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Volume 11 Issue 212

Santa Monica Daily Press

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TWILIGHT CONCERT SERIES GUIDE
INSIDE

THE MEAN STREETS ISSUE

Woman killed in hit-and-run

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

MID-CITY In Santa Monica's second fatal hit-and-run in less than a week, a 30-year-old woman crossing Wilshire Boulevard was struck and killed early Monday, police said.

The woman, identified by friends on Facebook and Twitter as Claire Rose, was walking north on 21st Street in a crosswalk around 12:16 a.m. when she was struck by a charcoal gray or black Toyota type sedan, which failed to stop, Santa Monica Police Department Sgt. Richard Lewis said.

Witnesses said the driver continued west on Wilshire Boulevard to 15th Street, turned north and then went east on California Avenue out of sight, Lewis said.

Police are looking for a car with a damaged front grill, hood and driver side headlight assembly, Lewis said.

Friends of Rose said she was celebrating

SEE HIT-AND-RUN PAGE 9

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

FASHIONING HISTORY: **Marcia Bloom (left) poses with Nora Tompkins at Bloom's store last week. The two came together after Tompkins heard that Bloom had been using a vintage postcard of her on merchandise at the Montana Avenue clothing store.**

Postcard reveals window to the past

Woman unites with store owner who found vintage image

BY ADRIANNA DINOLFO
Special to the Daily Press

MONTANA AVE Although every picture tells a story, this particular phrase has a literal meaning for Nora Tompkins.

Little did she know that a simple snapshot of her day on Santa Monica Beach in 1965 would end up not only on a postcard, but also on designer Marcia Bloom's merchandise 47 years later.

The day was like any other when Tompkins arrived at the beach with her sister Elaine and father Jack Stein. As the girls eagerly frolicked into the water, Stein came across one of his insurance clients who hap-

SEE POSTCARD PAGE 8

Homeless man stabbed while sleeping

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SANTA MONICA BLVD A homeless man was hospitalized with serious injuries Tuesday morning after an unknown assailant stabbed him in the back as he slept on a bus bench.

The Santa Monica Police Department responded to a call at 5:43 a.m. from a passerby who said that he had found a male white homeless man in his late 50s who had been stabbed, according to a release by the police department.

The victim reported that he had been sleeping, and woke up to the feeling of "a painful stick in his back," said Sgt. Richard Lewis, spokesperson for the department.

Paramedics transferred the man to a local

SEE STABBING PAGE 11

New Wilmont board meets despite threats

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

KEN EDWARDS CENTER Self-proclaimed members of an embattled neighborhood group met Monday evening in spite of a cease and desist letter that threatened legal action against them for doing so.

The group fielded questions from members present about the schism that has left the Wilshire Montana Neighborhood Coalition board scattered since a disputed election that took place on June 9 in which 11 candidates tried to put themselves on the board.

Last week, the original board members met in secret and voted to remove an unknown number of individuals from the

SEE WILMONT PAGE 11

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Life and art
Santa Monica Museum of Art
2525 Michigan Ave.,
7 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Acclaimed artist Salomon Huerta will be teaching a life drawing class for beginners. The museum's current exhibition, Mickalene Thomas: Origin of the Universe, will give plenty of inspiration to the students who will be provided with a live model and supplies. The fee is $45 for non-members of the museum and $30 for members. Tickets are available at smmoa.org/tickets. For more information, call (310) 586-6488.

Book club fun
Montana Library
1704 Montana Ave.,
7 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Join the Montana Book Group discussion on the book "Sex, Mom, and God," by Frank Schaeffer. The moving and comical book is about growing up in one of the Christian right's most influential families. Admission is free. For more information, call (310) 458-8682.

Get info
University of Santa Monica
2107 Wilshire Blvd.,
7 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.
If you're interested in a soul-centered approach to education, attend the University of Santa Monica's information night to find out if the school is a good fit for you. A panel of alumni will be present to speak about how they are using their USM education to become successful in a variety of professions. For more information, call (310) 829-7402.

Thursday, July 19, 2012

An evening of literature
Main Library, Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 7 p.m. — 8:45 p.m.
Author Chirs Cleave and Los Angeles Review of Books Editor Clarissa Romano will be at the Main Library to discuss Cleave's new book, "Gold," about two female athletes training for the 2012 London Olympics. They will also discuss Cleave's past two books, "Little Bee" and "Incendiary." For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

True crime
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
7:30 p.m.
Journalist Chip Jacobs will discuss his new book "The Ascension of Jerry." The book deals with murder and its aftermath. Admission is free. For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

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

DOWNTOWN

Millions available to help homeless vets

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced Tuesday $100 million in grants to assist 42,000 homeless veterans and their families in 151 community agencies in 49 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

This is the program's second year. Starting in 2011, VA provided $60 million to help 22,000 veterans and families in response to the 61,011 homeless veterans counted in 2010. In partnership with the Supportive Services for Veteran Families program, VA is awarding grants to consumer cooperatives and private nonprofit organizations that provide case management, assistance in obtaining VA benefits and other public benefits to low-income veteran families.

These grants are intended to meet President Obama and Shinseki's goal of ending veteran homelessness by 2012. VA provides a variety of services such as health care, housing, job training and education.

"We are committed to ending veteran homelessness in America," said Shinseki. "These grants will help VA and community organizations reach out and prevent at-risk veterans from losing their homes."

The VA is being sued by the ACLU Foundation of Southern California which claims the agency has not done enough to provide permanent supportive housing and services for thousands of mentally impaired veterans.

ADRIANNA DINOLFO

JUST LIKE THIS

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

A performer with the Polynesian Paradise Dancers teaches kids a hula lesson on Tuesday at the Montana Library.

Judge refuses to step down from Bulger's trial

DENISE LAVOIE
AP Legal Affairs Writer

BOSTON A federal judge on Tuesday refused to recuse himself from the trial of mobster James "Whitey" Bulger, flatly rejecting a challenge to his impartiality by Bulger's lawyers.

The defense argued in a motion filed last month that Bulger — who is awaiting trial for his alleged role in 19 murders — should not be prosecuted because he was promised immunity by a representative of the federal government for past or future crimes while he was a top-echelon FBI informant.

Bulger's lawyers asked Judge Richard Stearns to step down from the case because he was a top federal prosecutor in the 1980s, when Bulger allegedly was committing crimes with impunity while also acting as an informant.

The defense said Stearns would try to shield his former colleagues and could not be impartial. The defense also said it may call Stearns as a witness as part of a motion to dismiss the charges based on Bulger's claim that he was granted immunity.

In a written order, Stearns said he had no doubt about his ability to remain impartial, noting that as an assistant U.S.

SEE **BULGER** PAGE 8

Cops searching for elevator predator

BY KEVIN HERRERA
Editor in Chief

DOWNTOWN Santa Monica police on Tuesday asked for the public's help in locating a man who they say attacked a woman in an elevator last week.

The assault occurred at 9 a.m. on July 11 when the woman arrived for work at 429 Santa Monica Blvd. and parked her vehicle on the bottom level of the building's subterranean garage. The building is home to the Union Bank of California and other businesses.

The woman entered the elevator, at which time the suspect emerged and got in with her. Once the elevator doors closed, police say the suspect immediately assaulted the victim, while making a statement which led her to believe she was going to be raped. The victim fought back and when the elevator stopped a few floors up, the suspect ran off, police said.

A witness waiting for the elevator where the suspect exited tried to follow him but lost him as he made his way onto Fifth Street and out of sight.

The suspect is described as a male Latino or Middle Eastern in his late 20s, 5-feet 7-inches tall and weighing 150 pounds with short, straight black hair, brown eyes and a light goatee. Police said he has unknown tattoos on his arms. He was wearing a black or dark gray colored tank top, and orange and red board shorts.

The investigation is ongoing and anyone with additional information is asked to contact Detective Phillip DeRyck at (310) 458-8944, Sgt. Darrick Jacob at (310) 458-8460 or the Santa Monica Police Department (24 hours) at (310) 458-8495.

Those who wish to remain anonymous can call WeTip at 1-800-78-CRIME (1-800-78-27463), or submit the tip online at www.wetip.com. Callers will remain completely anonymous and may be eligible for a reward, up to $1,000, if your information leads to an arrest and conviction.

Or, anonymous tipsters can contact Crime Stoppers by either calling (800) 222-TIPS (8477) or by visiting their website at www.lacrimestoppers.org. To text an anonymous tip to Crime Stoppers view their webpage for detailed instructions. If the information leads to an arrest, the tipster is eligible to receive a reward up to $1,000.

kevinh@smdp.com

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Disrespecting elders

Editor:

Is this city becoming anti-senior? First they want to take away the Senior Center on Ocean Avenue ("Council gives OK to Senior Center change," April 26), probably the only social life for some seniors.

Now they are taking away the No. 2 bus between Olympic Boulevard and Hill Street ("Big Blue Bus cuts service to save money," June 15), the only form of transportation for many seniors who cannot walk very far – making them prisoners in their own homes. Of course the bus is empty at Hill and Main streets – they all get off on Fourth Street. The bus company gave in to the young whiners who didn't like the noise. Let's hope one day they will be in need of transport when there isn't any. (Karma is a b---h.)

Those who can get to a bus will now have to pay two fares which they can least afford, with pensions from long ago now worth peanuts!

S.P. Borsa
Santa Monica

Bomb isn't all that bad

Editor:

Perhaps the [Landmarks Commission] got it right about proclaiming that tangled mass of chains by City Hall a landmark ("'Chain Reaction' gets landmark status," July 11). It is a landmark, marking the atom bomb as the instrument that brought WW II and the slaughter in the Pacific to an end.

Because of the bomb, the invasion of the Japanese homeland would become unnecessary and hundreds of thousands of American casualties would be prevented. So maybe in commemoration of the end of WW II we should preserve that cloud of rusty dust.

Don Wagner
Santa Monica

Help her out

Editor:

As more bike lanes are provided, why is it that I am still dodging bikes day and night on our sidewalks? After almost being struck by bicyclists coming at me and from behind at high rates of speed with no warning, I have had to walk in the bike lanes many times day or night.

Would this improve if we changed how we drive, that is, to the other side of the street? Or should we pass more laws that we have difficulty enforcing anyway?

I am looking to our chief of police to solve this problem because she looks and seems very capable of solving this problem once and for all; bike riders and young and old people walking on the sidewalks. I know she can do it, but let's help her, too.

Dennis Malm
Santa Monica

Your column here

Rafael Espada and Raymond Baker Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Time to tackle money behind Latin American drug cartels

SEVERAL LATIN AMERICAN LEADERS HAVE proposed legalizing aspects of the drug trade in recent months, clearly acknowledging that the current strategy in the war on drugs is not working. They are correct in highlighting the flaws in the traditional approach to battling illicit narcotics, but do we really need to wave the white flag? Or do alternative approaches still exist to curtail the illicit drug trade?

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna estimates that globally more than 40 percent of cocaine is seized somewhere between production and consumption. It also estimates, however, that less than one half of one percent of laundered criminal money is interdicted worldwide. For too long, the focus of the Drug Enforcement Administration and other law enforcement bodies has been on drug busts, while remarkably little has been done to curtail the money financing these illicit operations. We've been battling the symptoms without truly addressing the underlying cause. Curtail the money behind drug smuggling and we will curtail the crime itself.

The United States has already proven its ability to quickly and decisively tackle illicit financing when it puts its mind to it. After Sept. 11, 2001, the USA Patriot Act included considerably strengthened anti-money laundering legislation, for example, banning shell banks — and any banks doing business with shell banks — from operating within the U.S. financial system. This and other measures made it more difficult for terrorist financing to circulate in the legitimate financial system, and consequentially executing large-scale terrorist attacks has become much more difficult.

We can do the same with drug money; it's simply a matter of political will.

Much of the profit realized by drug cartels in the United States makes its way back into Mexico as cash dollars where it is then smuggled through to Guatemala, El Salvador, and Panama. It subsequently gets deposited in local banks which then ship the physical U.S. dollars back to the United States. Knowing which local branches of these Central American banks accept large cash deposits of U.S. currency would be a critical tool for Central American — and U.S. — law enforcement as they battle the war on drugs. It helps track the drug cartels and crack down on their financing.

However, the private, commercial banks currently load the bulk U.S. dollar currency onto airplanes and fly the cash directly back to the United States usually without informing their own Central Bank or law enforcement where they got the money. Global Financial Integrity and others have proposed requiring commercial banks in Central American nations to route these cash transfers through their nation's Central Bank, which would then relay the money to the destination bank in the United States, thereby allowing the nation's Central Bank to track the magnitude of the problem and from which banks and branches the money originates.

It's a proposal which has been met with honest consideration in Central America but which has not been implemented due to opposition from the U.S. government. Why is the U.S. government opposing this proposal? Surely the U.S. would benefit significantly from the trove of drug cartel financial data that would result from such an arrangement.

Moreover, there are few places in the world where it is easier to open an anonymous shell corporation than inside the United States. These entities, which can be registered by company formation agents possessing sole information as to the real owners, often make it impossible for U.S. and foreign law enforcement agencies to track the finances of the world's largest drug cartels. They grant the cartels and other financial criminals impunity through anonymity. The bi-partisan Incorporation Transparency and Law Enforcement Assistance Act, which was introduced into the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives last fall, would give federal authorities access to this ownership information and contribute to ostracizing drug cartels from the legitimate financial system.

Still, even when anti-money laundering rules are in place, it's extremely important that financial regulators be fully funded and provided the resources they need to ensure banks comply with the law. Citibank, HSBC, and Wachovia have all been in the news recently for allegedly failing to comply with U.S. anti-money laundering regulations. Further, a recent study conducted by the U.K. government found that three quarters of British banks were not adequately complying with anti-money laundering rules. There is no reason to believe the situation is any different at American banks. Ever-shrinking budgets for the nation's understaffed financial watchdogs have real consequences: a money laundering Wild West being one of them. Congress must ensure that U.S. regulators are appropriately budgeted with the necessary resources to perform their duties, and the bankers found to be complicit in the laundering of money should receive jail time — merely fining financial institutions is not enough.

As we did with terrorists a decade ago, the United States has the ability to deliver a striking blow to drug smugglers — curtailing the money that fuels the entire industry. Before we consider giving up and legalizing drugs, and instead of perpetuating the costly Whack-a-Mole model of drug busts and seizures, let's pull the rug out from under the narcotics industry. We can do it if there is political will.

DR. RAFAEL ESPADA recently completed a four-year term as vice president of Guatemala. Raymond Baker, the author of "Capitalism's Achilles Heel: Dirty Money and How to Renew the Free-Market System," is the director of Global Financial Integrity, a research and advocacy organization in Washington, D.C.

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The Taxman

Jon Coupal
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Time for government employees to share the economic pain

THOSE WHO MAKE A GOOD LIVING OFF the taxpayers' dime can be quick to demand that others pay their "fair share." Case in point, SEIU, which represents about 95,000 California state employees, was a big backer of the Occupy movement.

The California economy is in the doldrums, 2 million workers are unemployed and looming over everything is a $500 billion pension debt that is growing by the day — a debt, by the way, that must be made good by taxpayers. The response from the unions representing California government employees, who are the highest paid in all 50 states, is to demand unconditional surrender from taxpayers. No compromise, no step back on their part. The union bosses want taxpayers to continue to labor like indentured servants, delaying their own retirement and paying higher taxes so that their government employees can retire young enough to start a second career with pensions approaching full pay. (It should be noted that benefits for government employees who retired prior to 1999 are much more modest.)

Taxpayers are now behind the eight-ball because of two devastating actions by the Sacramento politicians. The first was then-Gov. Jerry Brown's 1977 approval of enhanced collective bargaining rights for state workers. The second, in 1999, occurred when Gov. Gray Davis signed off on the Legislature's plan to drastically increase public employee pensions that, according to the experts they consulted, would cost the taxpayers nothing because the stock market would now be close to 30,000, almost three times higher than it is today. (One now wonders if the fiscal prognosticators upon whom the politicians relied were wearing big red clown noses.)

Before you think this is humorous, ask Stockton residents, whose city just filed for bankruptcy, mostly because the city is not financially able to meet promises made to employees, whether they are laughing.

Compounding the problem, of course is the fact that any suggestion that government employees help out and pay their fair share toward their own guaranteed pensions is rejected out of hand by the union brass who are accustomed — because of their ability to distribute campaign cash and deliver members' votes to favored candidates — to being the de facto bosses of the California Democratic Party, the Legislature, and, with their chosen candidate elected governor, the entire state.

Now, partially to meet this mammoth pension burden, Jerry Brown wants to increase sales and income taxes. And, in an attempt to show the public that the state deserves more money, he has proposed some reforms to deal with the radically out-of-balance pension system. But proposing is one thing, actually expending political capital to see it through is another.

THE CALIFORNIA ECONOMY IS IN THE DOLDRUMS, 2 MILLION WORKERS ARE UNEMPLOYED AND LOOMING OVER EVERYTHING IS A $500 BILLION PENSION DEBT THAT IS GROWING BY THE DAY – A DEBT, BY THE WAY, THAT MUST BE MADE GOOD BY TAXPAYERS.

In a recent column authored by John Kabateck of the National Federation of Independent Business, Joel Fox of the Small Business Action Committee and myself, we speculated that the governor and the government employee unions were about to agree on some relatively meaningless reforms, declare victory and push forward promoting the governor's $50 billion tax increase that will appear on the November ballot.

Turns out, the three of us underestimated the bloated self-assurance and arrogance of the union power brokers. They have flatly rejected any reform plan, no matter how weak. Apparently, "fair share" is something to be paid by others — which translates as "taxpayers."

Still, in future weeks, if it appears that the governor's tax proposition will fail (the polling suggests that it is on life support) the unions may decide that a cosmetic concession or two is worth the additional tax revenue that can be devoted to increased pay and benefits. Heaven forbid that the gravy train grinds to a stop.

JON COUPAL is president of the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association – California's largest grass-roots taxpayer organization dedicated to the protection of Proposition 13 and the advancement of taxpayers' rights.

The Q Line

Cheap parking

City Hall offers $2.20 annual parking passes to seniors for beach parking lots. In fact, the cost doesn't even cover the price of the sticker it's printed on.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Do you think this is a fair price or should it be increased?

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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CSU mulls fiscal woes, but OKs president pay hikes

CHRISTINA HOAG
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES California State University leaders on Tuesday wrestled with ways to resolve a grim financial picture as they approved 10 percent pay hikes to two new campus presidents.

Executive Vice Chancellor Ben Quillian told the board that the 23-campus system faces deficits ranging from $177 million to $427 million for the 2012-13 fiscal year.

The final amount will depend on whether voters approve tax increase measures in November and whether CSU accepts a "tuition buyout" deal offered by the state Legislature.

If voters reject the tax measures, CSU would lose $250 million in funding. Meanwhile, if CSU accepts the buyout, it would lose $132 million in revenue from a 9 percent tuition increase this fall in return for an extra $125 million in funds for 2013-14.

Chancellor Charles Reed said accepting the deal would create "an administrative nightmare" because about 300,000 of the system's 430,000 students have already paid their fall tuition.

The university could offer tuition credit instead of refunds, if trustees decide to roll back the fee hike, he said.

Reed noted the system stands to immediately gain $132 million from the tuition increase.

"It's not the greatest deal in the world," he said.

Even without those factors, CSU faces a $130 million structural deficit caused by $750 million in funding cuts since 2007-08, as well as $47 million in increased health and pension costs, Assistant Vice Chancellor Robert Turnage said.

"We still have a $130 million nut to crack no matter what happens with the tax measures," he said.

Turnage outlined a series of options to close the deficits, including tuition increases, layoffs, enrollment cuts and employee pay reductions.

The board took no action on finances on Tuesday. It is slated to decide on a budget plan at its September meeting.

However, it approved salaries for four new campus presidents, two of whom were given the maximum raises of 10 percent, or $29,000, over the outgoing presidents' salaries.

Diane Harrison at CSU Northridge will earn $324,500, and Tomas Morales at CSU San Bernardino will earn $319,000.

A third president received a 9 percent raise: Leslie Wong will earn $324,000 to lead San Francisco State.

A fourth new president will see his pay reduced from his predecessor's earnings. Retired Admiral Thomas Cropper will earn $250,000, 3.5 percent less than the previous president of the California Maritime Academy.

All four will receive a $1,000 monthly car allowance. Harrison and Cropper receive free campus housing, while Morales and Wong each receive a $60,000 annual housing allowance.

A series of students and union leaders denounced the pay boosts.

Rich Anderson, president of the union representing 6,000 teaching assistants and tutors, called giving raises while talking about cutting pay and laying off employees "a crass double standard."

"Where's the shared sacrifice in that?" he said.

Reed defended the raises, noting that he was criticized for hiring San Diego State University President Elliot Hirshman last July at a $400,000 salary, sparking the ongoing criticism.

During the year, Hirshman has raised $71 million for the campus, $21 million more than his goal, Reed said.

"Elliot has been criticized. I have been criticized. It is totally wrong," he said. "These are tough jobs. They work 24/7."

Under the compensation policy adopted in May, the board set a raise cap of 10 percent but stipulated that the amount of the raise must be paid for by campus foundations.

Reed stressed that foundations will raise money separately for the pay increases. "No funds from the foundations will be coming from any financial aid or student scholarship money," he said.

The policy was adopted after a firestorm of criticism over boosting presidents' pay during a period of drastic belt-tightening.

L.A. police panel orders review of protest clash

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES The Los Angeles Police Commission has requested the inspector general review the Police Department's forthcoming report on a downtown clash between officers and free-speech protesters that resulted in 17 arrests and two officers injured.

The commission heard complaints on Tuesday from several protesters who allege police used excessive force to break up a chalking demonstration at the Downtown Art Walk last Thursday.

Occupy LA member Cheryl Aichele says several people have filed formal complaints against the department for being pushed with batons and subjected to other force.

Police spokesman Gus Villanueva says all complaints will be investigated thoroughly.

Commission executive director Richard Tefank says Chief Charlie Beck was directed to report back to the commission on the incident within 60 days with a review and recommendations from the inspector general.

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SoCal home prices match two-year high in June

ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO Southern California extended its housing recovery in June as the median sales price matched a two-year high and buyers drawn by low interest rates snapped up homes in pricier coastal regions.

The median price of new and existing houses and condominiums in the six-county region reached $300,000 in June, up 5.3 percent from $285,000 during the same period last year, research firm DataQuick said Tuesday.

It marked the third straight month that prices increased from last year, matching the longest streak since late 2010.

Meanwhile, the California Association of Realtors said the statewide median sales price in June for existing single-family homes grew 8.1 percent to $320,540 from $296,410 a year earlier.

That number doesn't include condominiums or new homes, and it relies on residential brokers instead of county property records. Still, it suggests the recovery extended to the entire state last month as buyers were lured by low interest rates.

"Just about everywhere in the state has hit bottom," said Jeffrey Michael, director of the University of the Pacific's Business Forecasting Center in Stockton. "Some areas have moved into recovery and others are sliding along the bottom. It looks like the coastal areas are moving into recovery."

Richard Green, director of the University of Southern California's Lusk Center for Real Estate, believes California's housing market hit bottom at the end of last year or early this year. He said metrics such as the relationship of housing prices to rental costs and income suggest the timing is ripe to buy a home.

"The fundamentals for owning are the best they've been in a while," he said. "You probably have to go back to 1997. Owning just looks really good now."

However, many buyers are facing slim pickings.

The California Association of Realtors said its statewide index showed unsold inventory in June covering only 3? months, down from 5.1 months a year earlier.

The figure represents how long it would take to sell all existing single-family homes at the current sales clip. Supply in a normal market is considered to be six to seven months.

DataQuick President John Walsh cautioned against reading too much into the gains, saying it reflects a shift in sales from foreclosed properties in economically battered regions to higher-priced neighborhoods along the coast. Foreclosed properties tend to sell at steep discounts.

"The June numbers look pretty good at first glance, but they're more mixed when you scratch beneath the surface," he said. "Yes, the median sales price rose again. But it's clear this has a lot to do with the changes in the types of homes selling, rather than across-the board price appreciation."

Distressed sales, which include foreclosures, accounted for 42.2 percent of existing home sales in Southern California last month, the lowest since February 2008, DataQuick said.

Homes that were in foreclosure during the previous year accounted for 24.5 percent of existing home sales, down from 32.9 percent during the year-ago period.

Short sales — when the sales price is below the amount owed on the property — made up 17.7 percent of existing home sales, down from 17.9 percent last year.

The number of homes sold in Southern California reached 22,075 in June, up 7.5 percent from 20,532 a year earlier, DataQuick said. It was the sixth straight month of annual gains, the longest streak since late 2009 and early 2010.

County breakdowns showed how coastal areas were driving overall gains. Orange, the most expensive in Southern California, posted a 13.7 annual increase in the number of homes sold, with a median price of $453,000. San Bernardino, the least expensive in the region, showed a 1.3 percent annual decline in sales, with a median price of $158,000.

Reflecting the shift to pricier deals, sales of homes for at least $500,000 accounted for 22.5 percent of Southern California home sales last month, the highest since August 2008, when the figure stood at 23.6 percent. Homes that went for at least a half-million dollars made up only 13.8 percent of total sales in January 2009.

The June median price in Southern California was up 21.5 percent from $247,000 in April 2009 but was still more than 40 percent off its peak of $505,000 in the middle of 2007.

Economists said a spike in unemployment or foreclosures were among the biggest threats to the nascent recovery. Michael said the low inventory suggests the market would be able to absorb a new raft of foreclosures.

Leslie Appleton-Young, chief economist at the California Association of Realtors, said the state recovery began in the Central Valley about three years ago with investors snapping up homes.

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POSTCARD
FROM PAGE 1

pened to take pictures for postcards in his spare time. He thought that his daughters might like to have their picture taken, and asked his client if he would do them the honor.

"Next thing I knew, my dad was waving us to shore," Tompkins said.

The photographer arranged the girls with their faces toward the ocean and the Santa Monica Pier close in the background. According to Tompkins, although the occurrence was exciting, she didn't give it any thought until six months later during a visit to the Sav-on drugstore.

"I walked in, glanced to my left, and stopped dead in my tracks," Tompkins said. "I turned around toward the postcard rack and saw my sister Elaine and I on a postcard!"

After purchasing every copy of the card that they could find, Tompkins remembers saying to her mother, "Someday when I'm really old, someone is going to walk into an antique store, see this postcard and say 'I wonder who those girls were.'"

For the most part, Tompkins ended up being correct.

Over the years, Tompkins kept a couple copies of the postcard and shared her story with close friends, including her neighbor Barbi Beers.

"I used to live three houses down from Nora in Westlake Village, and she had showed me the postcard before," Beers said. "She told me the entire story, and she had always had the photograph pinned up on her fridge."

When Beers stumbled across Tompkins' postcard transposed onto a purse in Marcia Bloom's store on Montana Avenue, she was shocked. After learning that Bloom had discovered the picture at the Wertz Brothers Antique Mart 42 years after it was originally taken, Beers thought it the perfect idea to prove Nora's prediction true and surprise her with the purse.

"I gave it to her as a present," Beers said. "I will never forget her face when she saw it. Her eyes got huge and she gasped and screamed, 'This is me! This is the postcard!' I just sat there laughing!"

After five years and repetitive suggestion on behalf of Beers, Tompkins finally contacted Bloom. Tompkins wished to elaborate and find out why Bloom had selected her postcard above all others to incorporate into her designs.

Bloom consistently uses antique images on her merchandise, but every bag that she has sold in the past five years displays Tompkins' postcard. Bloom said she only uses images that evoke some fond memory and make people smile. After their long-anticipated meeting, both women left feeling satisfied.

"I liked that it represented what we all thought the beach in California was like," Bloom said of the photo. "The meeting was better than expected. I felt that photo spoke to me, and now I know why."

news@smdp.com

BULGER
FROM PAGE 3

attorney, he was never involved in the prosecution of a case in which Bulger was a subject or target. Stearns also blasted the defense for questioning his impartiality.

"It would be institutionally irresponsible for me, or for that matter, any other judge, to enter a recusal in a case where a party has chosen to make untrue accusations in the possible hope of subverting that process, or at the very least, forcing a delay of a trial by injecting a diversionary issue into the proceedings," Stearns wrote.

Stearns also wrote that "no reasonable person" could doubt his impartiality. Bulger's lawyer, J.W. Carney Jr., zeroed in on that assertion when asked about Stearns' ruling following a pre-trial hearing in Bulger's case Tuesday.

Carney noted that Stearns headed the criminal division of the U.S. attorney's office during part of the 1980s, at a time when Bulger was allegedly committing crimes but not being prosecuted for them.

"Reasonable members of the general public will be free to express their own views" on that, Carney said.

Stearns said in his ruling that it would be pointless for Bulger's lawyers to call him as a witness on Bulger's immunity claim.

"Because at no time during my service as an AUSA did I participate in or have any knowledge of any case or investigation in which defendant was a subject or target, I have nothing of a relevant or material nature to offer with regard to this case or any claim of immunity," Stearns wrote.

Bulger, the former leader of the notorious Winter Hill Gang, fled Boston in 1994 after receiving a warning through his former FBI handler that he was about to be indicted.

Now 82, Bulger was apprehended last year in Santa Monica, Calif., after 16 years on the run. Former Boston FBI Agent John Connolly Jr. was convicted of racketeering in 2002 for tipping off a Bulger associate about the impending indictment.

During a pretrial hearing in U.S. District Court Tuesday, Magistrate Judge Marianne Bowler said she will unseal some documents in the case in response to motions by Bulger's lawyer to lift a protective order.

Bowler said she will give prosecutors two weeks to indicate which of the hundreds of thousands of pre-trial discovery documents in the case should remain sealed.

After that, she will give Bulger's defense team a chance to object. Then, she'll review the documents herself and decide which should remain sealed and which Bulger's defense team can share with outside lawyers, pre-trial focus groups or other third parties.

Carney said the protective order now in place prohibits him from sharing the documents with anyone other than lawyers in his firm or witnesses. He said the order has hindered his ability to discuss trial strategy or get outside feedback on the case.

HIT-AND-RUN

FROM PAGE 1

her birthday when she was killed.

"Rest in peace Claire Rose," writes Jasmine Vo. "You've always lit up the room when you walked in."

This is the third fatal traffic collision in Santa Monica in the last month.

On July 1, a 54-year-old woman was struck as she was walking in a crosswalk on Lincoln Boulevard at Ashland Avenue around 10:30 p.m. The driver, identified by police as a 65-year-old Santa Monica man, was interviewed at the scene and released. He was determined to not be under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Investigators are still trying to determine the cause of the accident and whether or not to recommend criminal charges be filed.

The victim succumbed to her injuries at a local hospital a few hours after the crash.

Police are still searching for the driver of a white 1999 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 extra cab truck that struck and killed a 30-year-old Venice woman July 10 as she was riding her bicycle on Pacific Coast Highway near Entrada Drive.

Police said Erin Galligan, a server at area restaurants, was struck about 11:30 p.m. and was pronounced dead at the scene.

Witnesses said she veered into the center lane as the truck was about to pass her. The driver hit her and continued to drive onto Interstate 10.

Galligan's bike was found about a half mile away from the crash site.

Anyone with information on both hit-and-runs is asked to call Sgt. Phillbo Rubish at (310) 458-8950 or the Santa Monica Police Department 24 hours a day at (310) 458-8495.

Some have called for increased penalties for those who fail to stop at the scene of a collision.

Currently the maximum penalty for a person who leaves the scene where a collision has resulted in death or permanent, serious injury is up to four years in prison and a fine of no more than $10,000, according to the California Department of Motor Vehicles. That is assuming the driver was not intoxicated at the time of the collision.

City Hall plans this fall to embark on a pedestrian action plan to help make streets safer and more aesthetically pleasing to those who walk. City officials will use traffic data to find those intersections that are most in need of additional lighting, wider sidewalks, or other measures.

A $350,000 contract with an outside consultant was approved by the City Council for that effort.

There are three broad categories of improvements that can impact pedestrian safety outside of public education about safety and law enforcement, said Sam Morrissey, principal transportation engineer with City Hall.

The first includes signs and markings, like painted crosswalks. The second includes signals and active warning devices, like the lights buried in the crosswalks that flash when pedestrians are in the roadway.

City officials are running a state-approved experiment to test a new kind of signal that would sit on the sides of the road at eye-level and flash when pedestrians are in the crosswalk.

They hope to find that the new signals will be as effective as the buried blinkers and also last longer because they won't be run over by heavy vehicles, Morrissey said.

Finally, City Hall can improve pedestrian safety at dangerous intersections with traffic signals, either mid-block or at intersections.

City Hall takes every accident seriously, Morrissey said, and they're looking at what might have caused the fatal collisions.

"We know that there's more that we can do, and we try to be a city that does more rather than the bare minimum," Morrissey said. "We would love to see people walk here and we want to make sure that they continue to do so safely."

City Hall added medians to Wilshire Boulevard in hopes that it would make it safer for pedestrians to cross, providing them a place to stop if they are unable to make it to the other side of the busy boulevard before a traffic light changes or traffic fails to yield.

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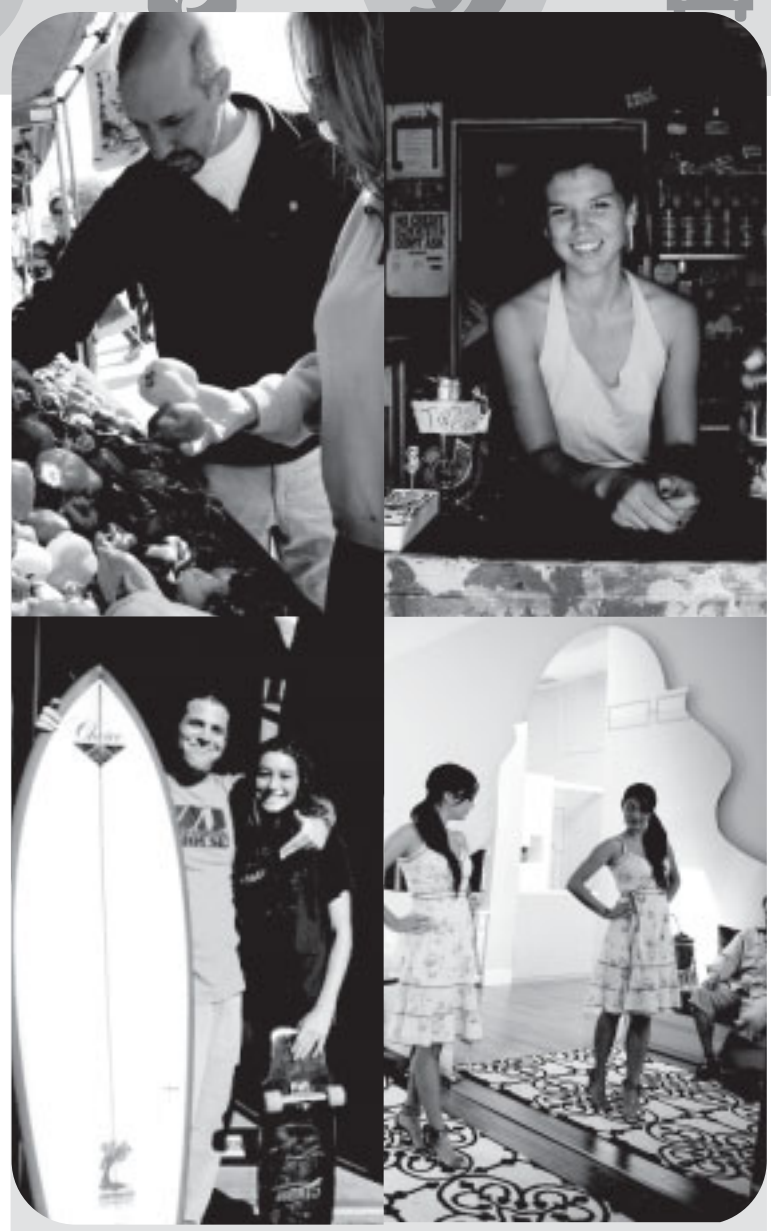

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STABBING
FROM PAGE 1

hospital for treatment. As of Tuesday morning, he was in stable condition, according to the release.

Police found the weapon used in the attack, but the attacker is still at large.

While the motivation behind the attack remains unknown, violence against homeless people is a too-common phenomenon, said John Maceri, director of OPCC, a homeless services organization.

"We unfortunately hear about physical assaults all the time on both men and women, and it's sad," Maceri said. "I think homeless people are more vulnerable, certainly. Sometimes it's easier to attack the homeless, especially when they're laying down or sitting down, unable to defend themselves."

According to a report released by the National Coalition for the Homeless, housed individuals have committed 1,184 acts of violence against homeless people between 1999 and 2010.

Most of those attacks were committed by young men, and 312 homeless people died as a result.

The attack in Santa Monica is another on a long list of violent assaults against the homeless in California.

California and Florida have the highest incidences of homeless violence, according to the report, with over 100 attacks each.

Two recent high-profile attacks in the two states include an ex-Marine who was arrested on suspicion of killing four homeless men in Southern California and a Miami man who allegedly ripped off a homeless man's face with his teeth before police shot him.

Former Gov. Charlie Crist (R-Fla) signed a law that made Florida one of the few states to classify attacks against the homeless as a hate crime.

"It's a sad reminder of how dangerous it is for people living on the streets," Maceri said.

The investigation of the stabbing is ongoing. Anyone with additional information is asked to contact Detective Chad Goodwin at (310) 458-8942 or Detective Maury Sumlin at (310) 458-8437.

Those who wish to remain anonymous can call WeTip at 1-800-78-CRIME (1-800-78-27463) or submit the tip online at www.wetip.com. You will remain completely anonymous, and may be eligible for a reward of up to $1,000 if your information leads to an arrest and conviction, according to the release.

Tipsters may also call Crime Stoppers at (800) 222-TIPS (8477) or by visiting their website at www.lacrimestoppers.org.

ashley@smdp.com

WILMONT
FROM PAGE 1

organization, including the purported new board members and people who supported them.

Letters were sent to those who "demonstrated that they hadn't agreed with the purposes of Wilmont," said Valerie Griffin, chair of Wilmont.

The seated board also approved a cease and desist letter, drafted by attorney Becki Kammerling, to warn the presumptive board members off of using the Wilmont name in any of their dealings.

The Monday night meeting could put the presumptive board in a bad position, Kammerling said.

"They've pushed themselves into a position where none of their actions are in compliance with law or membership rules," Kammerling said. "Under the bylaws, the board needed to terminate those memberships to get the organization back to a place where they can have regularly noticed meetings."

The board then plans to have an election in an environment where they can have an "open discussion without concern of heads being bitten off or an insurgent group taking over the meeting," Kammerling said.

While the new board is assuredly aware of the cease and desist letter, and a provision that promises they will be removed by security if they try to attend another board meeting, they aren't looking to back down.

There was talk of showing up to future City Council and Planning Commission meetings to comment on items as members of the board to cement their position in the eyes of the public.

Jeanne Dodson, a former chair of Wilmont and now one of the "insurgents," warned those present that doing so came with risks.

"If we do this, we could be sued," Dodson said.

Although the controversy between the two group rages on, the situation has given Wilmont an opportunity to clean house and update their policies, which have been out of whack for some time.

The organization still qualifies with the California Franchise Tax Board for its tax-exempt status, but has fallen out of compliance with the Internal Revenue Service, which issued a notice of revocation on July 9.

The group had not turned in a tax form called a 990 in three years, according to the IRS website. It was a problem that plagued many smaller nonprofit groups after the IRS changed its rules to require a new kind of reporting for smaller organizations.

Although a notice of the annual meeting at which the election was meant to be held was sent out on May 17, the e-mail did not include the names of the incumbent board members who were running for re-election or any other prospective candidates.

Those board members also did not turn in nominating papers, a process mentioned in the 2011 Wilmont bylaws, but without the notice with candidate names, the election couldn't have worked anyway, Kammerling said.

In that way, the brouhaha in June was almost a blessing in disguise.

"Now they have the opportunity to have a properly-noticed meeting, know who the candidates are, submit the petitions, get approved and verified," Kammerling said.

In the meantime, City Hall still shows no sign of getting involved in the situation, despite the conditions placed on the organization when it accepted a $4,000 grant.

Those include holding regular, open meetings. Although a private meeting was held last week, the board has canceled the previous two regular meetings, and says that it has not yet held an annual meeting.

City Hall will investigate complaints, wrote Kate Vernez, deputy city manager for special projects, in an e-mail.

Groups that are proven to be out of compliance with their bylaws as they relate to the criteria for the City Hall-funded grants will not be considered for future matching grants until they get their houses in order.

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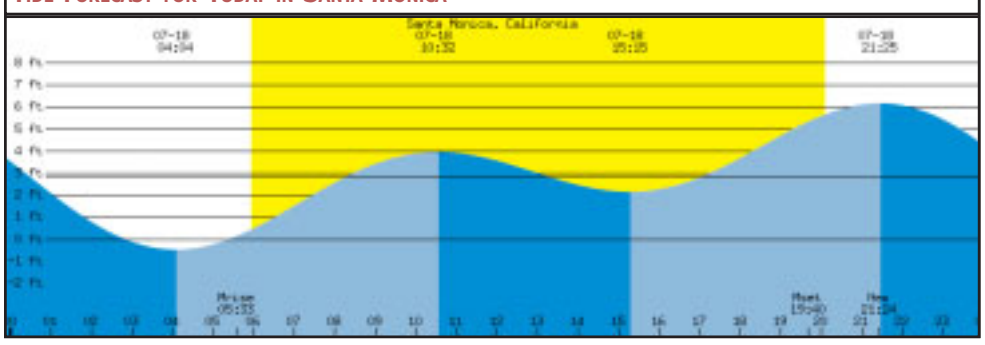

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- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 34 / 16
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / 10

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

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Los Alisos creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	F	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	A	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	B	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 21672 Malibu Rd.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location) - daily.	B	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	F	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	B	ns
Los Flores State Beach at Los Flores Creek (point zero).	A	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19648 PCH stairs.	A+	ns
Pena Creek at Los Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	B	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17208 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	ns

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

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone

WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days

ns -- no sample taken

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

Heal the Bay

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

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

OLYMPICS

Organizers insist early woes are minor

DANICA KIRKA & STEPHEN WILSON
Associated Press

LONDON London Games officials dismissed concerns Tuesday over a lost bus driver, a scramble for more security guards and some rain-soaked venues — embarrassments that had one tabloid newspaper headline using the Olympic rings to spell out the word "OOPS!"

Organizers said some of the complaints were exaggerated and tried to put the best face on the unfolding security debacle, as well as other concerns about the games, which start in 10 days.

"Let's put this in proportion," London Olympics head Sebastian Coe told reporters. "This has not, nor will it, impact on the safety and security of these games. That, of course, is our No. 1 priority."

His efforts were undercut in Parliament, where the chief executive of the G4S security group, Nick Buckles, acknowledged that his company's failure to recruit enough Olympic staff had embarrassed the entire nation. Some 3,500 British troops — including some just back from Afghanistan — had to be called in on short notice to fill the gap. Thousands more military personnel had already been assigned to the games.

Buckles gave a groveling mea culpa on live TV as he was being questioned by angry lawmakers.

"It's a humiliating shambles for the country, isn't it?" asked Labour lawmaker David Winnick.

"I cannot disagree with you," Buckles said.

He was hard-pressed to explain why his company had failed to tell officials until only two weeks before the start of the games that its recruitment efforts had failed.

Some U.S. security and law enforcement officials had privately expressed concerns as early as last year that there might not be enough personnel for the London Games.

The FBI is sending about two dozen agents to London to work on Olympic security, according to two U.S. government officials. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk publicly about the plans.

G4S will pay for its mistake, saying it expects to lose between 35 million pounds and 50 million pounds ($54 million to $78 million) on the contract, which is about 12 percent of its annual profit.

Olympics minister Hugh Robertson said the deployment of soldiers at Olympic Park would give people "enormous reassurance."

Robertson, an army veteran, said athletes are "incredibly reassured to see the armed forces on the gate."

About 2,500 of the additional personnel will be housed in East London at Tobacco Dock, a 19th century tobacco warehouse now used as an exhibition center, the military said.

Outside Parliament, hundreds of London cabbies ignited new traffic jams as they protested their exclusion from special Olympic lanes set up across the city's roads for buses and cars carrying athletes and other VIPs.

As the world's athletes flew into London on Monday — the first big day of Olympic arrivals — a few buses carrying them from Heathrow Airport took a wrong turn and got lost.

"OOPS!" headlined The Sun tabloid, using two of the interlocked Olympic rings in the word.

"First day. First arrivals. It's going to happen," said Jayne Pearce, head of press operations.

Still, the lost buses — one carrying Americans, the other Australians — touched a nerve. From the very start, London organizers have feared repeating the transportation woes of the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, where one of the biggest problems was hiring bus drivers from outside the city who didn't know their way around.

Coe urged optimism, despite a Twitter storm that erupted when U.S. hurdler Kerron Clement took to the social networking site to express frustration with what he said was a four-hour bus ride from Heathrow to the athletes village.

Coe said Clement's bus journey actually took 2 1/2 hours and most athletes experienced no problems in reaching the village.

"Apart from a misturning and a couple of tweets, we're in pretty good shape," Coe quipped. "The majority of athletes got in in good shape and on time. When they were met by our village mayor and chief executive, they were busily tweeting, saying how much they were enjoying village life. Ninety-eight percent of these journeys went without a hitch."

At Heathrow itself, the airport sailed through its heaviest passenger day ever with short immigration lines and plenty of help for Olympic travelers.

Coe also played down complaints about a miles-long traffic jam caused by the opening of the Olympic lane on the M4 highway from the airport into the city.

"I understand there was an accident at Reading, which slowed some stuff down, but the vast majority of people got through and it seems to be working quite well," he said.

The Olympic "Games Lanes" remain a contentious issue. Hundreds of London cab drivers blockaded the square outside Parliament on Tuesday, blaring horns and snarling traffic to protest their exclusion from the lanes. The cabbies claim it will be all but impossible to ferry passengers around once most of the special lanes take effect July 25.

Britain's notorious rainy weather may prove an even more intractable problem.

Coe said "we've got mops and buckets" to deal with the incessant rain that has soaked London for most of the summer. There is waterlogged ground at two key venues — rowing at Eton Dorney west of London and equestrian at Greenwich Park, south of the Thames River.

"It is a problem," Coe said. "It is causing us extra challenges now."

Organizers are resurfacing areas at the two venues, laying down temporary tracking for vehicles and spectators, and putting up special tent shelters to keep the workforce dry, he said.

Although forecasters say the weather could clear in time for the July 27 start of the games, Coe noted that organizers have contingency plans. Extra competition days were built into the schedule "as a last resort" for rowing and equestrian. There is an alternate course available for sailing events at Weymouth, in southeast England, and Wimbledon has a retractable roof over Centre Court for tennis.

Olympic Park, however, still resembles a construction site, with workers laying cables, installing seats and landscaping grounds Tuesday.

Not to worry, Coe said.

"Our venues will be open on time," he promised. "There is still stuff to be done, but it's about dressing up. We'll be ready."

Organizers also said they are reducing capacity at several stadiums hosting soccer matches after failing to sell all the tickets.

MOVIE TIMES

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

Almayer's Folly (NR) 2hrs 07min
7:30pm

Belgian beer reception to follow screening.

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, 7:00pm

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

Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection (PG-13) 1hr 54min
4:15pm, 9:55pm

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

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
1:45pm, 5:00pm, 8:15pm

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

Ted (R) 1hr 46min
11:45am, 12:45pm, 2:30pm, 3:30pm, 5:30pm, 8:30pm, 10:15pm

Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG) 1hr 34min
11:15am, 1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

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

Met Summer Encore: Lucia di Lammermoor () 2hrs 25min
6:30pm

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

Intouchables (R) 1hr 52min
1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:10pm

Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (PG-13) 1hr 58min
1:10pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm

Unforgivable (Impardonnables) (NR) 1hr 50min
1:50pm, 7:10pm

Your Sister's Sister (R) 1hr 30min
9:50pm

Safety Not Guaranteed (R) 1hr 25min
4:40pm, 9:55pm

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

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

Ice Age: Continental Drift 3D (PG) 1hr 34min
11:45am, 2:35pm, 5:15pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

Moonrise Kingdom (PG-13) 1hr 33min
11:20am, 1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

Savages (R) 2hrs 10min
11:55am, 3:10pm, 5:00pm, 6:30pm, 8:15pm, 9:45pm

People Like Us (PG-13) 1hr 55min
11:15am, 1:55pm

Magic Mike (R) 1hr 50min
11:30am, 2:10pm, 5:00pm, 7:55pm, 10:30pm

Katy Perry: Part of Me (PG) 1hr 35min
11:35am, 2:15pm

Katy Perry: Part of Me 3D (PG) 1hr 35min
4:55pm, 7:35pm, 10:25pm

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

Let off steam tonight, Sag

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★ Tension weaves through your plans, domestic life and important interactions. As a result, you might take the most unexpected course of action. Remember that despite the initial shock, there could be long-term reactions. Tonight: Mosey on home.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ You will make an effort to get past any negativity that enters your day. The smart Bull will pull back in order not to catch this attitude. Recognize that someone is explosive. Even if this person loses his or her temper, it might not be directed at you. Tonight: Visit with a friend.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★ Be aware of the cost of heading in a certain direction. Resist taking a risk, no matter how sure it might seem. You could be jolted by events surrounding work or someone you look up to. Be careful. Tonight: Let off steam.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ You are all smiles, and it makes a big difference in many people's days. Understand that they might not let you know right away because of the stress they are experiencing. News from a distance could jolt you at first, but you'll use it well. Tonight: It's your call.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★ Use today's New Moon for some reflection on your long-term desires. An element of difficulty could be coloring this process, but not every day is sunny. The unexpected might occur when dealing with an important person in your life. Tonight: Take a break from your normal pace.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Zero in on your priorities. You feel a restriction, at least mentally, surrounding your funds. Though this attitude could be helpful at times, it might create more negativity than is necessary. Tonight: Indulge without breaking the bank.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★ Take a stand and listen to feedback. You might want to anchor in and stay calm, despite a certain amount of chaos that enters your plans. You could be angrier or a lot more hurt than you think. Make it OK if you lose your temper. Tonight: Sit back and observe.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Keep reaching out for someone at a distance. You might take his or her lack of responsiveness personally. Don't -- at least not until you have the whole story. Listen to your sixth sense when dealing with an associate. Tonight: An explosive situation could develop, unless you stay mellow.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Deal with one person at a time. You could be more irritated by a situation involving a friend or loved one than you realize. The unexpected occurs with a child. Incorporate your innate creativity into anything you do. Tonight: Let off steam.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Defer to others, and know your limits. You cannot handle all the responsibilities all the time. Be smart and learn to delegate more often, even if it is just at home getting the chores done. Tonight: Finally, time to relax with friends.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★ Remain even, despite a situation that seems to keep building or creating stress. You still could be surprised by an unanticipated development or a change of plans. Tonight: Relax. You need a stress-buster.

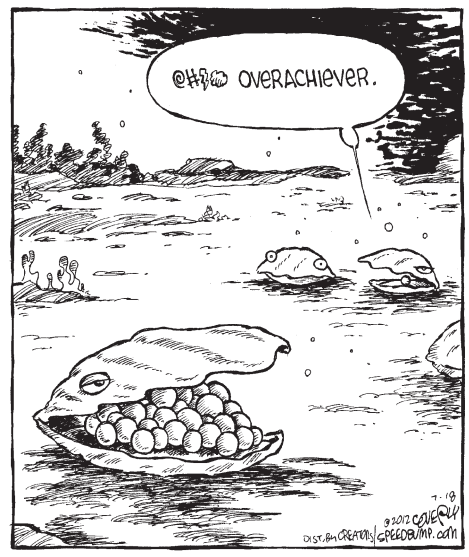
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Let your creativity emerge, despite any present tension. A partner seems to close down one more time. You could be pushing way too hard to please this person, especially with money. Tonight: Stir some sugar into a bitter situation.

Happy birthday

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

This year use care, as often out-of-the-blue anger erupts. Someone you have counted on could become most unpredictable. You cannot stabilize this person, but you will want to claim your power and maintain an independent profile. If you are single, who you attract might not be what you want on a deep level. Know that there is someone better around the corner. If you are attached, accept your significant other for better or for worse. You could criticize or ignore this person, but that behavior will get you nowhere. CANCER can be provocative.

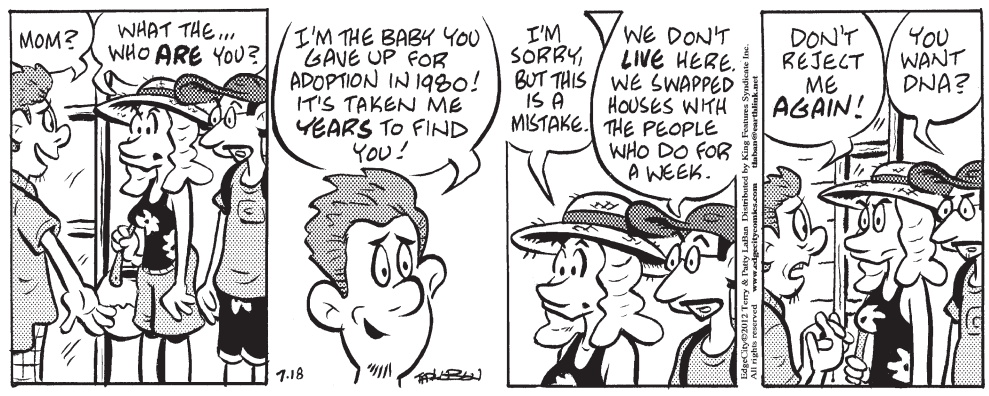
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



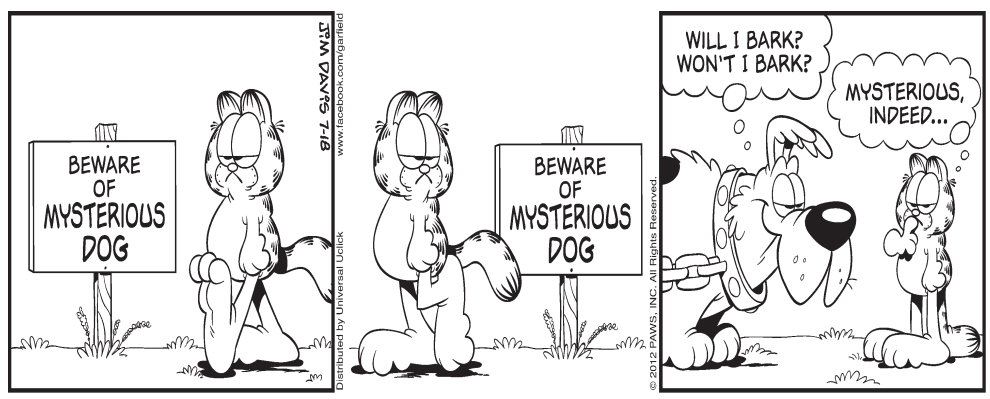
Strange Brew
By John Deering

Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni

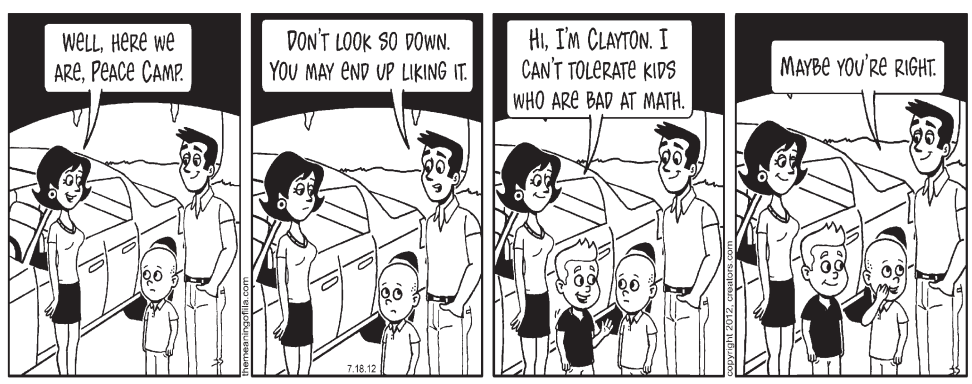
Edge City
By Terry & Patty LaBan



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 ★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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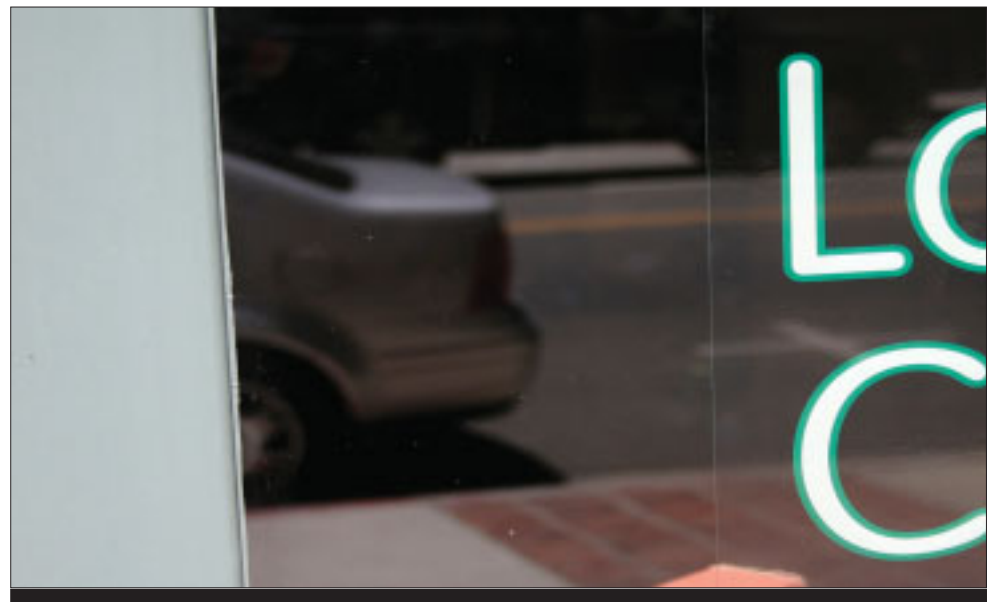


MYSTERY PHOTO

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 Shower-cleaning buy
7 Nick and Nora's dog
11 Not too late
12 Rating unit
13 Scan computer data
14 Unexpected wrinkle
15 Bomb type
17 Night fliers
20 Egyptian crosses
23 Mess up
24 Typographical symbol
26 Haddock's home
27 Fish eggs
28 Yeoman's "yes"
29 Charm
31 Actor Ayres
32 Reserved
33 Sorts
34 Patisserie workers
37 General Bradley
39 River setting
43 Blockhead
44 Glacial period
45 Snaky swimmers
46 Admits

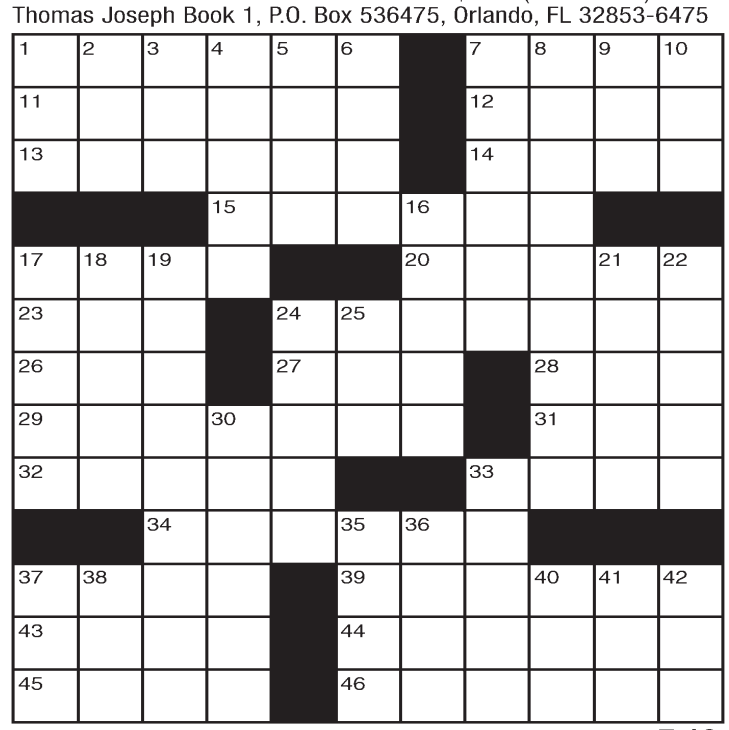
DOWN

1 Fragrant tree
2 Low digit
3 — loss (perplexed)
4 Gold-loving king
5 Throw off
6 Gambling mecca
7 Kind of price
8 Vacant lot game
9 Sandy color
10 Bible boat
16 "Olympia" painter
17 Plague
18 Sports spot
19 Mouse alternative
21 Salma of "Frida"
22 Hearty dishes
24 Guzzled
25 Charged particle
30 Trick-taking game
33 Key
35 Malevolent
36 Track event
37 Pindar poem
38 "The Simpsons" bartender
40 — Vegas
41 Big head
42 Longing

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

Yesterday's answer

NEW CROSSWORD BOOK! Send $4.75 (check/m.o.) to Thomas Joseph Book 1, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475



7-18

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 7/13
6 7 13 24 46
Meganumber: 34
Jackpot: $28M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 7/14
2 6 8 12 19
Meganumber: 23
Jackpot: $13M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 7/17
20 23 26 30 36

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 7/17
MIDDAY: 6 3 1
EVENING: 7 4 4

SANTA ANITA PARK
Draw Date: 7/17
1st: 11 Money Bags
2nd: 08 Gorgeous George
3rd: 09 Winning Spirit
RACE TIME: 1:41.88

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

■ Generally, airbags save lives, but apparently not Ronald Smith's. According to a coroner's inquest in Darlington, England, in May, Smith's airbag deployed, but in the process was cut open on jagged glass, which forced a rush of the bag's gas and talcum powder (used as a lubricant by many manufacturers) into his lungs. Smith soon afterward developed fatal bronchial pneumonia from inhaling the substances.

■ entencing statutes and guidelines generally assign heavier penalties to those more culpable for criminal enterprise -- but not always. Houston grandmother Elisa Castillo, then 53, was convicted in 2009 of conspiracy to smuggle a ton of cocaine from Mexico and sentenced to life in prison without possibility of parole (a penalty authorized by statute), despite substantial evidence that she was a minor figure and despite her previously clean criminal record. According to a May Houston Chronicle investigation, several higher-up drug smugglers, including those on law-enforcement's "most wanted" lists, have received much lighter prison terms than Castillo's, precisely because, being so high up, they have inside information that they can bargain with prosecutors over. Castillo, relatively insignificant, had nothing to trade.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1976 – Nadia Com?neci became the first person in Olympic Games history to score a perfect 10 in gymnastics at the 1976 Summer Olympics.

1982 – 268 campesinos ("peasants" or "country people") are slain in the Plan de Sánchez massacre in Ríos Montt's Guatemala.

1984 – McDonald's massacre in San Ysidro, California: in a fast-food restaurant, James Oliver Huberty opens fire, killing 21 people and injuring 19 others before being shot dead by police.

WORD UP!

deflagrate
**\ DEF-luh-greyt ** , verb;
1. To burn, especially suddenly and violently.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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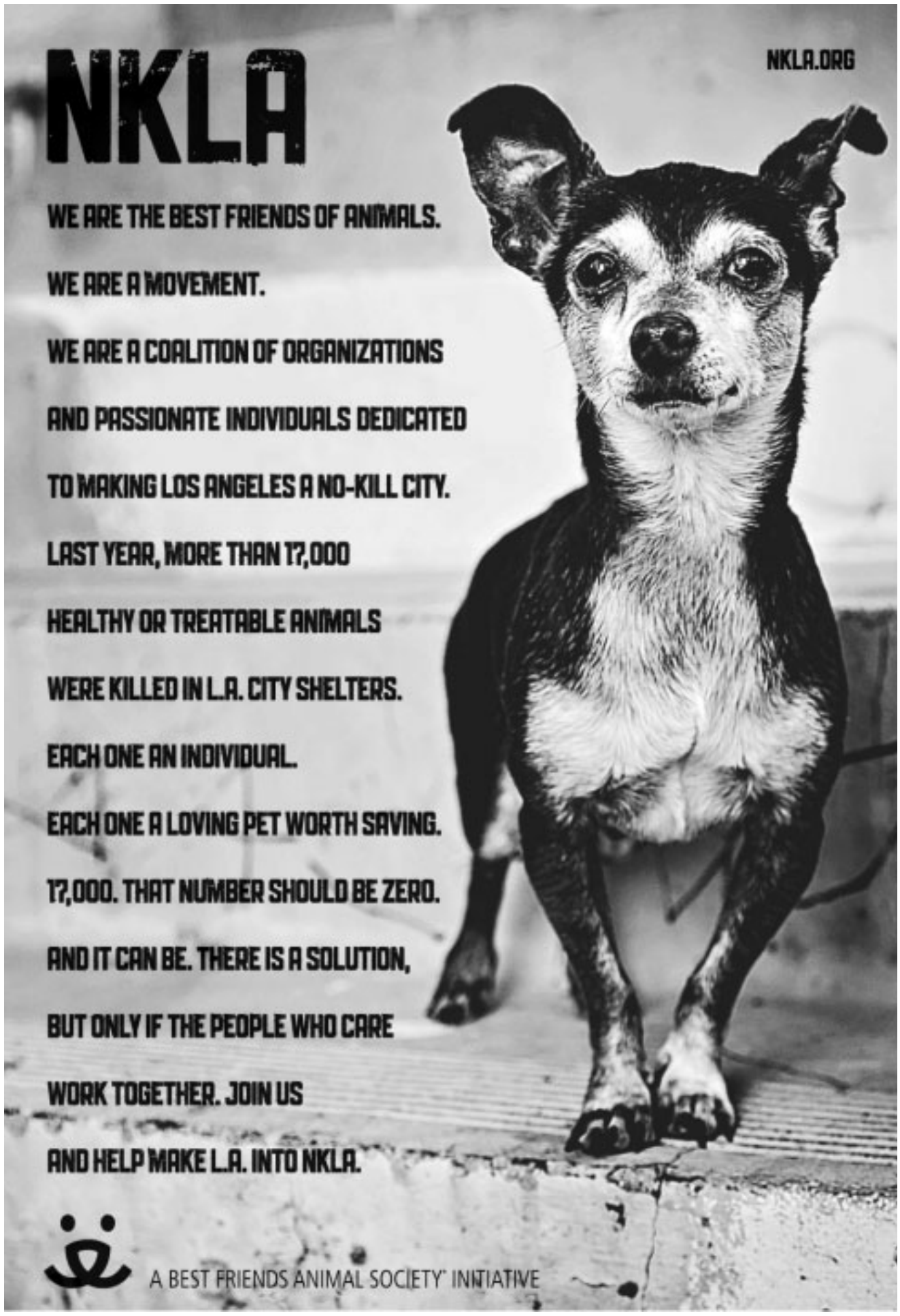

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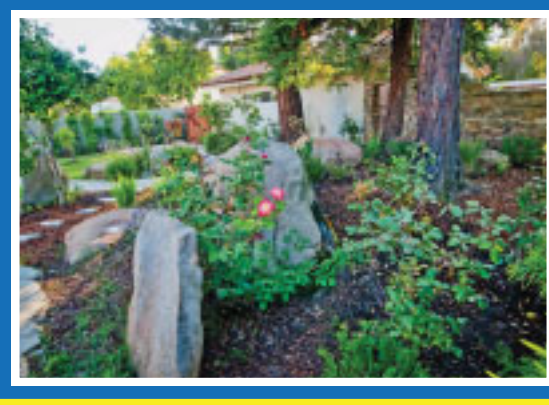

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North of Montana	=	$4,055,850
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$3,079,000
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