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TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 205

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

SEEING STARS
SEE PAGE 17

THE HEATING UP ISSUE

Urban beekeeping taking root in Santa Monica

Law allows residents to pick up the planet-friendly hobby

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SUNSET PARK The bee hive that caught Paul Hekimian's eye was epic.

The bees had built it in the branches of a rubber tree plant that started in a neighbor's yard but arched over the fence toward Hekimian's property, abutting the avocado tree in which his son, Lucas, has a tree house and zip line.

Lucas found the hive quite by accident, hidden by the leaves of the avocado tree.

Most people would fly to the phone book and find a removal service, asking themselves only if they wanted it chemical-free or fully loaded.

Not Hekimian.

"I am so excited!" he said, jogging around his yard at 8 a.m. on Saturday morning to prepare for what this reporter dubbed "Project: Bee Relocation."

The goal: to get the rather large number of bees currently suspended between 15 and 20 feet above the ground into boxes lined with thin wooden frames in such a way that they would actually create a new hive and stay there.

Hekimian grew up in Houston, Texas. His father, George, was a professional auto repairman and hobbyist beekeeper.

He had 90 boxes full of bees lined up outside the shop, and the family harvested and

SEE BEES PAGE 11



Ashley Archibald *news@smdp.com*

MOVING DAY: **Beekeeper Rob McFarland removes a massive hive from a Sunset Park home while homeowner Paul Hekimian helps out on Saturday. Mekimian kept the bees on site.**

Mini heat wave hits L.A. region

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Southern California's deserts and interior valleys broiled in triple-digit or upper 90s temperatures on Monday as a mini heat wave set in.

The National Weather Service said warming brought by a strong, upper-level high centered over the Great Basin would peak on Tuesday and Wednesday. Excessive heat warnings will be in effect most of Tuesday across the deserts, the NWS said.

The coast remained cool, however, and some points had highs in the 60s or low 70s, which contrasted sharply with temperatures near 100 in communities just a few miles inland.

Forecasters also warned that the heat, combined with low humidity levels, will elevate the fire danger. Firefighters jumped on several small fires Monday in San Bernardino, San Diego and Los Angeles counties.

Dry lightning will add to fire worries as a flow of monsoonal moisture arrives from the southeast later in the week, affecting Southern California and the southern Sierra Nevada, the NWS said.

In the Eastern Sierra, temperatures could top 100 degrees in the next few days, accompanied by strong winds and the chance of rainless thunderstorms as early as Tuesday, said state fire Battalion Chief Julie Hutchinson.

"We don't need lightning in that area," she said. "That could be a very bad thing."

Citing the critical fire weather and the dryness of vegetation, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection suspended burning permits and other uses of open fire on state responsibility lands in San Diego and Imperial counties. Use of campfires was restricted to established sites in campgrounds.

The weather also brought air pollution concerns.

Los Angeles County health officials advised that air quality Monday was unhealthy in the Santa Clarita Valley and East San Gabriel Valley for people with sensitivities due to conditions such as heart disease, asthma or other chronic respiratory diseases. They were urged to stay indoors if possible and avoid outdoor physical activity.

Judge clears governor's tax for top billing

JUDY LIN
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. A judge on Monday cleared Gov. Jerry Brown's tax initiative for top billing on the November ballot by rejecting a challenge from a competing tax campaign. The decision drew a new appeal from anti-tax advocates.

Sacramento County Superior Court Judge Michael Kenny denied a request from the Our Children, Our Future campaign to stop the secretary of state from placing the Democratic governor's tax measure atop the ballot.

Brown called the lawsuit "totally frivolous" and said he hopes taxpayers will choose to fund schools and universities through his measure.

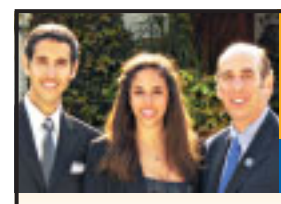
"It's old-style politics where you try to take $800-an-hour lawyers and try to bully people who are trying to do their jobs at the local and county levels," the governor said.

Attorneys for the Our Children, Our Future campaign argued that their initia-

SEE TAX PAGE 10

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, June 10, 2012

Mindful meditation
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
7 p.m. — 7:30 p.m.
Henry Schipper, a graduate of UCLA's mindful studies program, guides a 30-minute meditation session. Attendees can stay for whatever amount of time they want, and are invited to refresh and revive themselves through this peaceful activity. For more information, call (310) 458-868.

Resume-writing for dummies
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd.,
7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
Volunteers provide one-on-one help with resume and cover letter writing, and creating online job applications. Appointments are required. For more information, call (310) 458-8681.

KCET summer cinema series
Aero Theatre
1328 Montana Ave., 7 p.m.
Don't miss the best in cinema this summer! Make plans to attend the popular KCET Cinema Series at the Aero Theatre in Santa Monica. The summer series screens nine weeks of thought-provoking films prior to their theatrical release in Los Angeles. Plus, as a special bonus, series' members will enjoy a classic Johnny Mercer scored film, KCET's tribute to one of America's greatest songwriters. Each screening is followed by a lively Q&A moderated by award-winning film critic Pete Hammond. For more information, call (747) 201-5800.

Open ocean swimming
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 Pacific Coast Highway,
9 a.m. — 10:30 a.m.
This class offers attendees a safe introduction to the ocean and its many hazards, and teaches the skills that allow even beginning swimmers to have a great and safe time at the beach. For more information, call (310) 458-4904.

Wednesday, June 11, 2012

Beachgoing the Shakespearean way
Annenberg Community Beach House
Marion Davies Guest House
415 Pacific Coast Highway,
3:30 p.m. — 5:30 p.m.
Salty Shakespeare, the Beach House theater company in residence, will showcase an outdoor performance of their new adaptation of "Hamlet" starting Wednesday. Sign up for one of six performances running July 11-13, 17-18 and 20. The shows take place outside so be sure to bring lots of layers and sun protection. For more information, go to saltyshakespeare.org.

Write on!
Main Library
Santa Monica Public Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
2 p.m. — 4 p.m.
An intensive three-week writing workshop begins Wednesday. If you're a teen — or know a teen — that wants to meet local authors, develop creative writing skills and publish work in a teen zine, this workshop offers it all. Space is limited, on a first come, first served basis. Snag a spot soon! Open to teens grades seven through 12. For more information, call (310) 458-8621.

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

Healthcare tour drops by town

Activists will visit Santa Monica on Wednesday as part of a three-week tour of California cities regarding the Affordable Care Act and other healthcare issues.

The tour, which features health screenings and invites community members to tell their healthcare stories at a town hall meeting, will stop by the Unitarian Community Church on 1260 18th St.

In the wake of the Supreme Court ruling that upheld the Affordable Care Act, some nurses and physician activists believe that patient care is a work in progress.

"The court decision has not ended the healthcare emergency for far too many in our communities," said Zenei Cortez, RN, co-president of the California Nurses Association/National Nurses United, in a statement.

Kicked off in San Diego on June 19, the Medicare for All tour is calling to galvanize the efforts for guaranteed, universal, cost-effective health reform. The tour will end on July 12 in West Covina.

In Santa Monica, basic health screenings will take place 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. and the town hall meeting will take place 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

"We have a proven solution with a model that works wonderfully for 40 million Americans already," Cortez said. "It's called Medicare. No one should have to wait until they turn 65 to be assured they will be able to receive the healthcare they need."

SEAN FITZ-GERALD

OCEAN PARK BLVD.

Firm selected to complete church improvement project

Gwynne Pugh Urban Studio, Inc. will begin a master plan and a space needs program for Santa Monica's Mt. Olive Lutheran Church.

For the past 70 years, Mt. Olive has been a staple in the neighborhood, serving as the host to myriad community services and events, such as yoga classes, adult education, preschool services and after-school programs.

Intending to move forward as a place of a worship and a community resource center, Mt. Olive has asked Urban Studio – helmed by architect Gwynne Pugh, who has worked as a leading name in world architecture and Santa Monica for more than 30 years – to assist in reorganizing and adding versatility to the church's campus.

For the meantime, the programming process will require meetings with the church's volunteer teams and the Santa Monica community at large – ultimately to produce a comprehensive and sustainable master plan for the 1.5-acre site.

SFG



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

WORK SITE: **The City Council is expected to spot Windward School funds to help move a city-owned well on the Westside campus.**

City Hall to help school relocate well

Small consent agenda follows weeks of big spending

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

Editor's note: This story is part of an ongoing series that tracks the city's expenditures appearing on upcoming Santa Monica City Council consent agendas. Consent agenda items are routinely passed by the City Council with little or no discussion from elected officials or the public. However, many of the items have been part of public discussion in the past.

CITY HALL The City Council will only consider $630,000 worth of expenditures on its consent agenda Tuesday night, a break from a string of costly calendars that have frequently reached into the millions.

The City Council is likely to approve a $395,235 contract increase for Black and Veatch Construction, Inc. for the relocation of a city-owned well under athletic fields used by the Windward School.

School officials want to modify their athletic fields, but have to move the well to do so, a process that could cost up to $1,896,292.

While City Hall is fronting the cash, the school will end up paying for the relocation later.

ENERGY DATABASE

Staff recommends that the council approve a $150,000 contract with Vitasys, Inc. to build a website with information to save builders money when they use energy-efficient materials.

The online database would be used by people applying for building permits to hook them up with money-saving information on energy efficiency programs, incentives and rebates.

The database is a requirement of a $374,000 grant from Southern California Edison for four energy-efficiency projects that support the state's strategic plan.

Vitasys was the only company to respond to the call for bids.

PICO LIBRARY

For the fifth time, the City Council will consider increasing the contract for the construction of the Pico Branch Library.

If approved, the new contract with Koning Eizenberg Architects will grow by $85,348 to a new total of $967,938.

The additional money will pay for the design and engineering of a rainwater harvest system, two extra months of construction and 28 more on-site meetings.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

'A Praiseworthy Fourth Clean-Up'

Editor:

Kudos, raves, plaudits and more
Could be heard this morning along our shore,
Because the piles of trash, that a year ago today
Had polluted our beach, had been taken away.
The shoreline was clean, save a rocket or two,
The sand had been plowed and looked good as new.
The doubled up cans were devoid of all waste,
So a pristine scene is what beach goers faced.
Our beach looked so good we can say it aloud,
"Our beach clean-up crews have all made us proud."

G.E. Matthews
Santa Monica







What's the Point?

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

Thank you much, OPA

THANK YOU TO THE OCEAN PARK Association for a tremendous Fourth of July Parade experience. This year the parade was extremely well attended, smoothly run and more fun than in years past.

It was great to see the amazing classic cars that have been rebuilt and brought back to almost factory-new condition. I have a love affair with classic cars and every year it makes me want to go find an old beater and begin the long, and expensive, process of rebuilding it. Mercifully I have enough other stupidly expensive hobbies to keep me busy so I have not picked up the addiction of being a junkyard archeologist, yet.

As I drove down Main Street with my dog seated next to me, we were greeted by thousands of people and it confirmed for me the small town generosity of spirit that exists. I was recognized a few times and readers of the Daily Press shouted out how much they enjoyed reading it. It was an exhilarating experience to have people I don't know yell a greeting and some words of encouragement. There is an intoxication that comes with being the center of attention, if only for the three seconds that you are in front a crowded sidewalk. I can see why some celebrities seem to crave it so.

But if I needed a reminder that I am no celebrity and I wont be treated specially, it was when I returned to where I parked my car.

I did a bad thing. At 7:45 a.m, as I was making my way to the parade set up in front of the Civic Auditorium I couldn't find parking on the street, so I parked in the Bayshore Lanes parking lot and was one of three cars. Now I was wrong to do it, because I was not then, a current customer of the bowling alley or the Oceanside Café, although I did have dinner there the night before.

The parking lot is clearly marked with multiple bright signs that say "Your Car Will Be Towed" if you are not a current customer, but I was thinking that since they weren't open yet and since I was going to be back in about three hours, and probably have lunch at the Oceanside Café, it would be no big deal.

I was wrong.

Evidently the general manager at the AMF Bayshore Lanes, Afshin Sosiadr, takes his parking lot policing duties quite seriously. He had my car towed by the Tip-Top Tow guys. Now he was completely in the right to have my car towed. I was abusing the privilege of being a customer at the bowling alley by parking in their lot when I was not a customer at that particular moment.

I'm not sure why he is so protective of the empty parking lot when the business was not open, but it certainly feels very unneighborly to tow cars that are there for a few hours at best. I could understand if I left my car there for a weekend, but seriously, it was three hours at most, and I had been a regular customer of the Oceanside café for years.

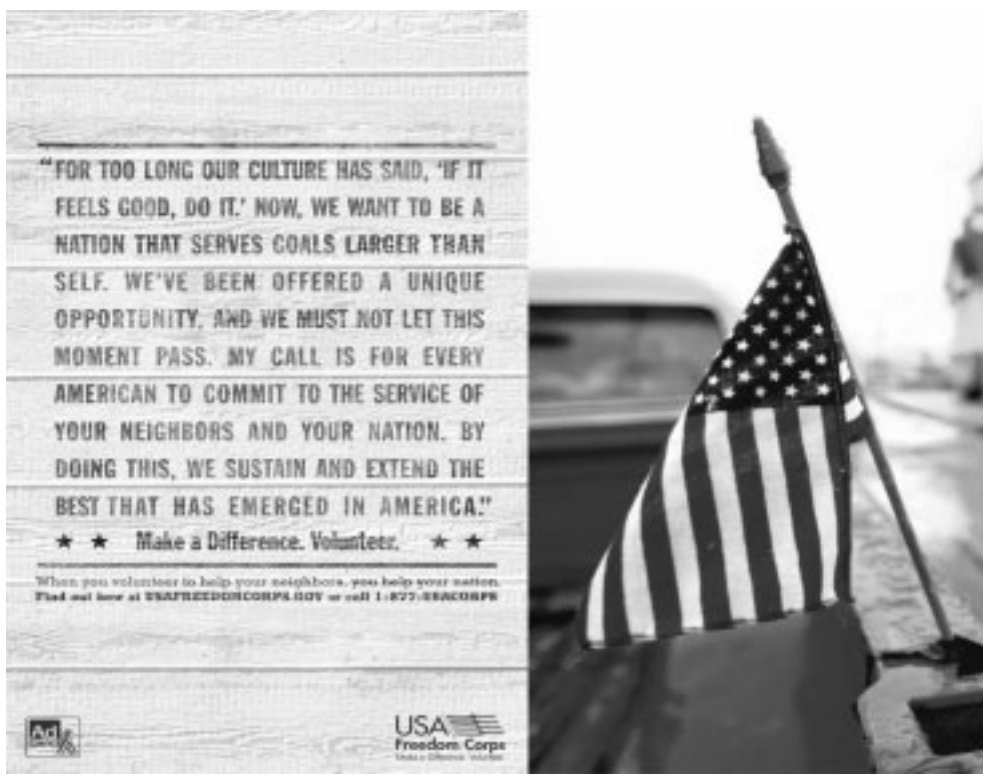
When I returned from the parade to find my car missing, I very politely and without a bit of rancor just confirmed with Mr. Sosiadr that he had in fact towed my car, and with a sheepish smile and a touch of smugness, he said yes. I thanked him and confirmed his name and then went to leave. He became agitated and upset with me, telling me that I wanted to break the law without penalty, so I just walked away.

A phone to call to Tip-Top Tow and $205 later, and I had my car back. Not the end of the world, but a harsh reminder that even when I think I might be special, I'm not.

The point of all this is that on the one hand we are a wonderfully congenial small town in many ways and that the people like Lori Nafshun and her army of volunteers who demonstrate their generosity of spirit by putting on the Main Street parade need to be thanked publicly, and on the other hand, we have to remember that the rights of the businesses like AMF Bayshore Lanes need to be respected at all times, or suffer the consequences.

So a big thank you to the Ocean Park Association and the many hands who helped put on another great annual event.

DAVID PISARRA is a Divorce lawyer specializing in Father's and Men's Rights with the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He welcomes your questions and comments. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or 310/664-9969.



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L.A. schools superintendent shakes up district policies

CHRISTINA HOAG
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Faced with a shocking case of a teacher accused of playing classroom sex games with children for years, Los Angeles schools Superintendent John Deasy delivered another jolt: He removed the school's entire staff — from custodians to the principal — to smash what he called a "culture of silence."

"It was a quick, responsible, responsive action to a heinous situation," he said. "We're not going to spend a long time debating student safety."

The controversial decision underscores the 51-year-old superintendent's shake-up of the lethargic bureaucracy at the nation's second-largest school district. His swift, bold moves have rankled some and won praise from others during his first year of leadership.

Hired with a mandate to boost achievement in the 660,000-pupil Los Angeles Unified School District, Deasy has become known for 18-hour days that involve everything from surprise classroom visits and picking up playground litter to lobbying city elite for donations and blasting Sacramento politicians over funding cuts.

He's also gained a reputation for outspokenness and a brisk decision-making style some have criticized as heavy-handed. Earlier this year, for instance, Deasy ordered a substitute teacher fired after finding students doing busy work.

"I'm intolerant when it comes to students being disrespected," he said in an interview sandwiched between school visits and meetings. "I do what I think is right and everyone has the right to criticize. You appreciate the critics, but you wouldn't get up in the morning if you listened to them."

Doing what he thinks is right has put him in some unusual positions, such as siding with plaintiffs who successfully sued the district over closely protected teachers' union tenets — seniority-based layoff policies and leaving out student test scores in teacher performance evaluations.

"He acts on behalf of kids, you can't fault him for that," said A.J. Duffy, the former president of the teachers union United Teachers Los Angeles, who now runs a charter school. "But there are processes. People do deserve a fair and equitable hearing."

As the school year was ending last month, Deasy was focused on hiring 80 new principals, particularly at troubled urban high schools some have called "dropout factories." Deasy pushed 50 current principals to retire or transferred them and he aims to interview replacement candidates himself. Developing leadership is a cornerstone of his reform strategy.

Deasy moves at a rapid clip, whether it's through the candidate lists, his reform agenda or in striding around school campuses. "Keeping up with Dr. Deasy" is a well-worn joke around the district.

He is under a tight, self-imposed, deadline to get reforms in place in four years and see higher test scores, graduation rates and other education metrics in eight years.

"The culture in this district has been talk, protest, argue, not actually do," he said. "This style has come up against that."

School board President Monica Garcia applauds Deasy's speed. "People are feeling very confident in his leadership," she said.

The urgency of his mission drives Deasy.

He's up at 3:30 a.m., goes for a run and reads emails and the news before starting office meetings at 5:30 a.m. His wiry frame, topped with a crewcut, emphasizes that meals are often a luxury unless connected with work — he keeps energy bars in an office drawer. A recent lunch consisted of frozen yogurt.

He works through much of the weekend, too, although he reserves Sunday nights for Patty, his wife of 27 years. The couple has three grown children who live in the Los Angeles area.

Deasy is not concerned about burnout, but he worries about getting engulfed in pessimism. "It's 101 percent negativity all the time," he said.

So when there's good news, he revels in it. He ticks off recent increases in language proficiency rates for English learners, and declines in dropouts and suspensions.

He hopes to see more results from new policies he's pushed through, including giving teachers and principals more autonomy and more rigorous graduation requirements.

Once a week, his driver takes him on a round of unannounced visits to a few of the 1,000-plus schools, a source of both inspiration and exasperation as he moseys around corridors alone, introducing himself to students as "Dr. D."

There's no idle chitchat. Deasy fires questions about grades or graduation at students and enrollment or staffing at administrators.

He gets advice on managing an organization with a $6 billion budget and 65,000 employees from his executive coach, Kevin Sharer, the former chief executive of Amgen,

SEE **SCHOOLS** PAGE 6

The Q Line

In the air

The City Council is being asked to consider a ban on smoking in multi-unit residential units.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think a ban is in order or does it go too far?

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


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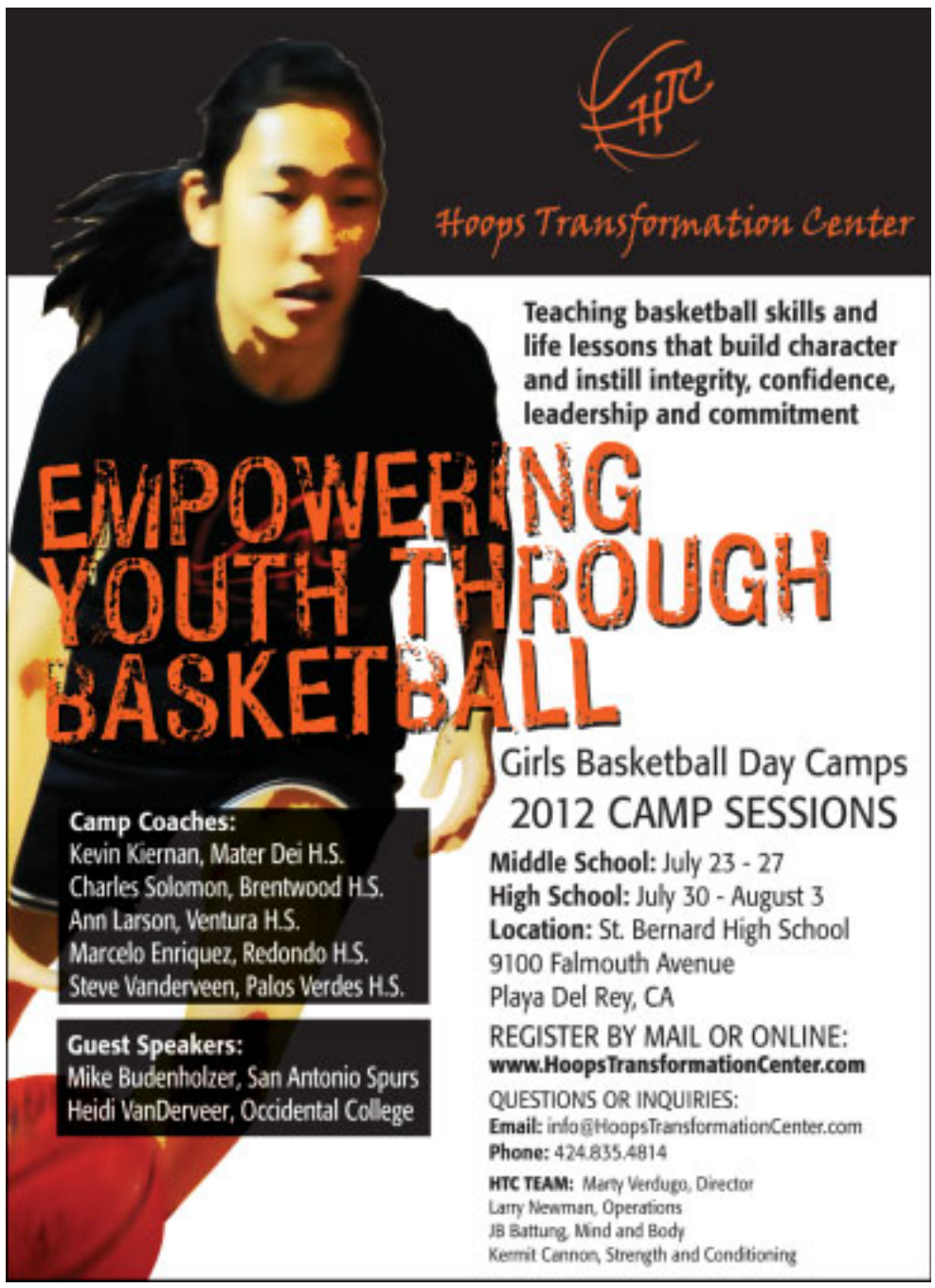
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Challenges remain for high-speed rail plan

HANNAH DREIER
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. California lawmakers may have given their OK to what could be the nation's first high-speed rail line, but the project is still a long way from leaving the station.

The bullet train has prominent supporters such as President Barack Obama and Gov. Jerry Brown, but backers must still overcome a number of challenges, including environmental concerns, clashes with local leaders over land use, a $68 billion overall price tag with no funding guarantees and an increasingly disenchanted public.

Supporters applauded Friday when the state Legislature narrowly approved $4.5 billion in state funding for rail improvements and to begin construction of the initial segment of high-speed track in the agricultural Central Valley. The move enabled the state to tap $3.2 billion in federal bond money.

Critics, however, are redoubling their efforts to derail the project that could eventually link Los Angeles and San Francisco with trains traveling up to 220 mph.

Among those gearing up for a fight are the farmers whose land is in the path of the massive infrastructure project.

The Madera and Merced county farm bureaus, along with other parties, have filed a lawsuit to halt the project on grounds that the state has not done enough environmental vetting. The plaintiffs say the train would render 1,500 acres of fertile land unfarmable and disrupt 500 agricultural businesses.

"We are going to protect our property," said Frank Oliveira, a farmer who has been active in opposing the plan.

Brown, a Democrat, has made the project a touchstone of his administration.

"I believe we're going to go all of the way. Just taking the first step in and of itself will create value for our state," he told reporters Monday at an event with U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood at the Port of Oakland.

Brown initially tried to prevent courts from using the state's complex environmental law to stop construction but backed down under pressure as he sought to win lawmakers' approval. On Monday, he suggested the law might benefit from reforms to discourage people trying to keep projects from coming too close to their property.

Some observers say the state might avoid an injunction delaying the project because courts often give the state the benefit of the doubt in environmental complaints.

However, California has some of the most stringent environmental regulations in the country, and even if the lawsuits are thrown out, construction could be bogged down for years by the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.

LaHood on Monday praised Democratic lawmakers for approving the project, despite intense pressure from critics. He said it reinforces California's position as a leader in high-speed rail.

Funding is another potential line of attack.

California voters approved $10 billion in bonds for the project in 2008 and Friday's vote assured that the state will be able to collect $3.2 billion in federal money that could have been rescinded if lawmakers failed to act.

That leaves $55 billion still needed to finish the line, assuming it doesn't go over budget. The cost is lower than the California High-Speed Rail Authority's initial $98 billion estimate.

LaHood said officials initially didn't know where all the money would come from for the interstate highway system, but they forged ahead anyway.

"Fifty years later, we have the best road system in America built with federal, state and private dollars, and that is the direction for high-speed rail," he said.

SCHOOLS
FROM PAGE 5

the world's largest biotech company.

However, there was nothing to prepare him for the case of Miramonte Elementary School teacher Mark Berndt, who has pleaded not guilty to accusations of feeding students cookies smeared with his semen in "tasting games."

Deasy's removal of the school's staff resulted in protests by parents and a raft of union grievances. The teachers, who were warehoused at another location, may now return to the classroom at Miramonte or another school, Deasy said.

Deasy also ordered principals to pull teacher misconduct files from the past 40 years. Those files are under reviewed by a special panel to determine if further action is warranted. Some 500 previously unreported cases have been forwarded so far to the state teacher licensing commission.

Teachers union President Warren Fletcher lambasted the move as a hasty and counterproductive effort to deflect attention from managerial failures.

Fiscal issues loom as the district's greatest challenge. The district has lost $2.7 billion in state funding and laid off 12,000 employees over the past five years. For the upcoming school year, 4,300 employees lost their jobs, and the rest agreed to 10 furlough days, including five fewer school days, to close a $390 million shortfall.

"He got handed a pretty rough plate," said Charles Kerchner, education professor at Claremont Graduate University. "The whole district is sort of teetering financially."

Deasy has formed a foundation, The Los Angeles Fund for Public Education, to seek private donors.

"That a city this size and this wealthy does not invest more philanthropically in its public education, that, to me, has been pretty amazing," he said.

Deasy hadn't planned to pursue an education career. The son of two Massachusetts teachers, he aimed to be a doctor but couldn't afford medical school. He wanted to get married so he became a science teacher and found his calling.

He quickly ascended the career ladder, serving as superintendent at school districts in Rhode Island, California and Maryland before taking a job with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation where he worked on policy issues, including teacher evaluations.

He jumped at the chance to go to LAUSD, a district that is 73 percent Latino and 80 percent low income. One of his motivations is working to offer privileges afforded him, a white male, to others. Pictures of Cesar Chavez, Martin Luther King Jr. and a Barack Obama "Hope" poster decorate his office.

"This is where it matters," he said. "Delivering opportunities to kids."

On a recent visit to Esteban Torres High School in East Los Angeles, two seniors inform him they are the first in their families to graduate high school. Both said they plan to pursue criminal justice studies at community college.

A wide smile breaks out on Deasy's face as he congratulates them heartily. "You see these men," he said later. "It's what keeps you going."

Trial under way in deadly 2003 wildfire

AMY TAXIN
Associated Press

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. A prosecutor said Monday a man who was angry about being thrown out of a house where his family was staying was guilty of murdering five people who had heart attacks after he deliberately torched a hillside and started a raging wildfire that destroyed hundreds of homes in Southern California.

Supervising Deputy District Attorney Robert Bulloch flashed picture after picture of burning forests and firefighters as he delivered his opening statement at the trial of Rickie Lee Fowler.

"This fire was deliberately set," Bulloch said. "It was set maliciously by this defendant, Rickie Fowler. He did it because he was angry. He did it because he was selfish. He did it because he wanted revenge."

The charges against Fowler signaled a tough new standard for arson cases in a region plagued by wildfires that sometimes claim the lives of firefighters and civilians. Bulloch declined to discuss the reasons for pursuing murder charges against Fowler, except to say the law states that if someone is killed during a felony, a person involved in that crime would be responsible for the death.

Fowler, 30, was serving time for burglary when he was charged with starting the windblown Old Fire in 2003 in the foothills above San Bernardino. It was one of many blazes that raged simultaneously throughout Southern California that year.

Fowler has pleaded not guilty to arson and five counts of murder. He could face the death penalty if convicted after the trial that's expected to last a month.

In his opening statement, defense attorney Don Jordan raised questions about whether the Old Fire or another wildfire raging in the mountainous area east of Los Angeles caused the stress that led to the heart attacks.

He also said there were a number of discrepancies in testimony by witnesses such as the color and description of the van seen in the area where the fire began. Memories have faded over the course of the years-long probe, Jordan added.

The prosecutor told jurors that Fowler became upset after a man who had given shelter to his family kicked Fowler out of the residence amid thefts and mistreatment. Fowler then started the fire that scorched 91,000 acres and decimated neighborhoods while burning for nine days, Bulloch said.

Five men died of heart attacks after their homes burned to the ground or as they rushed to evacuate, he said. A total of about 1,000 buildings were destroyed.

Fowler became a suspect when witnesses reported seeing a passenger in a white van tossing burning objects into dry brush. Investigators acting on a phone tip interviewed Fowler several months later but didn't have enough evidence to file charges until six years after the fire.

On Monday, Bulloch told jurors about the five men who died after the blaze began. One of them, Robert Taylor, was 54 when he lost his house and home-based consulting business in the flames. Under a tremendous amount of stress, he lost sleep and suffered headaches. A week later, he had a heart attack, Bulloch said.

Thomas Wayman, 54, listened to opening statements and hopes by attending the trial he might feel some sense of closure after losing his house and nearly all of his belongings in the fire. Nine years later, he is still trying to rebuild his life.

"It is frightening just to realize human nature is such that people do the things they do," Wayman said.

In 2008, Fowler gave authorities a note acknowledging he was there when the Old Fire began and had intended to light it but "got beaten to the punch" by a friend, Bulloch said.

Fowler denied in jailhouse interviews in 2009 that he was the man who got out of the van and tossed a lit road flare into the brush. He also said he was badgered into making a confession.

"The community wants to crucify someone. They're angry. I understand," he told the San Bernardino Sun. "I guess they're looking for justice, but get the right person. I had nothing to do with it. I really didn't."

In his opening statement, Jordan said his client never told investigators he was the one who ignited the wildfire.

"Mr. Fowler never, ever, ever, ever even hinted at, never ever said he lit the fire," the attorney told jurors.

The suspected driver of the van, Martin Valdez Jr., was later shot and killed in an unrelated incident in the town of Muscoy.

While in prison awaiting trial, Fowler was convicted of sodomizing a jail inmate and sentenced to three, 25-years-to-life prison terms.

On Monday, Fowler refused to attend the trial and was brought into the courtroom in shackles under a judge's order before the jury was seated. Defense attorney Michael Belter criticized Judge Michael A. Smith for allowing the media to take photographs of Fowler in shackles, arguing it would taint the jury.

"If those are the photographs that are in the newspapers tomorrow, we're going to make a motion for a mistrial," Belter said.

Smith said he could not order the press to withhold something it already had, but he encouraged the media to use pictures of Fowler taken after the shackles were removed.

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More public schools splitting up boys, girls

HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH & JESSIE L. BONNER
Associated Press

MIDDLETON, Idaho Robin Gilbert didn't set out to confront gender stereotypes when she split up the boys and girls at her elementary school in rural southwestern Idaho.

But that's exactly what happened, with her Middleton Heights Elementary now among dozens of public schools nationwide being targeted by the American Civil Liberties Union in a bitter struggle over whether single-sex learning should be continued. Under pressure, single-sex programs have been dropped at schools from Missouri to Louisiana.

"It doesn't frustrate me," Gilbert said of the criticism, "but it makes the work harder."

While Gilbert's school is believed to be the only one in Idaho offering single-sex classes, the movement is widespread in states like South Carolina, which has more than 100 schools that offer some form of a single-gender program.

Single-sex classes began proliferating after the U.S. Education Department relaxed restrictions in 2006. With research showing boys, particularly minority boys, are graduating at lower rates than girls and faring worse on tests, plenty of schools were paying attention.

In 2002, only about a dozen schools were separating the sexes, according to the National Association for Single Sex Public Education, an advocacy group. Now, an estimated 500 public schools across the country offer some all-boy and all-girl classrooms.

Proponents argue the separation allows for a tailored instruction and cuts down on gender-driven distractions among boys and girls, such as flirting. But critics decry the movement as promoting harmful gender stereotypes and depriving kids of equal educational opportunities. The ACLU claims many schools offer the classes in a way that conflicts with the U.S. Constitution and Title IX, a federal law banning sex discrimination in education. Researchers also have weighed in.

Diane F. Halpern, a former president of the American Psychological Association, co-authored a review of studies last fall in the journal Science that found research doesn't support the benefits of single-sex education. Additionally, there are lots of problems whenever you segregate people into groups, Halpern said.

"Stereotyping increases so we really do have lots of data that says it's just not supported," she said.

However, proponents have put out their own studies, showing the benefits of separating students. Middleton Heights Elementary cited the research when it first piloted single-sex classes in a few grades. The goal was to address the struggles boys were having in reading.

The idea proved so popular that single-sex classes have expanded throughout the school. Parents can opt out, a choice required by law, if they want their kids in a traditional coed classroom.

In the single-sex classes, teachers use microphones that allow them to electronically adjust the tone of their voice to match the level that research suggests is best for boys. When preparing for a test, the boys may go for a run, or engage in some other activity, while the girls are more likely to do calming exercises, such as yoga.

On a recent tour, Gilbert peeked into a classroom of third grade boys, who had decorated their walls with a camping theme, complete with construction paper campfires and a sign that read "fishing for books."

Next door, the third-grade girls opted for an "under the sea" motif. When they spotted Gilbert in their classroom door way, a few of the girls jumped from their seats and ran to give her a quick embrace.

They learn the same curriculum, they still lunch and play at recess together, but the differences in their learning environments are apparent, from the blue chalkboards in the boy classrooms, to the red paper hearts that decorated the wall of one of the girl's classrooms.

These environments are driven by student interests and what they're learning at the time, Gilbert said.

Dr. Leonard Sax, the founder of the Pennsylvania-based National Association for Single Sex Public Education, contends the movement is about breaking down gender stereotypes, not promoting them.

"We want more girls engaged in robotics and computer programming and physics and engineering," Sax said in a telephone interview. "We want more boys engaged in poetry and creative writing and Spanish language."

For advocates like Sax, the increase in this form of learning is exciting, but it's troubling for others.

The ACLU launched a national campaign, Teach Kids, Not Stereotypes, in May and sent cease-and-desist letters to school districts in Maine, West Virginia, Alabama, Mississippi and Virginia. The group also asked state officials to investigate single-sex programs in Florida, while sending public record requests to schools in another five states, including to Gilbert's school in Idaho.

Doug Bonney is legal director of the ACLU of Kansas and Western Missouri, where he successfully challenged single sex classes in Missouri's Adrian R-III School District. He argues there's no proof single-sex classrooms work while there's plenty of evidence they actually enhance gender stereotypes and lead to sexism.

"This isn't the right step to address higher dropout rates by boys," Bonney said. "They promote false stereotypes about sex-based differences that don't exist. Promoting sex stereotypes can harm both girls and boys."

Both sides agree the idea is not new and has a long history in private schools. But Galen Sherwin, staff attorney with the ACLU Women's Rights Project, said its history in public schools is much darker and has roots in the South, where it was broadly instituted in an effort to evade the desegregation requirements of Brown v. Board of Education to try "to prevent black boys from being in the same room as white girls."

"In the wake of Brown, many schools in the south integrated racially but segregated on the basis of sex," Sherwin said.

Nancy Levit, a law professor at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, addressed this issue at a meeting of the Association of American Law Schools: "Think about it, in terms of race," she said. "What would people say if the state paid for an all-white school or an all-black school? As long as there was a racial element nobody would have a problem seeing a constitutional difficulty."

The analogy drew a heated reaction from Sax, who argues that a federal judge in Kentucky debunked this notion when ruling last year against parents who tried to block single-sex classes at a Breckenridge County school. Critics like the ACLU are out of line when they draw parallels to Brown v. Board of Education, Sax said.

"Either they're really stupid and not able to grasp what the judge is saying in the ruling, or they're being deliberately misleading," he said.

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TAX
FROM PAGE 1

tive should have gotten the first spot because proponents had turned in signatures earlier than Brown's campaign. Kenny ruled that elections officials in Los Angeles County did not act improperly in certifying both measures at the same time.

Our Children, Our Future, funded by wealthy Los Angeles civil rights attorney Molly Munger, decided not to appeal the ruling.

"We're moving on," spokesman Nathan Ballard said in a statement. "No matter where we end up on the ballot, the fact remains that our measure will reboot California's public schools by sending $10 billion a year into a separate trust fund for education that can't be touched by the governor or the Legislature."

The ruling did draw an immediate appeal from the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, an anti-tax group.

Jon Coupal, president of the association, claimed Demcrats skirted an approval process that would have required at least some Republican votes to win top positioning for the governor's ballot measure.

Coupal said the Our Children, Our Future campaign focused on procedural requirements for county election offices to certify a measure, not whether state lawmakers overstepped their authority.

"Gov. Brown and his tax-and-spend allies in the Legislature have, once again, perverted the integrity of California's election system law by giving his tax increase ballot preference," Coupal said in announcing the appeal.

The legal wrangling began after Democratic lawmakers passed a bill that moved bond measures and constitutional amendments such as Brown's to the top of the ballot in November, when voters will be bombarded with 11 initiatives.

Brown said his ballot measure is "so important that it deserves the dignity of being ranked with other constitutional measures and bond issues" because it fundamentally changes state operations.

Along with raising taxes, voters will be asked about ending executions, limiting lifetime sentences for career criminals and restricting political contributions.

Brown's campaign spokesman Dan Newman urged challengers to cease their "scorched-earth attack on the electoral process" and allow voters to decide this fall.

Brown's plan would raise the state sales tax and income tax for incomes over $250,000 a year, with the money going to the state budget, schools and public safety. His tax initiative would raise an estimated $8.5 billion in this fiscal year.

Munger's competing plan would raise income taxes for nearly all Californians, with most of the money going to public schools.

A recent Field Poll found 54 percent of respondents in favor of Brown's tax measure and 38 percent opposed. Voters were evenly split at 46 percent on Munger's initiative.

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BEES
FROM PAGE 1

sold the honey they produced.

The Hekimians kept the bees for 10 years until the zest for the hobby faded, only to be replaced when George discovered an interest in racing pigeons.

Yeah.

The discovery of wild honeybees nested in Hekimian's yard brought back old memories and a keen desire to pick up where his dad had left off, something that couldn't have happened within Santa Monica's city limits until early 2011 when the City Council made it legal to have bee hives on private property.

It was a no-brainer, said Dean Kubani, director of the Office for Sustainability and the Environment.

"The Council seemed to feel like this is a pretty reasonable request," Kubani said. "If they become a nuisance, they can be shut down. It doesn't seem to have manifested itself as a big problem."

Only three people, including Hekimian, currently keep bees in Santa Monica. There used to be four, but one had to be removed after a swarm left the box and attacked a barbecue next door, said Stan Hernacki, an officer with Santa Monica Police Department's Animal Control Unit.

Prospective beekeepers must register their hives with Animal Control, which puts the information in the emergency response system so that firefighters, police and paramedics know beforehand that they might encounter bees at the property.

They do the same for places that have dogs deemed "vicious," Hernacki said.

Animal Control officers then go to the home and ensure that the property meets the minimum requirements outlined in the ordinance, specifically that the hives are five feet from the property lines, that they face away from other properties and that they are screened so that bees must fly over a six-foot barrier before leaving the property, or be placed at least eight feet above the adjacent ground level.

The ordinance also requires that the keepers give the bees plenty of room to prevent overcrowding, which leads to large groups of bees leaving the hive to look for more spacious accommodations.

This phenomenon, called "swarming," can also happen if there's no queen present in the hive, which led to another stipulation that the hives be "re-queened" every two years.

Hekimian contacted Animal Control as soon as he found the hive, received approval and called Rob McFarland.

The two had met just the day before Lucas' discovery at a beekeeping talk hosted at the Whole Foods Market in El Segundo, one of a series of events the grocery store put on to raise awareness about honeybees and the role they play in the environment.

McFarland and his wife Chelsea were speaking for Honeylove.org, a non-profit organization they founded to protect honeybees and help out the uninitiated with bee problems.

McFarland got started in beekeeping a year ago in true DIY fashion. He just did it. Skill and knowledge came along with some painful experiences, and now McFarland pitches in where he can to help others learn the ins and outs of beekeeping.

He came over Saturday morning, and Project: Bee Relocation got underway.

First, McFarland prepped his smoker, a hollow canister which he filled with sagebrush, lavender and other sweet-smelling plants. He lit the tinder, capped the smoker and began pumping it full of air to create white, fragrant smoke.

The smoke serves two purposes, McFarland explained. It convinces bees that their home is in imminent danger, which causes them to dive into the hive and begin drinking up as much honey as they can.

It also disrupts their line of communication. Bees "speak" to one another by releasing pheromones, smelly chemicals that can call the entire hive to action.

FYI — the "attack" pheromone smells oddly like banana Laffy Taffys or Now & Laters.

"It's like a smart bomb," McFarland said. "It says, 'This is exactly the one you want.'"

McFarland climbed the ladder with the smoker in one hand and a knife in the pocket of his bee suit. The suits are like overalls attached to a mesh hat with zippers to completely encapsulate the wearer.

They're not strictly necessary — Hekimian showed the group photographs of his father standing shirtless and smiling, surrounded by bees.

McFarland began pumping smoke into the hive. He then cut sections of the hive away from the rubber tree plant and handed them to Hekimian as videographer Eric Longden documented the whole affair.

There was one other observer. George Hekimian was also watching from Texas through an iPad. Paul used bungee cords to strap his iPad to the branch of the avocado tree to afford him a better view.

After the main chunks of the hive came down, McFarland and Hekimian trimmed sections of the wax so they would fit within the thin wooden frames and strapped them in with rubber bands.

Eventually, the bees will seal the existing chunks of hive into the frame and chew away the offending rubber bands, McFarland said.

After the frames have been put into the box, it's a waiting game. The bees could choose to stay in the box, or they could vacate the area and establish a new hive elsewhere.

Within minutes, it was clear the bees would stay. The little creatures crawled through a slit in the box, turned around and began fanning the air with their wings to spread the pheromone signaling wayward bees to come home.

Hobbyist beekeeping is in the middle of a renaissance.

Within the last five years, headlines appeared in newspapers across the country regarding "colony collapse disorder," a then-mysterious ailment that was killing off honeybees by the hive.

The disorder is now thought to be caused by a combination of a deadly virus and a parasitic mite. Either way, it was devastating to the honeybee population, and humans stepped in to help.

"Beekeeping has been having problems and honeybees are having problems," said Troy Fore, a second generation beekeeper and president of the Foundation for the Preservation of Honey Bees.

The publicity brought a new wave of devotees, although how long they stay in the labor-intensive field has yet to be seen, he said.

From an environmental point of view, the more bees, the better. Bees are responsible for pollinating a full third of the food that enters our diets, according to Eric C. Mussen, a professor at UC Davis, in a paper titled "Don't Underestimate the Value of Honey Bees!"

Their efforts were responsible for nearly half of California's agricultural production in 2007, when Mussen wrote the paper, or roughly $16 billion.

That means urban and hobbyist beekeeping, like what Hekimian is about to take on, is increasingly important as wild bees continue to be ravaged by disease and pests.

Hekimian is aware of the plight facing bees, but he's more looking forward to the fun of beekeeping, a blast from his past.

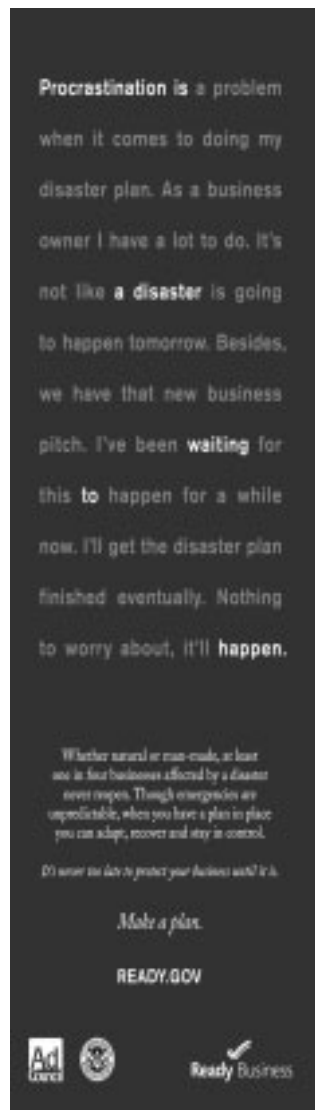
"It's fascinating to see it come full circle," Hekimian said.

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Stocks slide ahead of corporate earnings season

PALLAVI GOGOI
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Edgy investors sent stocks lower Monday on Wall Street ahead of U.S. corporate earnings reports and amid more signs of instability in Europe.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 36.18 points at 12,736.29. It was the Dow's third straight day of declines.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 2.22 points to 1,352.46 and the Nasdaq composite index fell 5.56 points to 2,931.77. Health care stocks rose the most, while stocks of materials companies fell the most.

Alcoa, one of the 30 stocks in the Dow, became the first major U.S. company to report second-quarter results after the market closed Monday.

The aluminum manufacturer beat the earnings per share estimates of Wall Street analysts by a penny, although revenue dropped due to weaker prices and pockets of declining demand in the slowing global economy.

Alcoa's results are often seen as a harbinger for other major companies. So far, investor expectations are low. Wall Street forecasts a 1 percent decline in second-quarter earnings of S&P 500 companies compared with last year, according to Standard & Poor's Capital IQ. That would be the first decline since the third quarter of 2009.

Kim Caughey-Forrest, senior equity analyst at Fort Pitt Capital Group, said many portfolio managers are afraid that this earnings season could bring bad surprises about stocks they've picked up earlier this year.

"It's report card time," Caughey-Forrest said.

AMD dropped 6 percent in after-hours trading after the semiconductor company unexpectedly released preliminary results following the market close. Revenue fell 11 percent from the previous quarter due to weak sales in China and Europe. The company had previously forecast revenue growth of 3 percent. The stock slumped 33 cents to $5.29.

Investors were also spooked Monday by news from Europe, where Spain's borrowing costs rose as finance ministers from the euro countries gathered in Brussels to finalize a rescue package for Spain's banks.

The interest rate on Spain's 10-year government bond rose to 7 percent. Greece, Ireland and Portugal all asked for help from their international lenders when their own borrowing costs rose that high.

In Greece, a new three-party coalition government won a vote of confidence in parliament early Monday, ending a period of uncertainty that led to two elections in less than two months. Greece is in its fifth year of recession and has survived for two years on international rescue loans.

Spain is in better shape financially, and can afford the high rates for a few weeks at least. However, a long-term solution is badly needed to prevent the nation, which has an unemployment rate near 25 percent, from defaulting.

A pair of acquisitions were announced Monday. The nation's second largest health insurer, WellPoint Inc., is paying $4.46 billion to acquire Amerigroup Corp., a provider of Medicaid coverage provider.

With the acquisition, Wellpoint seeks to become a major player in state and federally funded programs like Medicaid. Its stock rose $2.04, or 3.4 percent, to $61.95. Amerigroup soared $24.45, or 38 percent, to $88.79.

Also on Monday, the world's biggest soup maker, Campbell Soup Co., said it will buy natural foods maker Bolthouse Farms in a $1.55 billion cash deal. Campbell stock fell 27 cents, or about 1 percent, to $32.72.

Among other stocks making big moves:

• LinkedIn, the social networking company, fell $5.88, or 5.4 percent, to $102.98 after reports that Facebook would add a job search feature to its website, which could pose direct competition for LinkedIn.

• FTI Consulting, a business advisory company, lost $1.70, or 5.8 percent, to $27.43 after announcing on Friday that it was planning to cut 3 percent of its work force.

• Visa and MasterCard fell after an analyst recommended investors sell those stocks because of the global economic slowdown. MasterCard fell $10.36 to $431.27, while Visa fell $1.63 to $123.65.

Staples stores to sell Google's Nexus 7 tablet

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Staples office supply stores will sell the Nexus 7, a computer tablet that Google designed to compete against the Kindle Fire and iPad.

Monday's announcement makes Staples Inc. the second major retailer to embrace the Nexus 7 since Google unveiled the device last month. Video game retailer GameStop Corp. also plans to stock the Nexus 7 in its U.S. stores.

Other merchants are expected to agree to add the Nexus 7 to their store shelves when the tablet ships later this month.

Adding more stores as sellers exposes the Nexus 7 to more shoppers as Google Inc. tries to make a bigger dent in the increasingly important tablet computer market. Google is also peddling the Nexus 7 through its own online store, Google Play.

The Nexus 7 will sell for $199 in an 8-gigabyte model and $249 in a 16-gigabyte model.

The less expensive model matches the same price as the Kindle Fire made by Amazon.com Inc. Like the Kindle Fire, the Nexus 7 has a seven-inch display screen and is tailor-made for video, pictures, books, magazines and newspapers. Both Amazon and Google have set up their devices to funnel sales of books, movies and music to their websites.

The iPad, made by Apple Inc., is larger and more expensive than the tablets from Google and Amazon. It has a 10-inch screen with prices starting at $399 for an older model.

Software maker Microsoft Corp. also is expanding into the tablet market this October when it is planning to release its own iPad alternative, the Surface. Microsoft hasn't announced a price for the Surface yet. So far, Microsoft hasn't identified any other places to buy the Surfaces besides its own website and brick-and-mortar stores.

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Compromise in Congress very unlikely

DAVID ESPO
AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON Republicans and Democrats in Congress who congratulated themselves for passing relatively routine legislation before July 4 are returning to the Capitol for a summer stocked with political show votes and no serious role for bipartisanship.

Any thought of compromise on major issues — taxes, spending, deficit control or immigration among them — will have to wait until after the election or the new year.

So, too, with a farm bill. It cleared the Senate on a bipartisan vote and is now at risk for becoming sidetracked in the House in the run-up to this summer's presidential nominating conventions and the Nov. 6 election.

To pass the legislation, "I've got to work with my leadership. I've got to work with my members. I've got to work with the minority (Democrats). I've got to work with my friends in the Senate. I'm having a lot of fun," Rep. Frank Lucas, R-Okla., chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, told reporters with more than a trace of sarcasm several days ago.

In the interim, the House Republican leadership intends to force a vote this coming week on a repeal of President Barack Obama's health care law, recently upheld by the Supreme Court in a ruling that said the law imposes a tax on anyone who fails to purchase insurance.

Also in the pipeline is a measure to stop major new federal regulations from taking effect until joblessness recedes nationally, possibly to 6 percent from the current 8.2 percent.

Another item on the Republican to-do list for July is a measure to extend all of the tax cuts due to expire at the end of the year, including the reductions for wealthier income earners that Obama and most Democrats want to end.

Obama countered on Monday with a call on Congress to follow his prescription on taxes, not the one offered by Republicans.

Senate Democrats are not without their own July agenda, beginning with a business tax cut that is set for a test vote Tuesday.

They also want to end existing tax breaks for the costs businesses incur in moving jobs overseas. This measure dovetails nicely with Obama's attempts to cast Romney as a champion outsourcer of jobs during his career as a businessman.

In addition, they may set up a vote on legislation to require disclosure for individuals making high-dollar contributions to political organizations that spend millions on campaign commercials.

Whatever the merits of these proposals, Republican and Democratic aides say there is no expectation any of them will pass this summer. Instead, they say, each is designed to make lawmakers on the other side of the political aisle choose between a popular position on the one hand and political orthodoxy within their own party on the other.

By their own count, House Republicans have voted more than 30 times to repeal, defund or erode the health care overhaul that stands as Obama's signature domestic achievement yet fares poorly in public opinion polling. "The law I passed is here to stay," the president said late last week, brushing aside the latest Republican assault.

But if anything, Republicans are more eager than ever to hold a vote to repeal it, following a majority opinion from Chief Justice John Roberts that said the law was constitutional because it imposes a tax — not a penalty — on anyone who refuses to purchase insurance.

The vote will take place in the midst of a $9 million television advertising campaign by the conservative Americans for Prosperity.

The commercial includes a video of Obama saying the law "is absolutely not a tax increase." Referring to the court's ruling, the announcer rebuts him, saying, "Now we know that's not true," and the ad calls for repeal of the legislation.

The White House on Monday threatened to veto the House repeal of the health care law, saying it would cost millions of American families the security of affordable health coverage.

On tax cuts, Obama and Republicans compromised once, and they may again — after the election.

But for now, the president has pledged he won't agree to another renewal of the reductions on individuals earning over $200,000 or couples making more than $250,000 a year. The dispute is one of the main issues to be presented to voters this fall.

It's a showdown Republicans are eager to have. "Working families and small business should not be saddled with the uncertainty of a looming tax increase as they attempt to invest and grow for the remainder of the year," House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., wrote this spring in a memo to the rank and file.

More disclosure for political contributions generally enjoys public support in the polls, but Republican outside groups, more than Democratic ones, are awash in large donations from anonymous donors.

The Senate Republican leader, Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, calls the Democratic legislation a threat to the Constitution's guarantee of free speech. Its supporters "have a simple view: If the Supreme Court is no longer willing to limit the speech of those who oppose their agenda, they'll find other ways to do it," he said last month.

Nor is there much prospect for immediate compromise on a farm bill, meaning the likeliest outcome is a one-year or two-year extension of current programs that puts off difficult decisions over spending cuts.

Bipartisan legislation passed the Senate last month to cut $23 billion over a decade. The bill before the House Agriculture Committee would chop $35 billion.

Some conservatives want to slice more; other Republicans, as well as Democrats, prefer less. Several officials say It's unlikely the GOP leadership will permit the full House to vote on the bill with their own rank and file divided. That means deferring politically difficult decisions about food stamps, commodity programs and other accounts until after the election.

Lawmakers produced a short-term, one-year, solution last month to prevent an increase in interest rates on federal student loans for an estimated 7.4 million new borrowers. Another portion of the same bill pays for highway construction and other transportation programs for two years.

Its approval ended an unbroken string of nine short-term extensions dating back three years — evidence itself of Congress' chronic difficulty in compromising.

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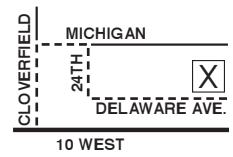


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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF ELECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT a General Municipal Election will be held in the City of Santa Monica on Tuesday, November 6, 2012, for the following officers:

For four (4) members of the City Council	Full term of four (4) years
For two (2) members of the Rent Control Board	Full term of four (4) years
For three (3) members of the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District	Full term of four (4) years
For three (3) members of the Santa Monica City College Board of Trustees	Full term of four (4) years

The nomination period for these offices begins on July 16, 2012, and closes on August 10, 2012, at 5:00 p.m.

If nomination papers for an incumbent officer are not filed by August 10, 2012, the voters shall have until the 83rd day before the election, August 15, 2012, to nominate candidates other than the person who is the incumbent, for that incumbent's elective office.

If no one or only one person is nominated for an elective office, appointment to the elective office may be made as prescribed by Section 10229, Elections Code of the State of California.

The polls will be open between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

City of Santa Monica

NOTIFICACION DE LA ELECCION

POR LA PRESENTE SE DA AVISO de que se habrá de llevar a cabo una Elección Municipal General en la Ciudad de Santa Monica el martes, 6 de noviembre de 2012, para los siguientes Funcionarios:

Para cuatro (4) miembros del Concejo Municipal	Periodo completo de cuatro años
Para dos (2) miembros de la Junta del Control de Alquileres	Periodo completo de cuatro años
Para tres (3) miembros del Distrito Escolar Unificado de Santa Monica-Malibu	Periodo completo de cuatro años
Para tres (3) miembros de la Junta de Administración del Distrito del Colegio Comunitario de Santa Monica	Periodo completo de cuatro años

El periodo de nominación para estas oficinas comienza el 16 de julio, 2012, y termina el 10 de agosto, 2012, a las 5:00 pm. Si los papeles de nominación para un oficial titular no son presentados para el 10 de agosto, 2012, los votantes tendrán hasta 83 días antes de las elecciones, el 15 de agosto, 2012, para nominar otros candidatos en lugar de la persona que es el titular, para la oficina electiva del titular.

Si no se nomina a nadie o solamente a una persona para un cargo electivo, se puede realizar el nombramiento al cargo elegido según lo prescrito por la Sección 10229 del Código Electoral del Estado de California.

Los centros electorales estarán abiertos entre las 7:00 am. y las 8:00 pm.

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A Roundabout Way Of Thinking

Drivers in Santa Monica might have noticed some recent changes to many intersections around town that have people wondering if they are headed down the Champs Elysees towards the Arch de Triumph or perhaps lost on an English country road. The roundabout intersection has made a roundabout trip across the world to Santa Monica with the hopes of easing traffic congestion and making the roads safer for drivers and pedestrians alike. Drivers here in Santa Monica must be aware of the traffic rules and regulations that govern roundabout driving so that motorists are not stranded like foreigners in a foreign land. Here are some basic rules and explanations about roundabouts that will hopefully help you on your way around town.

The basic definition of a roundabout is a circular junction in which road traffic must travel in one direction around a central island. Roundabouts increase safety in the community by requiring drivers to both decrease their speeds and in turn increase their awareness upon entering the intersection. Roundabouts also increase a neighborhood's aesthetic appeal by creating charming and unique architectural designs. Neatly landscaped circles or placement of a statue, monument, or flagpole give roundabouts a homely and suburban feel despite their very urban purpose. Pedestrians are often prohibited or discouraged from entering the center circle of a roundabout, but pedestrians and drivers can nonetheless enjoy the visual charisma that the intersection adds to a community. Roundabouts facilitate motorists, bicyclists, runners, and dog-walkers in an efficient and competent manner.

Roundabouts have some negative drawbacks as well. Larger vehicles and trucks may find it difficult to navigate through narrow roundabouts that are not built to handle such vehicles. The recent implementation of roundabouts in Santa Monica has also caused some backup and unwanted traffic delays at roundabouts where drivers are not familiar with the traffic laws and traffic flow. On the same note, there is a greater risk of traffic collisions and accidents from drivers who are simply not paying attention to their surroundings. Roundabouts require far greater concentration and awareness than do conventional squared intersections.

Upon entering a roundabout, drivers should first notice a sign or traffic indicator alerting the driver to slow down and prepare to yield. A painted dashed line will also alert drivers that they are entering a roundabout intersection. Unless otherwise indicated, drivers do not have to come to a complete stop; however, the situation may require a complete stop depending on traffic conditions at the time. Remember, pedestrians always have the right of way! So, if you see a bicyclist, jogger, or walker you must stop in order to allow that person safe passage. If there are no other cars in the roundabout and no pedestrians, the driver can then safely enter the roundabout. Most Santa Monica roundabouts are one-way, meaning a driver can only make a right turn to enter the roundabout and a right turn to exit the roundabout.

A driver that is already in the roundabout has the right of way over a driver that is entering the roundabout. Thus, if you are the car that is approaching the roundabout and slowing down getting ready to turn into the roundabout, do not expect another car that is already in the roundabout to stop or slow to let you in! This area tends to be one of the most confusing aspects of roundabouts, but if you remember that the car already in the roundabout has the right of way…you should be alright. Regardless of who has the right of way, drivers should nonetheless always remain vigilant and aware of their surroundings to prevent any kind of accident. Keep a slow to moderate speed while circling depending on the traffic at the time. Also, it is very important that drivers remember to use their turn signals. Turn signals alert circling drivers inside the roundabout and allow other drivers to adjust speeds based on turns. Moreover, a turn signal also notifies drivers waiting to enter the roundabout that the path is clear for them to safely make the maneuver.

Avoid unnecessary traffic citations, accidents, and congestion by following these simple roundabout rules. Remember to be aware, vigilant, and attentive to your surroundings at all time. Adjust to a roundabout way of thinking and enjoy the ride around town!

THIS COLUMN WAS PREPARED BY JACOB GLUCKSMAN, A CRIMINAL DEFENSE ATTORNEY. HE CAN BE REACHED THROUGH THE LEGAL GRIND AT 310-452-8160 OR REFERRAL@LEGALGRIND.COM

Disclaimer: this article does not constitute legal advice and does not create an attorney client relationship.

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MONDAY

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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How one man derailed years of democracy in Mali

RUKMINI CALLIMACHI

Associated Press

SEGOU, Mali On the morning three months ago when the fate of Mali was irrevocably changed, Mamadou Sanogo awoke in the house here where he and his wife had raised six children, including a 39-year-old son, now a captain in the nation's army.

It was still dark outside. The elderly man got up and turned on the TV, setting the volume to low so as to not disturb his sleeping wife, according to relatives and friends. What he saw next made him shake her awake. "Come see what your imbecile son is doing," he yelled.

Instead of the normal newscast, they saw a group of soldiers huddled in front of the TV camera. It took them a moment to recognize their son, Capt. Amadou Haya Sanogo, who was announcing that the military had overthrown the government of Mali.

If the coup was a shock to his parents — his mother subsequently fainted — it seems also to have come as a surprise to Sanogo himself, who by all accounts had no plans for it. Perhaps most of all, it was like a bucket of ice water over the heads of Mali's 15.4 million people, who saw two decades of democracy collapse in just a few hours into what is rapidly becoming an ungovernable hole and a haven for al-Qaida-linked terrorists.

The ease of the takeover, just six weeks before a presidential election, shows how quickly the course of a nation in this part of the world can change, despite or even partly because of funding and training from the West. And it underscores how fragile democracies remain in Africa, and how the fate of an entire country can still be bent by the ambitions of a single man.

"This is considered a thing of the past in Africa. If you look at the video, it looks like a caricature of a 1970s coup," said Jennifer Cooke, director of the Africa program at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies. "This is why this is so tragic and disappointing — the trend for this kind of ham-handed power grab has been, fewer and fewer."

Mali is a landlocked nation twice the size of France that has long taken pride in its democratic track record, despite chronic poverty and repeated rebellions in the north.

In the past decade, the U.S. alone has poured close to $1 billion into Mali, including development aid as well as military training to battle an al-Qaida offshoot in the north. In doing so, the U.S. unwittingly also helped prepare the soldiers for the coup: Sanogo himself benefited from six training missions in the U.S., the State Department confirmed, starting in 1998 when he was sent to an infantry training course at Fort Benning, Ga.

He returned in 2001, 2002, 2004, 2008 and 2010 to attend some of the most prestigious military institutions in America, including the Defense Language Institute at the Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. He took a basic officer course at Quantico, Virginia, and learned to use a light-armored vehicle at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Just a few weeks before the March takeover, Sanogo made a trip to Segou to say goodbye. He'd been accepted into a peacekeeping training course abroad and was due to leave sometime in April, said his cousin, Salif Sanogo.

What happened next is described by those who know him as an "accidental coup."

It started at the Kati military camp, where Sanogo lived in a decrepit housing unit with cement walls and a tin roof, just 10 kilometers (6 miles) over a barren hill from the presidential palace.

Sanogo, an English-language teacher at a military college, had failed several exams in officer school, according to Lt. Col. Oumar Diawara, an officer also stationed at the camp. However, because of his training in the United States and because he spoke and taught English, he gave off a worldly air. The rank-and-file soldiers looked up to him because he frequently socialized with them, unlike other officers who adhered to the strict hierarchy of military life.

Sanogo, officers said, was among the instructors fired last fall at a military college where five recruits died in a widely publicized hazing incident. He was sent back to Kati, said Diawara.

"He was there with no function," he said. "He had absolutely nothing to do."

In the meantime, anger was growing at the corruption that had spread like a tumor across the arteries of Mali's government and military: In recent years, the country dropped from No. 78 out of 182 countries to No. 118 on Transparency International's index tracking corruption.

In the military, generals sat in lavishly decorated offices while soldiers were routinely sent to the battlefield without proper boots. Earlier this year, an entire company of several dozen soldiers was wiped out after fighting a new rebellion in Mali's north without enough ammunition.

The troops at Kati started to plan a march to protest how the government had handled the rebellion. At around 1 p.m. on March 21, Minister of Defense Gen. Sadio Gassama came to the Kati barracks to ask them to call it off.

Soldiers who were present said the general talked down to them, and the crowd became angry. The mutiny erupted when the minister's bodyguard shot into the air in an effort to push back the mob.

"The minister spoke in a way that was not polite," said George Coulibaly, a civilian who lives in the Kati camp and accompanied the soldiers during the coup. "He said things like, 'You want to march? You're a bunch of uneducated people. I'll educate you.'"

The renegade troops stoned the defense minister's car as his driver floored the gas to get away. They forced the doors of the armory and emptied it out. Then they began hunting down the other officers, nearly all of whom fled or hid — except Sanogo, whose recent dismissal as an officer had given him credibility with ordinary soldiers.

The crowd, led by Sanogo, initially planned to march to the palace to dress down President Amadou Toumani Toure, said several soldiers. Instead, the president fled. They found themselves inside the seat of government.

"Our objective was not a coup d'etat," said Lt. Samba Timbo, one of the leaders of the putsch. "Not at first."

By late afternoon, around 100 soldiers had arrived at the state television station. They sent the employees home, and television screens across the country went black.

"The presidential palace fell in their laps," said the cameraman who helped them broadcast their first message, and who requested anonymity for his safety. "For two hours, not a single person, not a single inter-

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MALI
FROM PAGE 14

locutor, tried to contact them to see what they wanted. To negotiate. It was after that they got the idea for a coup."

By the time Sanogo's father turned on the TV the next morning in Segou, some 240 kilometers (150 miles) northeast of the capital, the intentions of the soldiers had become clear. So had their leader.

When his mother saw him on TV, she at first refused to believe it was her son, called "Bolly" by friends and family. Shaken, she left the house and crossed a sandy courtyard to the home of his cousin, Salif Sanogo.

Salif Sanogo was brewing his morning tea on a bed of charcoal when she knocked. "She asked, 'Is it true? Is it true that Bolly did this?'" recalled the cousin. "We said, 'Yes, Ma. It's true.'"

She screamed. She got hysterical, and then she fainted. They carried her in and fanned her until she woke up.

If Sanogo's parents were initially mortified, they quickly became used to their new status. Just days after the coup, visitors started to line up outside their house on Road 270 in Segou.

In the capital, the soldiers were looting government buildings. A businessman with ties to the junta estimates that they raked in between $2 and $3 million in the first three days after the coup, from government safes they pried open.

Most of the ministries no longer have computers. And the normally 1 1/2-hour-long evening news hour is now just 40 minutes because all but a few of the cameras at the state television station were stolen.

Even while Sanogo said the army had only seized power to address rebellion in the north, the rebels took advantage of the confusion to seize half the country. Among the groups that invaded the north is Ansar Dine, or "Defenders of the Faith," an Islamic faction with ties to al-Qaida.

In the capital, Bamako, Sanogo and his men quickly made themselves at home. The captain held court from the office of the Zone 3 commander at Kati, a rundown colonial structure that became increasingly well-equipped. Each week, construction crews poured cement, updated the electrical wiring and hauled in new office chairs, their metallic legs still covered in plastic.

Months later, the future of both Mali and Sanogo remains uncertain.

A poll of 1,100 residents of the capital found that after the initial shock, about 60 percent were either "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the coup because it put an end to a regime viewed as corrupt.

"Our democracy? It was a facade," said 54-year-old Soumara Kalapo, who took part in pro-coup demonstrations after the putsch. "Our democracy needed this coup so that it could right itself. ... It was a democracy run by, and benefiting, a mafia."

But in his last blog post before leaving Mali for the U.S., anthropologist Bruce Whitehouse lists the disastrous consequences of what happened, including the suspension of more than a billion dollars in aid, the closing of Bamako's flagship Grand Hotel and the government's loss of control of half its territory. Last month, Islamic fundamentalists announced that they now hold the major towns in the north.

"In the 90 days since the coup, it's hard to look at any area and see anything good," said Whitehouse, an assistant professor at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Penn. "Some of us were looking for a silver lining. Months later, we can't see any reason for hope."

After countless diplomatic interventions, a round of sanctions and a library's worth of condemnations from world leaders, Sanogo finally agreed to step aside on April 6. But the young captain continued to meddle in state affairs until May, when he signed a second agreement promising to leave in return for the status of a former head of state. A diplomat versed on the matter said that status includes a salary of $9,000 a month, more than 30 times the salary of an army captain.

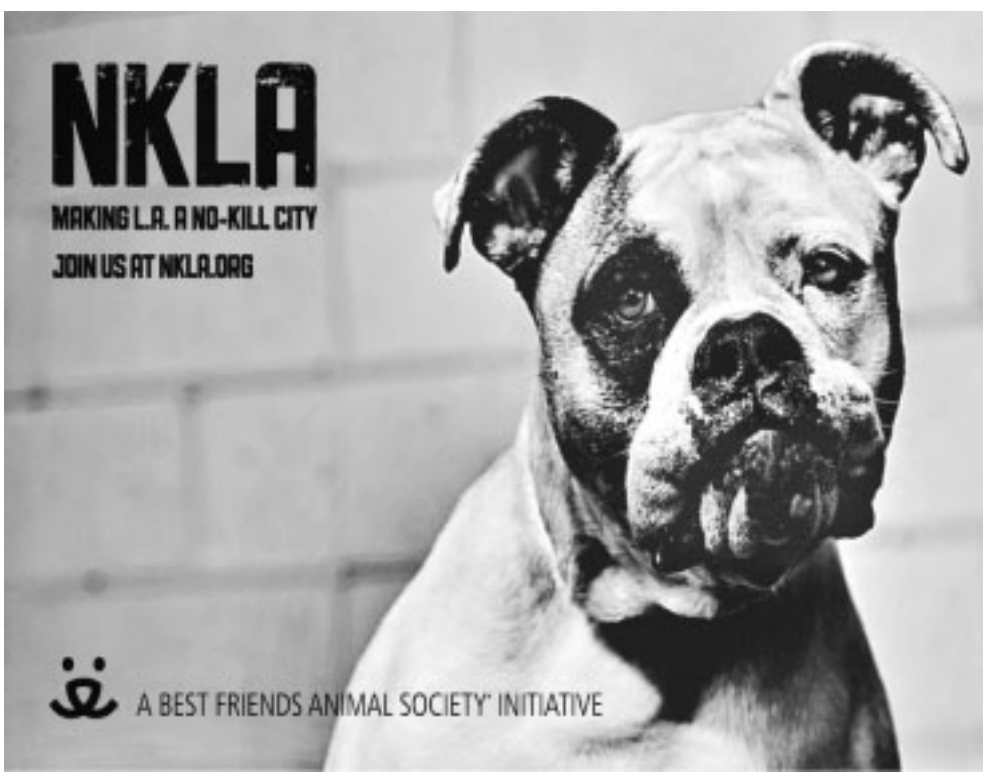
The former head of the national assembly, Dioncounda Traore, took over as interim president of a transitional government. In May, a mob of pro-Sanogo youth forced their way into his office and beat him. Traore was evacuated to France for treatment on May 23, and has not returned since.

Even the Wikipedia entry on Mali is confused about who is now in charge. In the box naming the head of the government, the online encyclopedia lists both Sanogo, as chairperson of the military junta, and Traore, as acting president.

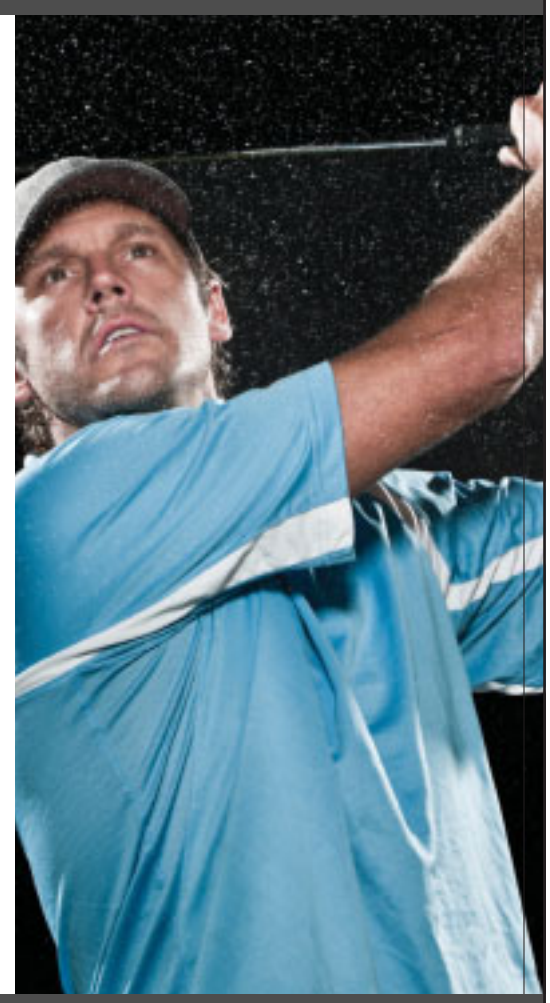
Repeated attempts to speak to Sanogo for this article were unsuccessful.

On Wednesday, the body representing nations in western Africa sent notice that it does not recognize Sanogo's status as a former head of state, and threatened sanctions against him if he continues to obstruct the return to constitutional rule. But diplomats say businessmen are still waiting in front of the former commander's office to see him, with the customary suitcase of cash, a sign of his enduring influence.

Those around him still call him "Le President." And a framed portrait on the wall shows Sanogo, a green beret cocked to one side, next to the title, "Head of state."



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SURF REPORT



RIPCURL LIVE THE SEARCH
1451 THIRD STREET PROMENADE • SANTA MONICA, CA • 310-656-2875

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 64.6°

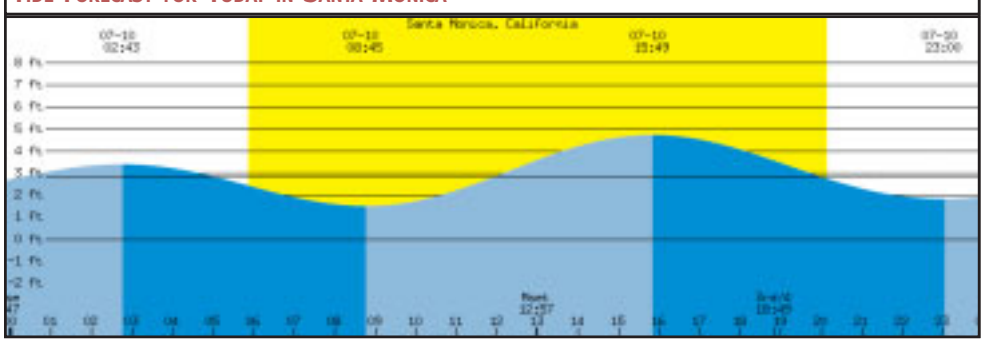
Swell Forecast

Looks like a waist max day at south facing breaks, maybe some chest high pluses at times at standouts.

Long Range Synopsis

Looks like a waist to chest high day at south facing breaks.

Tide Forecast for Today in Santa Monica



BEACH REPORT CARD

NORTH LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Grades for this report are based on monitoring data from the previous 30 days up to the ending date of **July 4, 2012**

HEAL THE BAY - 1444 9th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 - www.healthebay.org - brc@healthebay.org - 800 HEAL BAY

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

- Number of sewage spills -- 0
- Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0
- Number of wet days -- 8
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 33 / 16
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 10

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	as
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	as
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Los Alisos creeks.	as	as
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	as
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	as
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	as
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	as
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A	as
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A	as
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	as
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A	as
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A	as
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 21672 Malibu Rd.	A+	as
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	as
Surfrider Beach (beach location) - daily.	B	as
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	F	as
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	B	as
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A	as
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A	as
Pena Creek at Los Tunas County Beach.	A+	as
Tuna Canyon.	A+	as
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	B	as
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	as
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	as
Will Rogers State Beach at 17208 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	as

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

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

as -- no sample taken

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

CYCLING

Armstrong sues to block doping charges

JIM VERTUNO,
AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN, Texas Lance Armstrong filed a federal lawsuit Monday aimed at preventing the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency from moving ahead with charges that he used performance-enhancing drugs during his record-setting career.

Armstrong's lawsuit says USADA rules violate athletes' constitutional right to a fair trial, and that the agency doesn't have jurisdiction in his case. It also accuses USADA's chief executive, Travis Tygart, of waging a personal vendetta against the cancer survivor who won the Tour de France every year from 1999 to 2005.

The lawsuit is an aggressive — and expected — move as Armstrong seeks to preserve his legacy as one of the greatest cyclists ever and an inspiring advocate for cancer survivors and research. Armstrong wants a judge to bar USADA from pursuing its case or issuing any sanctions against him.

Armstrong asked the court to issue an injunction by Saturday, the deadline he faces to formally challenge the case in USADA's arbitration process or accept sanctions. He could receive a lifetime ban from cycling and be stripped of his Tour de France victories if found guilty.

Armstrong insists he is innocent.

"The process (USADA) seek to force upon Lance Armstrong is not a fair process and truth is not its goal," his lawsuit says, calling the USADA process a "kangaroo court."

Tygart said Armstrong's lawsuit is "aimed at concealing the truth" and predicted a judge will rule in the agency's favor.

"USADA was built by athletes on the principles of fairness and integrity," he said in a statement. "We are confident the courts will continue to uphold the established rules which provide full constitutional due process and are designed to protect the rights of clean athletes and the integrity of sport."

USADA, created in 2000 and recognized by Congress as the official anti-doping agency for Olympic sports in the United States, formally charged Armstrong in June with taking performance-enhancing drugs and participating in a vast doping conspiracy on his Tour de France winning teams, some of which were sponsored by the U.S. Postal Service.

The charges came after a two-year federal criminal investigation into doping allegations against Armstrong ended in February with no charges filed against him. The anti-doping agency says up to 10 former teammates and associates are willing to testify against him and that it has blood samples from 2009-2010 that are "fully consistent" with doping.

Armstrong, who retired in 2011, says he has passed more than 500 drug tests in his career and was never flagged for a positive test.

Armstrong's lawsuit amplifies public complaints he made about USADA and Tygart in recent weeks and makes several arguments. It says:

— The agency's rules and arbitration are designed to find athletes guilty. Athletes are not allowed to subpoena documents or compel witnesses to testify in a hearing. USADA has so far withheld the names of most of the witnesses against Armstrong, saying it is protecting them from potential intimidation.

— The International Cycling Union, cycling's governing body which licensed Armstrong to ride professionally, should have jurisdiction over the allegations. Armstrong says allegations of doping by him and his team that were first raised by admitted drug-user Floyd Landis in 2010 should be addressed by UCI.

— USADA may have violated federal law if it coerced witness testimony against him with deals to reduce punishments for riders facing doping charges. Media reports last week said former Armstrong teammates George Hincapie, Levi Leipheimer, David Zabriskie and Christian Vande Velde, who are all riding in this year's Tour de France, may be witnesses against him.

— Tygart and officials with the World Anti-Doping Agency have recklessly pursued Armstrong for several years in a personal quest to catch him despite Armstrong's hundreds of negative drug tests.



MOVIE TIMES

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

Call theater for information.

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

Marvel's The Avengers (PG-13) 2hrs 22min
12:20pm, 3:40pm, 7:00pm, 10:10pm

Amazing Spider-Man (PG-13) 2hrs 16min
12:15pm, 6:45pm

Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 16min
3:30pm, 10:00pm

Rock of Ages (PG-13) 2hrs 03min
1:10pm, 4:15pm, 7:20pm, 10:15pm

Prometheus (R) 2hrs 04min
1:00pm, 4:05pm, 7:15pm, 10:05pm

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

Amazing Spider-Man (PG-13) 2hrs 16min
11:45am, 3:00pm, 6:15pm, 9:30pm

Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted 3D (PG) 1hr 33min
2:15pm, 7:45pm

Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 16min
12:45pm, 4:05pm, 7:20pm, 10:30pm

Brave (PG) 1hr 40min
11:15am, 1:40pm, 4:15pm, 6:45pm, 9:20pm

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

Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (PG) 1hr 33min
11:45am, 5:00pm, 10:20pm

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

Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (PG-13) 1hr 58min
1:30pm, 7:00pm

Bernie (PG-13) 1hr 35min
4:30pm, 9:55pm

Bolshoi Ballet: Raymonda ENCORE (NR)
7:30pm

Your Sister's Sister (R) 1hr 30min
3:10pm

Neil Young Journeys () 1hr 27min
1:00pm, 5:30pm

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

To Rome With Love (R) 1hr 35min
1:20pm, 2:30pm, 4:10pm, 7:00pm, 7:40pm, 9:40pm

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

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

Savages (R) 2hrs 10min
12:45pm, 4:05pm, 7:10pm, 10:20pm

People Like Us (PG-13) 1hr 55min
11:20am, 2:05pm, 5:00pm, 7:50pm, 10:30pm

Magic Mike (R) 1hr 50min
11:25am, 2:00pm, 4:55pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

Katy Perry: Part of Me (PG) 1hr 35min
11:45am, 4:55pm, 10:25pm

Katy Perry: Part of Me 3D (PG) 1hr 35min
2:15pm, 7:35pm

Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection (PG-13) 1hr 54min
11:15am, 2:00pm, 4:50pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

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

Out with your pals tonight, Libra

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ The unexpected occurs, but others respond in a caring, distinct manner and want to be included. You might feel tense as a result of this surprise, a family member and/or a domestic matter. Brainstorm away, and you'll find a solution. Tonight: Beam in what you want.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You look at a situation much differently than others do. You gain sudden insight and, as a result, can move forward with a personal matter very quickly. Keep conversations flowing, but if you need to, do take some personal time. Tonight: Take a night off just for you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ You could be taken aback by someone you care a lot about. You will discover just how unpredictable this person might be. Show your caring through words, but also through your actions if you want to be trusted. Tonight: At a game, or anywhere people are.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You could be stunned by someone's ideas. You clearly care about this person, but you might not agree with his or her style. Do not let an innate difference create tension between you. Tonight: Throw yourself in the whirlwind of living.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Look at the big picture. You might feel much better and more empowered after you express the bottom line. You could feel as if someone is toying with you before this moment. After making your statement, you couldn't care less. Tonight: Follow the music.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★ You might want to rethink someone's comments. You could be oversensitive and take something the wrong way. In fact, you might be creating your own tension and stress. Tonight: Find your favorite person.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Others seem to be "hunting" you down. Enjoy the popularity, and do not make a big deal out of changing your plans. Listen with care to a loved one's feedback; you could be quite delighted. Tonight: Out with your pals.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Others appear to be flaky, and no matter what stage of life you currently are in, you are left holding the bag. Detach from not-so-friendly feelings seasoned with resentment, and get done what you must. Tonight: Could go late.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Your sense of humor helps loosen others up, and you create a smile wherever you are. Be open about your feelings -- you will appreciate the response you receive. Differentiate between a long-term relationship and just fun flirting. Tonight: Be careful not to start a problem with a loved one.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ You cannot get away from a domestic concern, at least until it has been appropriately handled. You know when enough is enough and set boundaries as a result. A close loved one or associate seems to be in a very different frame of mind. Tonight: Head on home.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ Keep a conversation moving. If you or the other person overthinks, you could become far more closed off. There is a lot to be gained if you let yourself be vulnerable. Tonight: Out to a favorite place.

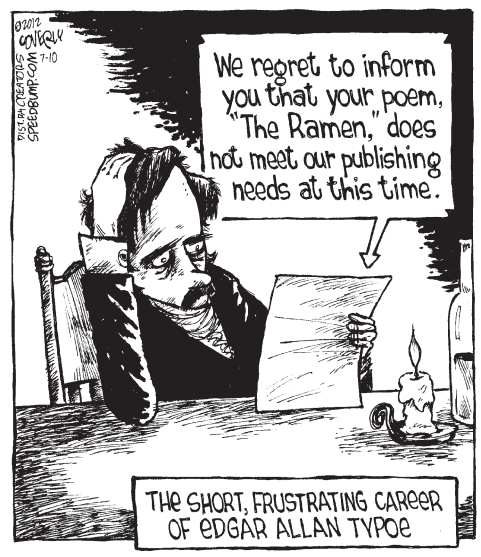
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★ Be aware of your spending and allow greater emotional sharing to occur. You can give in ways that are more meaningful if you stop and think about it. Let your creativity emerge, and allow greater give-and-take. Tonight: Keep to your budget!

Happy birthday

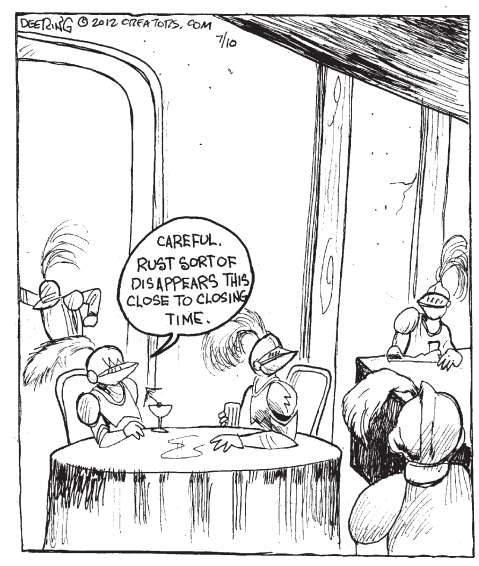
JACQUELINE BIGAR'S STARS
The stars show the kind of day you'll have:
★★★★★Dynamic ★★ So-So
★★★★ Positive ★ Difficult
★★★ Average

This year, just when you think you are on cruise control, the unexpected hits. Until you understand and see the end results, this pattern could be disturbing. What occurs will point to what is frivolous in your life. If you are single, relationships formed this year will not be stable for at least a year. Time together is the real indicator of a couple's longevity. If you are attached, you could feel waves of excitement but might not always love the form they take. Your bond will be far more dynamic in the long run. Be aware that this process will be challenging at times. ARIES is high voltage.

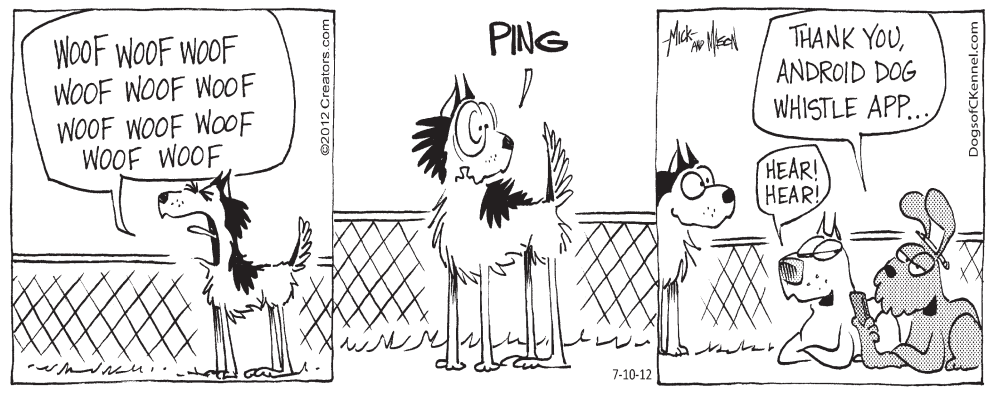
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



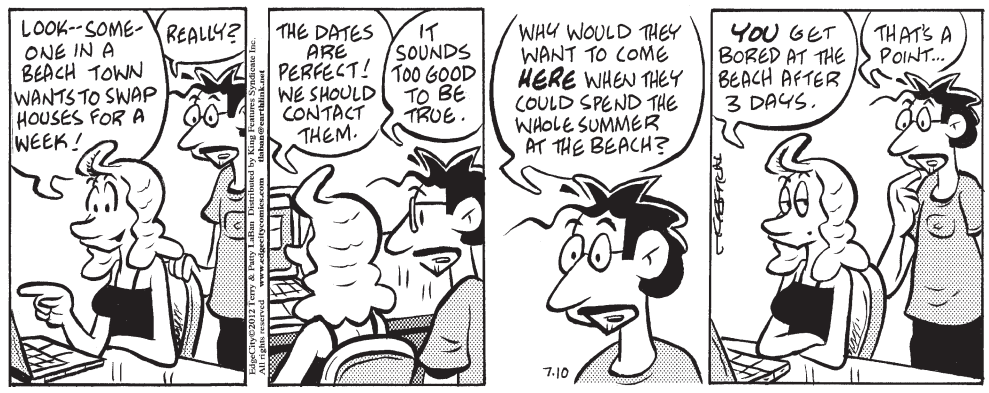
Strange Brew
By John Deering



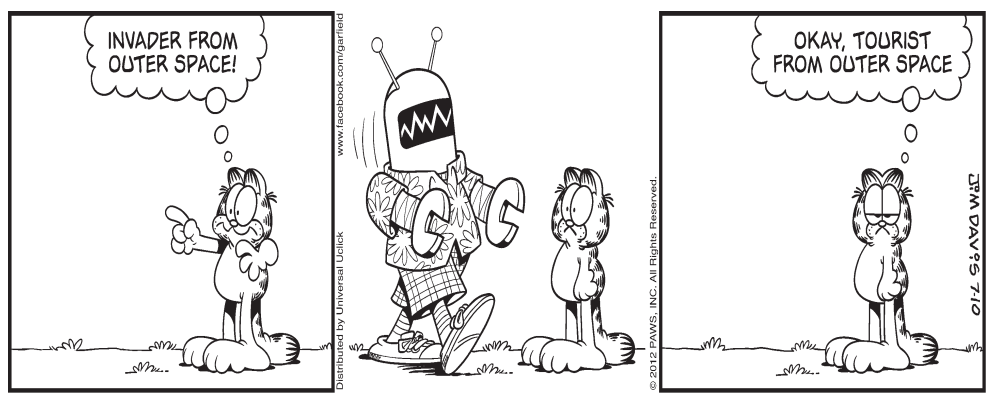
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



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 ★★

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

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

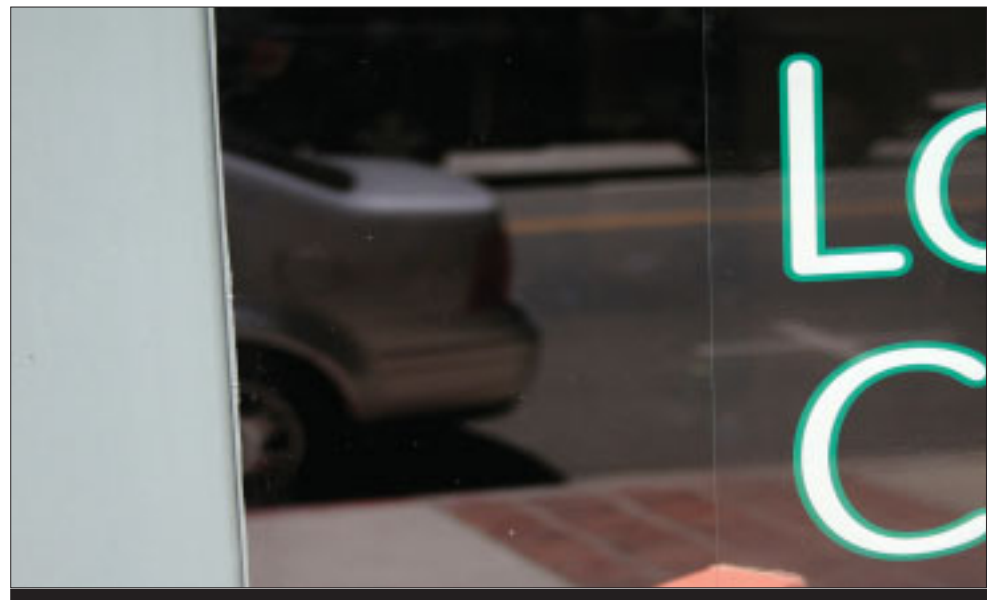
8	9	2	6	1	5	7	3	4
3	1	5	4	9	7	6	2	8
6	7	4	3	8	2	9	1	5
7	4	1	8	5	9	2	6	3
9	6	8	2	7	3	5	4	1
2	5	3	1	4	6	8	7	9
5	2	9	7	3	1	4	8	6
4	3	6	9	2	8	1	5	7
1	8	7	5	6	4	3	9	2

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Friend of Porthos
7 Poet Khayyám
11 Bach creation
12 Mama's mate
13 Pugnacious
15 Clarifying words
16 Fish features
18 Sleeve end
21 Musical number
22 Leave
24 Memorable period
25 Knightly address
26 Light metal
27 Moulin Rouge dance
29 Sunset site
30 Calendar span
31 Mardi Gras wear
32 Low point
34 Unfeeling
40 Vaccine variety
41 Come into view
42 Cartoon skunk — Le Pew
43 Servile follower

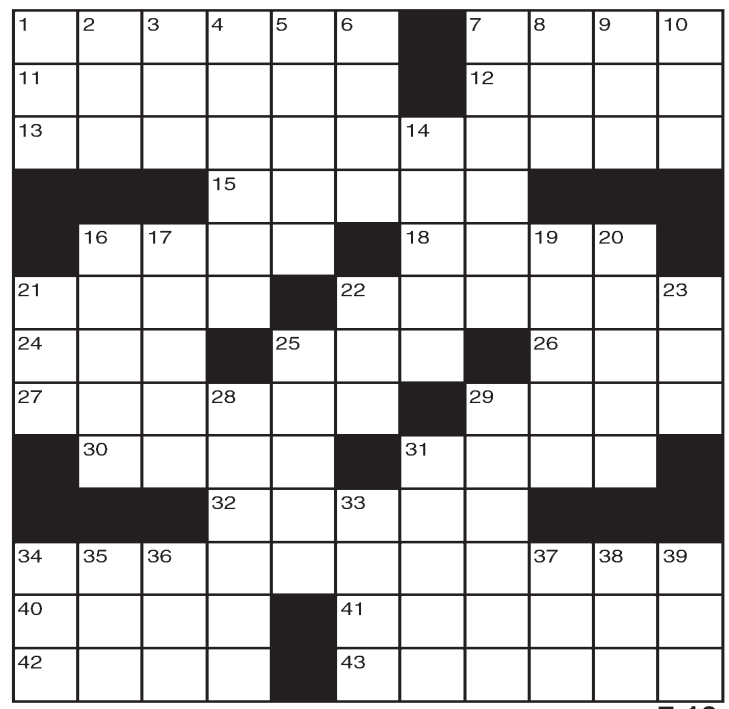
DOWN

1 Fire remnant
2 Milne youngster
3 Tiny worker
4 Winning at chess
5 Articles
6 Identical
7 Become chatty
8 Spoil
9 Big galoot
10 "Far out, man!"
14 Harness race horse
16 Raid
17 Ridiculous
19 Mythical trio
20 Check for weapons
21 Short time
22 Cacophony
23 Blasting stuff
25 Singer McLachlan
28 Light with a wick
29 Rabbits' home
31 Home of the Marlins
33 Judge
34 Force member
35 Vein yield
36 Pet perch
37 Numerical prefix
38 Sense of self
39 Animal's lair

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

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



7-10

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 7/6/12
20 23 28 35 39
Meganumber: 21
Jackpot: $14M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 7/7/12
7 27 41 42 46
Meganumber: 1
Jackpot: $11M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 7/9/12
2 6 19 25 36

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 7/9/12
MIDDAY: 0 5 2
EVENING: 1 5 1

SANTA ANITA DERBY
Draw Date: 7/9/12
1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 12 Lucky Charms
3rd: 08 Gorgeous George
RACE TIME: 1:45.15

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ **Worth Every Penny:** (1) In April, police chief John Crane of Gadsden, Ala., learned that his department has owned, for two years, two unmanned aerial drones. He said he has no idea why they were purchased (at about $150,000), but that local taxpayers need not worry since they came with a federal law enforcement grant. (2) NBC Bay Area reports periodically on uses of 2009 federal stimulus money distributed in the San Francisco area, and in May revealed that the University of California, San Francisco, had received $1.2 million to interview 200 men on what effect being overweight has on their sex lives. A government budget activist decried funding a "sex study over fixing bridges and roads that are crumbling every day."

■ **The Indispensability of Arts and Crafts:** (1) There are not enough video games, according to the National Endowment for the Arts, which in April awarded a $40,000 grant to the University of Southern California to help produce another, based on Henry David Thoreau's "Walden." (2) Australia's Council for the Arts announced in May that it would give A$20,000 (U.S. equivalent, $20,380) to the "death-metal" band Ouroboros, citing the band's distinct genre and its need for a symphony orchestra for its next album. Said the drummer, "We wouldn't consider hiring an orchestra to do this without (the grant)."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1973 – The Bahamas gain full independence within the Commonwealth of Nations.

1973 – National Assembly of Pakistan passes a resolution on the recognition of Bangladesh.

1973 – John Paul Getty III, grandson of oil magnate J. Paul Getty, is kidnapped in Rome, Italy.

1976 – The Seveso disaster occurs in Italy.

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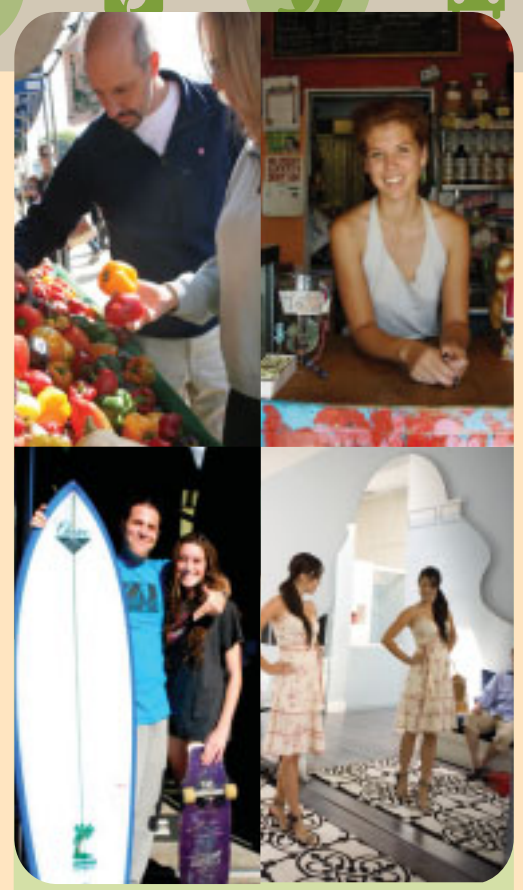


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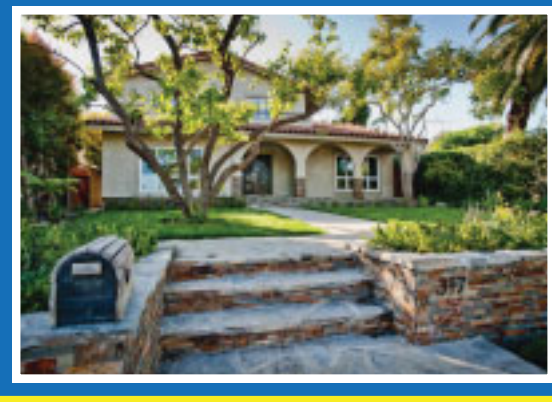
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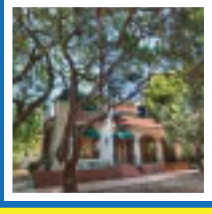




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