of the board's time on something I don't have the votes to influence," he said. "Tonight, I've got to take a little more time. ...

"My biggest concern is that I don't know where it ends. We always have a good reason to say, 'Well, we're close,' or 'We're getting closer.' But we don't know where it's going to end. ... It's well past the point where we need to be looking very hard at finding a way to make this go away more aggressively."

The district has allocated more than $10 million in consultants and legal fees since chemicals were found in the caulking at the Malibu High School campus a few years ago. Malibu activists filed a lawsuit against the district last year, and post-trial papers were recently submitted. A court decision could be handed down within the next few months.

Still, Foster said, the public

SEE **FEES** PAGE 5

Mt. Olive helping fundraise for Orlando

BY ROBERTO LUNA
Daily Press Intern

Santa Monica residents will be able to enjoy Jazz, classic and contemporary music while fundraising for people affected by the recent shooting in Orlando.

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church and String Project Los Angeles, a music school based in Santa Monica, will host a free concert on July 7 to raise money for victims of the recent Orlando shooting. Attendees will be able to donate at the door to The Center in Orlando.

The Center is a community center for people who identify as LGBT in Orlando and has been involved in collecting donations for victims and their families since the shooting.

On June 12, a man shot and killed 49 people and injured another 53 in a gay nightclub in Orlando, before being shot down by police.

Eric Shafer, pastor at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, said he felt compelled to organize the fundraiser

SEE **CHARITY** PAGE 5

Pedestrian crossing delays California Incline opening

Iconic bridge work expected to wrap up later this summer



Courtesy photos

UNDER CONSTRUCTION: **The pedestrian bridge over the PCH will be finished in the summer.**



BY JEFFREY I. GOODMAN
Daily Press Staff Writer

To make it possible for people to walk over the California Incline, city officials had to walk back the timeline for the iconic piece of Santa Monica infrastructure.

The construction of a pedestrian bridge over the famous roadway has pushed back the expected opening date from Memorial Day weekend to late this summer, city officials said. A specific day will be announced by the end of

SEE **INCLINE** PAGE 7


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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, July 5

Magic with Allen Oshiro

Illusions will be performed by an award-winning magician. Tickets required. Free tickets available 30 minutes before each event. 2:30 - 3:15 p.m. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. Call (310) 458-8684.

NAMI: Family to Family Education Program

A 12-week session education program to better understand and support loved ones with mental illness. Includes information on illnesses such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and major depression. Registration required. 6 - 8 p.m. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd. Call (310) 458-8684.

Ocean Park Film Program: "It Happened One Night" (1934)

Film historian Elaina Archer screens and discusses this classic movie starring Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert, about a spoiled heiress who runs away from her family, and into a reporter. (Film runtime: 105 minutes). 6 - 8:30 p.m. Ocean Park Branch Library, 3601 Main St. Call (310) 458-8683.

Wilmont Montana Neighborhood monthly meeting

A report from the Bergamot Advisory Committee will be presented; our neighborhood resource officer will address the homeless situation, and other topics will be discussed. For more information or to join go to wilmont.org. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Avenue, 6:45 pm.

Wednesday, July 6

Mobility - Sustainable Santa Monica Free Tour

Ride on the new Expo Line with a behind the scenes tour of the Metro facility. 9 - 10 a.m. Downtown Santa Monica Expo Line Station, 4th St/ Colorado Ave. RSVP at SustainableSMTourMobility.eventbrite.com.

Abbit the Average

Afternoon of comedy, magic and juggling. Tickets required, free tickets available at 2 p.m. 2:30 - 3:15 p.m. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave.

Movie Screening: When the Game Stands

Movie tells the story of football coach Bob Ladouceur who took the De La Salle High School Spartans from obscurity to a record-shattering 151-game winning streak. (Film runtime: 115 minutes). 6 - 8 p.m. Pico Branch Library, 2201 Pico Blvd.

SCBWI Westside Writer's Mingle

A monthly gathering for anyone interested in writing for children and young adults. 7 - 8:45 p.m. Ocean Park Branch Library, 3601 Main St.

Thursday, July 7

Mad Science: "Marvels of Motion"

Discover the fun-damentals of moving science. Includes egg tossing and rocket packs. Tickets required, free tickets available at 2 p.m. Call (310) 458-8683. 2:30 - 3:15 p.m. Ocean Park Branch Library, 3601 Main St.

Read a Play

Discover great plays while uncovering your inner actor. This new monthly group reads through a different play each month, with each in attendance taking part in the read through. 7 - 8:30 p.m. Ocean Park Branch Library 3601 Main St.

SEE **LISTINGS** PAGE 3

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

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Citywide

New pilot program kicks off with a renter survey

The City of Santa Monica is seeking input from residents who live in rent controlled units through a survey that is active now through July 18.

The survey is a tool for the City to learn about the affordable housing needs of the community, and to determine the magnitude of rent burden among rent-controlled households. The confidential survey will gather information about residents whose inability to pay rent may result in displacement from the city. It is also a pre-application for a limited pilot program that will offer City-funded rental subsidies anticipated to roll out in late 2016.

The brief survey is available in English or Spanish at www.smrenterneeds.net. The survey closes at 5 p.m. PST on July 18. The survey can also be downloaded from the website, printed and delivered or mailed to the Housing Division office. An information phone line is available to address any questions or requests: (310) 458-2201, ext. 2232.

Given the prevalence of rent-burdened Santa Monica residents, and the City Council's goal to maintain an Inclusive and Diverse Community, Council funded the pilot rental subsidy program to begin to address this important housing need.

Almost 15,000 households in Santa Monica experience rent burden, which is defined as paying more than 30 percent of household gross income on rent. Over half of these households are considered severely rent burdened, and pay more than 50 percent of their household income on rent.

This survey and pre-application are not the Section 8 waiting list. The Section 8 waiting list is currently closed.

- SUBMITTED BY CONSTANCE FARRELL, SANTA MONICA PUBLIC INFORMATION COORDINATOR

Palisades Park

Allied Artists monthly paint-outs, painting demonstrations and art shows

The Allied Artists of the Santa Monica Mountains and Seashore (AASMS) is an association of volunteer artists dedicated to preserving the beauty of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area and Beaches through art. The group holds monthly paint-outs, painting demonstrations and art shows. A portion of all sales are donated to local conservation and environmental organizations.

On July 9, the group will hold an event at Palisades Park, 201 Ocean Avenue.

From there participants can see sweeping views up and down the coastline. From the vantage of the park, overlooking PCH, the Santa Monica beaches and the Santa Monica Pier and the park itself. Painting demonstration at 9 a.m. Allied Artists Pot Luck lunch at 12 noon. All are welcome to contribute food or drink to attend. They will meet at the North end of the park, at the intersection of San Vicente and Ocean Avenue across the street from "201 Ocean Towers." Facilities. Metered street parking (bring lots of quarters).

- SUBMITTED BY RUSS HUNZIKER

Citywide

SMPL at the Beach 2016

Monica Public Library (SMPL) is heading to back to the beach this summer for more fun in the sun with SMPL at the Beach 2016, a series of five seaside pop-up libraries at the Annenberg Community Beach House, and Dorothy Green Park.

Visitors to the pop-up libraries can join in on a variety of fun, family friendly, activities including: Seaside Story Time, hula hooping, ukulele lessons, nautical crafts, and interactive environmental education. Librarians will be on-hand to sign out books from our curated collection of beach reads (no library card required), give personalized reading recommendations, and demonstrate cutting edge library apps, eBooks and streaming media. Folks looking to relax can beat the heat and kick back in the shade of our Surfside Reading Lounge, or enjoy beach games like bocce and ladder toss. Each pop-up will also feature a unique, limited edition SMPL at the Beach giveaway.

Grab a towel and sunscreen and join SMPL at the Beach from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. on:

- Friday, 7/8 at the Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Hwy
- Saturday, 7/23 at Dorothy Green Park, where Ocean Park Boulevard ends
- Monday, 8/15 at the Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Hwy
- Saturday, 8/27 at Dorothy Green Park, where Ocean Park Boulevard ends
- Saturday, 9/10 at Dorothy Green Park, where Ocean Park Boulevard ends

SMPL at the Beach is brought to you by Community & Cultural Services and the Santa Monica Public Library, and funded by Friends of the Santa Monica Public Library. For more information about this free public program, visit smpl.org/beach or call the Reference Services Department at (310) 434-2608.

- SUBMITTED BY JEFF KAPLAN, REFERENCE SERVICES LIBRARIAN

LISTINGS

FROM PAGE 2

Friday, July 8

SMPL at the Beach

Santa Monica Public Library is going to the beach. Event held at the Annenberg Community Beach House, wit seaside reading, family-friendly outdoor activities and special surprises. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Annenberg Community Beach House, 415 Pacific Coast Hwy. http://smpl.org/beach/

Happy Hour for Your Brain

The seminar will discuss the latest in brain research for achieving long-lasting mental fitness. You will learn specific methods to increase your brain's energy, detailed techniques to tackle problems that deplete your brainpower, and proven methods to generate new brain cells. This class will be a combination of educational lecture and seated sensory-motor activities. 1 -2 p.m. Montana Avenue Branch Library, 1704 Montana Ave.

Summer Activity Program: Jumbo Shrimp Circus

A variety, circus arts show. Limited space, free tickets available 30 minutes before the program. 2:30 - 3:15 p.m. Fairview Branch Library, 2101 Ocean Park Blvd. Call (310) 458-8681.

Special Observing Event: Crescent Moon, Jupiter, and Saturn!

Gaze at the waxing crescent Moon near Jupiter, look at the tiny disk of Mars, then check out magnificent Saturn and its beautiful rings. Dress warmly. Starts at 8 p.m. but preceded by "The Night Sky Show" at 7 p.m., offering the latest news in astronomy and space exploration, a family-friendly "tour" of the constellations and the chance to ask questions. John Drescher Planetarium, 1900 Pico Blvd. Tickets cost $11 ($9 seniors and children) for the evening's scheduled "double bill," or $6 ($5 seniors age 60+ and children age 12 and under) for a single Night Sky or feature show or telescope-viewing session. For information, please call (310) 434-3005 or see www.smc.edu/eventsinfo or www.smc.edu/planetarium. All shows subject to change or cancellation without notice.

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Notice of Destruction of Special Education Records

This notification is to inform parents/guardians and former students of Santa Monica Malibu Unified School District's intent to destroy the Special Education records of students born between 1989 through 1991. These records will be destroyed in accordance with state law. Records not requested by August 13, 2016 will be destroyed. With proof of identity, the parent/guardian or eligible (adult) student may request a copy of the records by contacting the SMMUSD's Special Education Department at 310-450-8338 ext. 70393.

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What's the Point?

David Pisarra
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Excitement builds for Twilight Concert Series

I CAN ALREADY SMELL THE KETTLE CORN, I can taste the Pier Burgers and my little dog is already ramped up and ready to go find the dropped churros, French fries and ice cream as this year's Twilight Concert Series at Santa Monica Pier starts up anew on Thursday. I've been watching for a week as crews were putting together the bandstand on the pier.

One of the best traditions of the summer season is this concert series. For more than 20 years I've been heading to the boardwalk on Thursday nights to enjoy a free concert, meet up with friends, make some new ones and revel in the warm beach breezes. Over the years I've hung out in bars on the pier, camped out below with the thousands who picnic on the beach and danced my butt off as the crowd rocked out.

This year's lineup starts with soul music as Mayer Hawthorne and Alina Baraz kick off the season. There's BØRNS and Porches for the indie night next week. My favorite night this year I think will be on July 21 as the Psychedelic Furs play with Day Wave — that will be a time-traveling trip for me back to my college days and long before life as a divorce lawyer. I was so hopeful then ...

If you're a fan of reggae, July 28 is your night with Protoje and the Indiggnation along with Raging Fyah. I'm betting this is the night that should not be followed by random drug tests at work — especially as we gear up for the legalization of recreational marijuana in the state.

As we make our way into the heart of summer, Latin night kicks off August with Natalia Lafourcade and Monsieur Periné. I will be having dinner that night at Casa Martin on Ocean Avenue to make it a themed night.

The summer dance party will be on Aug. 11 with Rüfüs du Sol and Marc Baker, and that's always a fun evening. The 18th will feature some classic rock sounds with Mavis Staples headlining and The Suffers supporting for a night of smooth grooves and fun rhythms. I suggest checking out The Suffers' "Make Some Room" on YouTube for a good example of the great musical experience they're bringing to us.

The series ends August with a bit of whimsy as Save Ferris and Cibo Matto take the stage. Save Ferris is a ska-punk band formed circa 1995 in Southern California, and the band's name is a reference to the 1986 film "Ferris Bueller's Day Off." Cibo Matto is a Japanese ex-pat band that started off singing about food, then branched into more traditional topics. This is going to be an exceptionally fun evening as both bands bring a light and playful sense to their musicality.

September brings indie rock night with Unknown Mortal Orchestra and Steady Holiday. This should be a celebration of the new and innovative in music. The series closes out on Sept. 8 with Ohio Players and Holy Ghost on disco night. Ohio Players are the band to bring us back to the funky of the '70s. So break out those bell-bottoms and platform shoes for this night of retro disco. Holy Ghost, on the other hand, is a synthpop band that will be rocking with some new sounds.

All in all, I think this year's lineup is probably the best I've seen in years and has me excited about the possibilities of what this summer holds for Thursday fun on the pier. The best restaurants for dinner before the concerts are The Albright (a series sponsor), Pier Burger, Rusty's, Big Dean's and Ristorante Al Mare's top deck, where you will probably be able to hear the music while you enjoy the sunset views. The concerts are free and start around 7 p.m. There's parking in the public lot but that is limited, so I would suggest biking it, as this year it is sure to be a packed concert every night.

DAVID PISARRA is a Los Angeles divorce and child custody lawyer specializing in fathers' and men's rights with the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or 310-664-9969. You can follow him on Twitter @davidpisarra.

PRESIDENT
Ross Furukawa
ross@smdp.com

PUBLISHER
Rob Schwenker
schwenker@smdp.com

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Matthew Hall
matt@smdp.com

STAFF WRITER
Jeffrey I. Goodman
jeff@smdp.com

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Morgan Genser
editor@smdp.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Bill Bauer, David Pisarra, Charles Andrews, Jack Neworth, Sarah A. Spitz, Cynthia Citron, Margarita Rozenbaoum

SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Jenny Medina
jenny@smdp.com

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
Andrew Oja
andrew@smdp.com

PRODUCTION MANAGER
Darren Ouellette
production@smdp.com

OPERATIONS/ CIRCULATION/LEGAL SERVICES MANAGER
Josh Heisler
josh@smdp.com

CIRCULATION
Keith Wyatt
josh@smdp.com

Achling Holliday
josh@smdp.com

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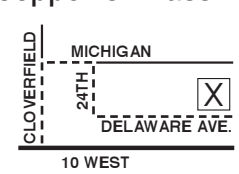


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FEES

FROM PAGE 1

deserves to hear a comprehensive update on the issue.

"My request here is that we take a pause and we have a formal discussion about this policy, these expenses, and options with regard to curtailing these expenses," he said. "The public would be very grateful for some sort of public revisiting of this."

Board president Laurie Lieberman said legal matters must be discussed in closed session and added that the district has had no choice but to defend itself in the lawsuit, through which Malibu parents are seeking the removal of PCBs from their schools. The district has repeatedly stated that it has followed guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"If you're arguing that we should try to settle while we await that [court] decision, that's something we have to discuss in closed session," Lieberman told Foster. "The board was sued for decisions that were not only justifiable and health-protective; they were the right thing for students and staff in our district. … [The plaintiffs] cost the district a lot of money, make no mistake about that."

Most of the $1.5-million allocation to Pillsbury had already been spent as of Wednesday, officials said. Jan Maez, the district's chief financial officer, estimated that roughly $250,000 of the payment was for services that had not yet been performed. Board policies give district staff the authority to issue purchase orders, Maez said.

The board approved the payment to Pillsbury on a 4-2 vote, with Foster and Oscar de la Torre in dissent and Jose Escarce not present.

The vote came as the district announced that Chris King and Sylvia Rousseau will serve as interim co-superintendents as the search continues for Sandra Lyon's long-term successor.

"I'm sure I will have many conversations with the new people coming in on this subject," Maez said.

jeff@smdp.com

CHARITY

FROM PAGE 1

after seeing the LGBT community in need.

"The first thing we all did after the shooting was ask 'what can we do that's positive?'" Shafer said.

He said Mt. Olive Lutheran Church is part of the Reconciling with Christ congregation, which welcomes anyone from the LGBT community.

Diana Szekely, co-director of String Project Los Angeles, said she and her staff were moved by the recent shooting, and decided to gather Los Angeles based string players to perform at the church.

Shafer said he anticipates up to 500 people to attend and to raise several thousands of dollars.

The Center has currently raised about $423,000 and others have pledged to donate, according to the organization's website. It will work with the city of Orlando to distribute money to those affected.

Shafer said he thinks the concert will not only be able to help the LGBT community through donations, but also through the music.

"We believe in the power of music," he said.

The concert will begin at 7:45 p.m. at the Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 1343 Ocean Park Blvd.

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INCLINE

FROM PAGE 1

July.

A new pedestrian overcrossing was not part of the original project to upgrade the incline, which connects Ocean Avenue to Pacific Coast Highway, but it was expedited so officials wouldn't have to disrupt traffic on the incline a second time.

MCM Construction Inc. is in charge of building the $2.3-million pedestrian overcrossing, which City Council approved in November — more than six months after the closure of the incline for seismic improvements and other renovations.

Construction of the so-called Idaho Trail is a city-funded project, whereas federal money is covering 88.5 percent of the incline upgrades.

"It was in our best interest to get both projects done so we wouldn't have to close the incline again," city engineer Lee Swain said. "We saved a lot of money that would've been replicated on two separate projects. By extending the entire period by a couple months, we could get two projects done and hopefully open it up and not have to close it again."

The pedestrian trail over the incline was "in a state of deterioration," Swain said, and there were also issues regarding erosion and drainage. That path is one of five ways to access the beach from the top of the local bluffs, joining the Santa Monica Pier bridge as well as pedestrian overpasses at Broadway and Arizona and Montana avenues.

"Completing the Overcrossing before reopening the CA Incline ensures both the safety of the traveling public and construction crews," city spokeswoman Constance Farrell said in a news release. "Building the two bridges concurrently is also ultimately the most expeditious and cost effective way to manage the project because it leverages the existing traffic closure and detours."

The new pedestrian crossing will have a clearance of 19-plus feet over the incline, but transportation officials in the city planning department have not yet determined what kinds of trucks, if any, will be allowed on the road. The incline can withstand heavier loads than it could previously, Swain said.

Crews last week put down a polymer coating to shield the incline from weather-related deterioration, Swain said. The coating is about three-quarters of an inch thick and provides the proper texture for tire traction.

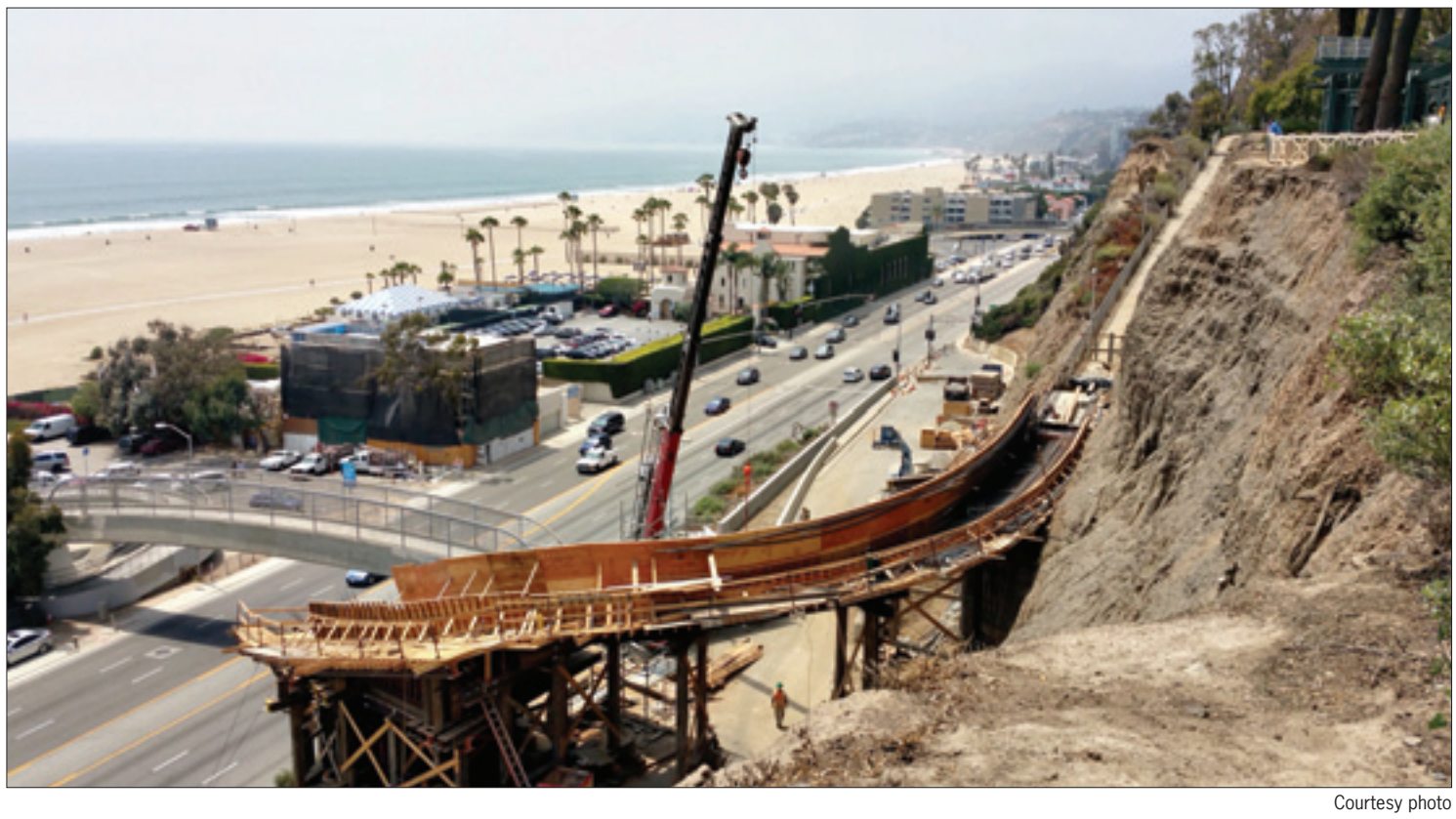
Officials received a few complaints about the smell of the coating, but Swain said the odor will dissipate and added that the polymer is not considered hazardous.

During the closure of the incline, motorists have been advised to use Ocean Avenue via Moomat Ahiko Way and Lincoln Boulevard as alternate routes.

The incline was first constructed in the 1890s as a pedestrian bridge called the Sunset Trail, according to "Hometown Santa Monica: The Bay Cities Book." The iconic thoroughfare became a route for cars decades later and has remained so for more than half a century.

For more information about the project, call 888-303-6026, visit smconstructs.org or follow @CAincline on Twitter.

jeff@smdp.com



Courtesy photo

PEDESTRIAN: **Officials have extended the timeline for opening the PCH to facilitate construction of a new pedestrian overpass.**



Courtesy Photo

INCLINE: **The incline began life as a pedestrian walkway and was later converted to cars.**







SURF REPORT



SURF FORECASTS

WATER TEMP: **69.3°**

TUESDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** Knee to chest high
SW/S swell mix for exposures. Small windswell.

WEDNESDAY – **POOR TO FAIR** – SURF: **1-3 ft** ankle to waist high
Small SW/S swell mix and traces of NW windswell.

CRIME WATCH

BY DAILY PRESS STAFF

Crime Watch is culled from reports provided by the Santa Monica Police Department. These are arrests only. All parties are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

ON JUNE 25 AT APPROXIMATELY 12:10 A.M.

A patrol officer was driving northbound on 20th Street from Delaware Avenue when he observed two men riding their bicycles on the sidewalk, a code violation. The officer was able to stop the first man, later identified as Jonathon Chacon, 27, of Los Angeles, while his friend continued riding south. Chacon consented to a search of the backpack he was carrying. Officers located cable cutters, a spray can and a letter along with a matching permanent-resident card belonging to another unknown person. After a more detailed search of Chacon following his arrest, the officer located a shaved car key, which is commonly used by burglars to unlock doors. The friend riding the second bicycle, identified as Luis Alexander Romero-Mejia, 21, of Los Angeles, returned to the location where the officer had detained Chacon. Romero-Mejia advised the officer he was also on probation and gave consent to search his bag. Inside the bag, the officer located various checks and credit cards in other people's names. The officer noticed that a few of the checks belonged to a local resident. The officer made contact with the resident and discovered that the checks were recently stolen from a mailbox. A subsequent search of Romero-Mejia's property during the arrest revealed a second shaved key. The suspects later admitted during an interview that the mail was taken from a nearby resident. They were transported to jail. Chacon was booked for possession of burglary tools and conspiracy and his bail was set at $500. Romero-Mejia, who was booked for riding a bicycle on the sidewalk, possession of burglary tools, appropriation of lost property and theft of mail, had bail set at $5,000.

ON MAY 17

A burglary occurred at the Bayside Motel located at 2001 Ocean Ave. The victim returned to her room and discovered someone had broken into her room and taken several items, including keys to a rental vehicle. The rental vehicle was gone. On June 24, California Highway Patrol made a traffic stop on the reported stolen vehicle and arrested the three occupants. The vehicle key from the room was in the ignition, and there was property from the hotel burglary in the car. During the investigation, it was discovered that the driver acted alone during the original crime because he was see on video on the property, walking back and forth in front of the room, and driving away in the vehicle. The suspect's fingerprints were discovered on the bent screen of the room. Property in the stolen car was confirmed to belong to the victim. The other two suspects were interviewed and both stated they just met the primary suspect a few hours prior to the traffic stop and were trying to get a ride to Sacramento. One suspect was later released. The other had a grand-theft warrant as well as an extraditable probation warrant out of Arizona. Abdirahman Hussein, 28, homeless, was booked for burglary, grand theft, vehicle theft and false identification. Bail was set at $50,000. William Rollins Lucas, 23, homeless, was booked for grand theft and an outstanding warrant. Bail was set at $50,000.

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

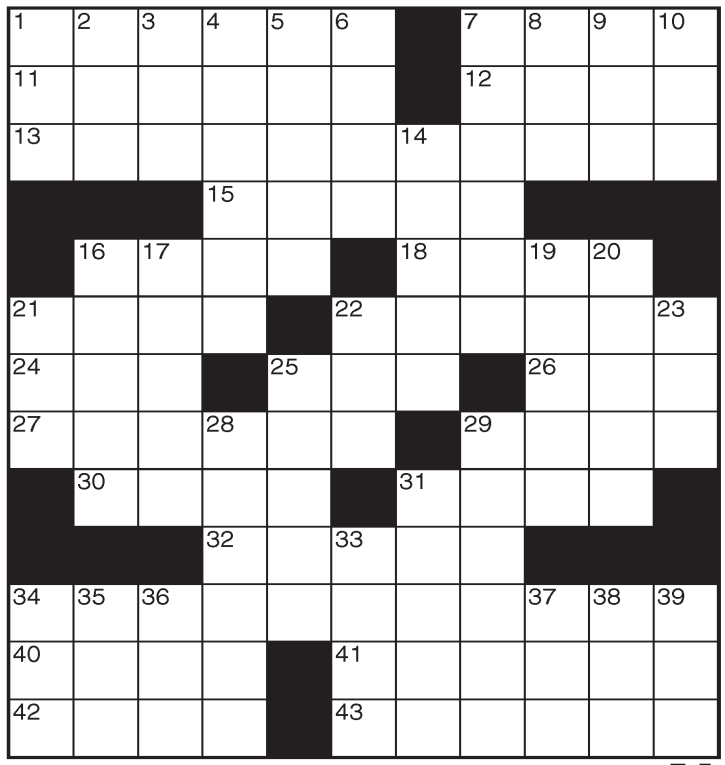
ACROSS
1 Current unit
7 Highlands girl
11 Tiled art
12 River to the Missis-sippi
13 Old operator's place
15 Loafers, e.g.
16 Sky shade
18 Headed out
21 Open-handed hit
22 "Lord Jim" author
24 Vitality
25 Twist in the sky
26 Exploit
27 Copier part
29 Flying toy
30 Entreaty
31 Metropolis
32 Coffee add-in
34 Gymnast's aid
40 Parched
41 Sushi accompa-nier
42 Capitol top
43 Peanuts pooch

DOWN
1 Mornings: Abbr.
2 Do a yard job
3 Letter before omega
4 Relishes
5 Nouveau —
6 Canyon sound
7 Untie, perhaps
8 Cry of insight
9 Army address
10 Turf
14 Sub-merged
16 Censor's sound
17 Jacket flap
19 Produce section
20 Flavorful
21 Suntan lotion letters
22 Sedan or compact
23 Scottish river
25 Long
28 Act the judge
29 Geisha garb
31 Rustic home
33 Quiche base
34 Feeling down
35 Expert
36 Crater part
37 In the past
38 Gym unit
39 Desertlike

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

Yesterday's answer

THOMAS CROSSWORD BOOKS 1-8! Send $4.75 (check/ m.o.) for each book to 628 Virginia Dr., Orlando, FL 32803



7-5

MYSTERY PHOTO

Matthew Hall *matt@smdp.com*



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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 ★★

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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

King Features Syndicate



TODAY IN HISTORY

1807 – In Buenos Aires the local militias repel the British soldiers within the Second English Invasion.

1809 – The largest battle of the Napoleonic Wars, the Battle of Wagram is fought between the French and Austrian Empires.

1811 – Venezuela declares independence from Spain.

1813 – War of 1812: Three weeks of British raids on Fort Schlosser, Black Rock and Plattsburgh, New York commence.

1814 – War of 1812: Battle of Chippawa: American Major General Jacob Brown defeats British General Phineas Riall at Chippawa, Ontario.

1833 – Lê V?n Khôi along with 27 soldiers stage a mutiny taking over the Phiên An citadel, developing into the Lê V?n Khôi revolt against Emperor Minh M?ng.

1833 – Admiral Charles Napier vanquishes the navy of the Portuguese usurper Dom Miguel at the third Battle of Cape St. Vincent.

1841 – Thomas Cook organises the first package excursion, from Leicester to Loughborough

1878 – The coat of arms of the Baku Governorate is established.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Awwwww: The Sacramento (California) Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals put out a call for help in April after stray kittens were found dumped in a yard, with only two still alive but nearly blind with eye infections and needing animal blood for a serum that might save the eyes. The call was "answered" by the rescue dog Jemmie. After Jemmie's blood "donation" (not a transfusion, since the blood went only to make the serum), vets reported saving one eye of one of the kittens, earning Jemmie a "special" reward. (Said vet Sarah Varanini, "There's nothing in life (Jemmie) likes more than kittens.")

■ Recurring Themes: Even though extraordinarily rare, two people recently reported foreign accent syndrome after their brain traumas apparently caused crossing of cranial "wires." (1) "J.C.," 50, was described in the journal Cortex as an energetic Italian who, after a brain injury, inexplicably speaks constantly in "emphatic, error-prone French." (2) Six months ago, Lisa Alamia of Rosenberg, Texas, awoke from surgery inexplicably speaking in a British accent (particularly confusing her family and friends since she previously spoke not so much "English" as "Texan"). Medical experts cited by CBS News reported that fewer than 100 people worldwide have ever been diagnosed with foreign accent syndrome.

Time to relax, Pisces

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Confusion surrounds you, especially as you seem to do the unexpected and trigger some strong reactions. Your imagination comes forward. You might feel intensely about a situation, but don't know where the feelings are coming from. Tonight: Let off some steam.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ Use the morning for important communication. You might find that you are best off staying close to home. You feel more comfortable and can accomplish a lot more when you're allowed to go at your own pace. Tonight: You feel as if you can handle almost anything.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You might find yourself involved in an unexpected event that pops up and involves a friend. Communication seems to flourish, especially around money and/or a work-related matter. Be willing to share more of your feelings. Tonight: Be spontaneous when making plans.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ Be aware of what you are about to leap into. The costs might be surprising once you hear them. Weigh your decision with care, and know when you have had enough of negotiating. Remain confident that you have made the right choice. Tonight: Discuss what is happening.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ A family member could prove to be feisty and difficult. Remain more sensitive to someone you care about who might be at a distance. Your instincts comes through with a gamble involving someone else. Be more forthright about what you are thinking. Tonight: As you like it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Don't push someone too hard. Stop and consider how you can turn the situation around. You could find that others are unpredictable at this moment. Your sensitivity comes through and draws a loved one out of his or her shell. Tonight: Get as much R and R as possible.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Take some time to consider the importance of a group of friends. Someone unpredictable might invigorate you. Follow through on an idea that has the possibility of affecting your daily life. Be careful with any far-out diets or health programs. Tonight: Listen to a respected friend.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★★ Your more playful side emerges, which could surprise everyone around you. You will shake up the status quo by allowing your imagination to take over. You also will gain a new perspective. Touch base with a friend who always lightens up the mood. Tonight: As you like it.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Reach out to the appropriate person after having an important conversation with someone you trust. You are about to expand your boundaries and let go of certain limits. You will benefit from getting some feedback. Tonight: Make plans to visit with a friend in the near future.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Get past a reluctance to work with a particular person. A friend might want to push you in a new direction. The unexpected is likely to occur with a family member. You have a sense of what is going to happen next in a conversation. Tonight: Have an intense one-on-one talk.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ If you must accomplish something, do it early, as you easily might be distracted by what occurs later. Others seek you out, and before you know it, you could be involved in a social get-together. Use caution with your finances. Tonight: Sort through your many invitations.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ A caring exchange could mark the morning, but by the afternoon you seem to be very involved in a project. Be careful with spending, as you could have a last-minute problem that is costly. Follow your instincts about what direction you should head in. Tonight: Time to relax.

Tuesday, July 5, 2016

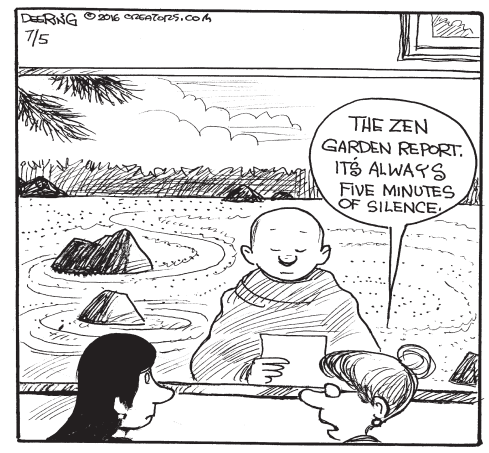
This year you feel as if you no longer need to hold back and you can say what you want. A new computer or car could be in your near future. You could spend a lot of money this year trying to make a change. Know when to say "enough." If you are single, others are drawn to you. You need to decide who would make you the happiest. If you are attached, you could add to your family or make a change to your residence. LEO has a way of getting you to wish you could be more like him or her.

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

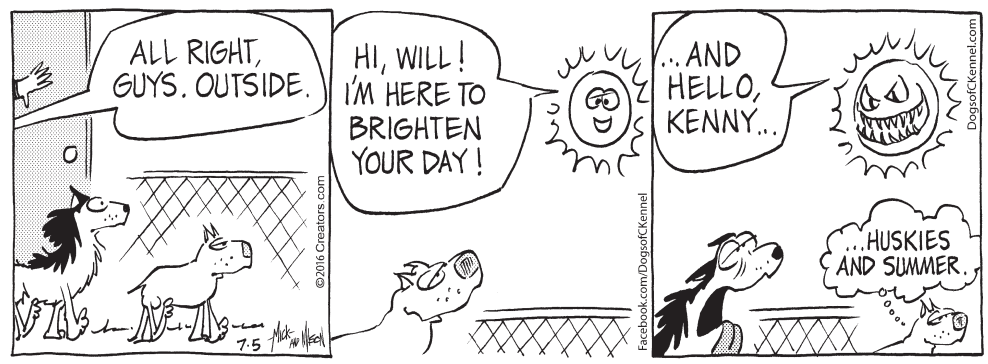
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



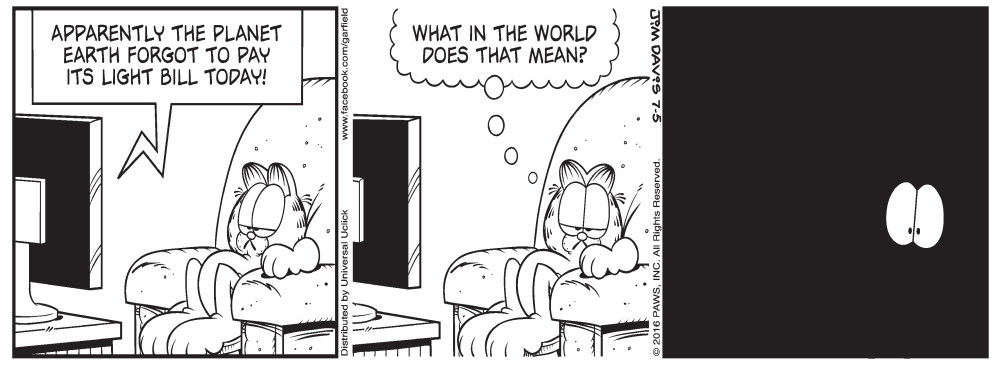
Strange Brew
By John Deering



Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



Garfield
By Jim Davis



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



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