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TUESDAY, JULY 24, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 217



Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

NO MORE PET STORES
SEE PAGE 3

THE ON SECOND THOUGHT ISSUE

Smoking ban may gasp final breath

Condominium owners, marijuana concerns could change key votes on City Council

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL A controversial decision to ban smoking for new tenants and condominium owners in Santa Monica looks likely to be reversed today with two of its former supporters signaling a change of heart.

Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom and Councilmember Terry O'Day, who both voted to pass the ban on July 10, have expressed reservations in making it law.

Bloom wrote the Daily Press Monday to say that he intended to vote "no" in order to have the opportunity to discuss "a few points that came up at the last hearing and since."

O'Day has not decided if he will change his vote, but indicated that he was concerned about gaps in the ordinance around medical marijuana usage and a lack of outreach to owners of condominiums.

The two voted to pass the ban alongside

SEE SMOKING PAGE 8

Suspect in homeless stabbings faces charges

BY SEAN FITZ-GERALD
Special to the Daily Press



ROBINSON

LOS ANGELES A man suspected of attacking three homeless people in Santa Monica and Los Angeles was charged Monday with three counts of attempted murder, the District Attorney's Office announced.

Courtney Anthony Robinson, 37, called 911 on Friday and said it was his face being distributed on flyers around the city, Commander Andrew Smith said Saturday. Officers found Robinson inside a fast food restaurant in Hollywood and took him into custody without incident.

Police previously described Robinson as a possible homeless man from Santa Barbara, who also went by David Ben Keyes, a name written on notes — referred to as "death warrants" — left at the three stabbing scenes. Robinson admitted to signing the notes, Smith said.

Robinson was charged with three counts of attempted murder with personal use of a knife and great bodily injury allegations, said Deputy District Attorney John Gilligan. Prosecutors will ask that his bail be adjusted to $3 million. He is currently being held on $500,000 bail.

Robinson is scheduled to be arraigned today at the Foltz Criminal Justice Center, Department 30, sometime after

SEE CHARGES PAGE 10



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

BUBBLING UP: **A fire hydrant at the corner of Ocean and Colorado avenues. City officials are considering purchasing parts for the water system.**

City Hall to buy replacement parts for water infrastructure

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 Santa Monica City Council has a heavyweight calendar set for Tuesday night, but it will get the ball rolling with an easy round of consent.

The entire consent agenda calls for spending in the amount of $535,000, and even includes a $60,000 savings on contract agreements with three of City Hall's unions and revisions to the executive pay plan.

The big spender on Tuesday's agenda is the Water Division, which is asking for $250,000 this year (and $750,000 over a three-year period) to buy replacement and repair parts for Santa Monica's water infrastructure.

The division cares for 205 miles of water main, 1,300 fire hydrants and 17,000 service connections, and the division needs to

SEE CONSENT PAGE 9

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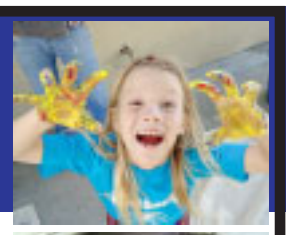
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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, July 24, 2012

Making decisions

City Hall, City Council Chambers
1685 Main St., 5:30 p.m.
The City Council will meet to discuss the adoption of ordinances regarding public parking, taxicabs, second-hand smoke protection in multi-unit residential properties and the transformation of parking levels into office spaces. For more information, call (310) 458-8211.

To the music

Typhoon
3221 Donald Douglas Loop South, 8 p.m. & 9:30 p.m.
The Tom Nolan Band will bring its mix of classic soul, blues and jazz to this popular eatery located at Santa Monica Airport. For more information, call (310) 390-6565.

Swim it out

Annenberg Community Beach House
415 PCH, 6:30 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.
Enjoy the pool on Tuesday evenings through Labor Day. Admission is $7 a person or $5 with the purchase of a same-day pool pass. For more information, call (310) 458-4904.

Red hens

Annenberg Community Beach House
415 PCH, 6:30 p.m. — 8 p.m.
Four poets — Brendan Constantine, Lillian-Yvonne Bertram, Lynnell Edwards and Nicelle Davis — convene for a reading of contemporary and timeless poetry. Moderated by Eric Morago, the reading is purported to be a full-body and mind workout. Plan to arrive by 6:15 p.m. to retain your reservation, as late seating is not guaranteed. Register online at eventbrite.com, and for more information, call (310) 458-4904.

Wednesday, July 25, 2012

Hook up at the market

Michael's Santa Monica
1147 Third Street Promenade, 8:30 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.
Michael McCarty and Chef Kuramoto lead an exclusive tour of the Downtown Farmers' Market to introduce guests to their favorite farmers, pay homage to ingredients of the season and show how to pick the best goods. Guests will then head back to the restaurant and enjoy dishes specially created by Chef Kuramoto featuring the monthly ingredient, as well as wine pairings and recipes to take home. For more information, call (310) 451-0843.

Write on!

Children's Activity Room, Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd., 2 p.m. — 4 p.m.
Check out the next installment of the teen writers' workshop. Get the chance to meet local authors, develop writing skills and publish work in a teen 'zine. Space is limited and is offered on a first come, first served basis. Workshop is intended for grades seven to 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

KANSAS CITY, MO.

Local project wins public works award

The American Public Works Association (APWA) named Santa Monica's Charnock Well Field Restoration Project a 2012 Public Works Project of the Year, APWA announced Monday.

Presented annually, the APWA awards promote excellence in the management and administration of public works projects and recognize the alliance between managing agencies, contractors, consultants and their cooperative achievements.

For Charnock, the city of Santa Monica acted as the managing agency with Black & Veatch Corp. acting as the primary contractor and consultant. This year APWA selected projects in five categories: environment, disaster/emergency, historical restoration, structures and transportation.

Awarded in the environment category, Santa Monica's project was the result of the 1996 closure of the Charnock Well Field because of contamination in the form of methyl tertiary-butyl ether, a gasoline additive that is highly soluble in water.

Because of the closure, City Hall increased its reliance on imported water, and as a result of a settlement with three major oil companies, undertook the Charnock project with the hopes of fully restoring local groundwater supplies and reducing the need for imported water from Northern California and the Colorado River.

The two sites that comprised the project were the Charnock Well Field and the Santa Monica Water Treatment Plant (WTP). Improvements included treating contaminated groundwater, removing minerals and replacing the Santa Monica WTP with an advanced water treatment system that provides a multi-barrier, four-step approach to treatment of groundwater prior to distribution.

The completed $60-million project was put online in December, 2010. As a result, Santa Monica now provides nearly 70 percent of the water it needs on an average day – this compared to the roughly 20 percent available while the facilities were offline.

The city of Santa Monica and Black & Veatch will be presented with APWA's award during APWA's 2012 International Public Works Congress & Exposition in Anaheim, Calif. on Aug. 26-29.

– SEAN FITZ-GERALD

CITYWIDE

CityTV earns 3 awards, 3 nominations

Santa Monica CityTV recently won three first-place STAR Awards at a conference held by the Southern California and Nevada Chapter of the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (SCAN NATOA) and received news that it has been nominated for three Los Angeles-area Emmy Awards, CityTV announced Sunday.

Awarded for recognition of excellence in government programming, the STAR Awards are given by SCAN NATOA, a nonprofit organization serving local governments and regional authorities in the development, regulation and administration of cable franchises and other telecommunications systems.

CityTV's professional live coverage of the Twilight Concert Series at the Santa Monica Pier collected the STAR in the performing arts category; the show "Tour de Feast," a program that features host Michael Ryan, the Daily Press' food writer, visiting various Santa Monica eateries via bicycle, snagged the STAR in the economic development category; and CityTV.org took home the award for best channel website.

The organization's website, which offers live streaming of the channel 24/7, was lauded because it provides easy-to-read program and scheduling information.

On the Emmy side of things, CityTV garnered nominations in the public or municipal cable operator category for shows "Cheap Eats" and "Metro Motion," and a public service announcement for the Pico Youth & Family Center made the cut for the PSA category.

The winners will be announced at the 64th Los Angeles Area Emmy Awards presentation Saturday, Aug. 11 at the Leonard H. Goldenson Theatre in North Hollywood.

– SFG



AT YOUR SERVICE

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

Vanessa Davis, an employee with the local DoubleTree by Hilton location, hands out cookies and other freebies during the Little Things Project on Monday at the Santa Monica Pier. DoubleTree's team was on the pier to find out what visitors want when they travel.

Local mall operator favoring animal adoptions over pet stores

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PHOENIX The parent company of one of metro Phoenix's major mall operators is phasing out pet stores in favor of animal adoption centers.

The Santa Monica, Calif.-based Macerich, which owns the Westcor malls in the Phoenix area, said it will not renew leases for any pet stores that sell live animals. The policy adopted last year could benefit rescued animals and the agencies that tend to them.

"Our focus is now directed to working with local pet rescue organizations in our communities and pet accessory retailers to serve the needs of our shoppers," said Melissa Rupp, assistant marketing manager at the Macerich owned SanTan Village in Gilbert.

The policy reflects a national shift in public opinion regarding pet buying, the Arizona Republic reported Monday. The Humane Society of the United States and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty Animals have investigated puppy mills and commercial dog-breeding operations that they say raise animals in squalor.

The West Hollywood City Council voted in 2010 to ban stores from selling cats and dogs to curb puppy mills and kitty factories. No pet stores in the city sold animals at the time, but officials said they were hopeful the ordinance would prompt other municipalities to follow suit.

The owners of pet stores in four Macerich malls unsuccessfully fought the company's policy. Frank and Vicki Mineo, who run Puppies 'N Love, said they are nearing the end of their leases and possibly their business.

"I do believe there are pet stores that do buy and sell puppies from substandard breeders," Vicki said. "But for us it is disheartening to know we do everything to assure that we purchase our puppies from reputable and responsible breeders, only for something like this to happen."

The Mineos, who are siblings, allow rescue groups to adopt out dogs from their shuttered pet store in a Scottsdale mall, free of charge. Their earnings come from the sale of pet supplies, toys and food.

The trend toward adoption centers began in Arizona before Macerich adopted its policy.

SEE **PETS** PAGE 10



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Enough with the guns

Editor:

One dark night too many. Stop these massacres now!

Enough of this cursed Second Amendment which leads to a nation armed to the teeth and a citizenry which must risk going down in a hail of machine gun bullets wherever they go. Going to school? Driving the freeway? Going for a hamburger? Going to a movie with your kids? Then prepare to die, for this is modern America.

Enough of the Republican gun-lover propaganda, which says guns are good but results in bad people and crazies condemning their fellow countrymen to death and appointing themselves as executioner. This slaughter of innocents is not going to go away. This is only going to get worse until the good people of America come to their senses and stop drinking the National Rifle Association Kool-Aid.

Enough of violent and sick Hollywood movies which inculcate a culture of violence into the minds of youth. We no longer have a civilization. It's time to recognize this. When you can be massacred anywhere you go, then you do not have a civilization.

The America we knew and loved died in a hail of bullets [the other] night in a Colorado cinema as the Dark Knight rose and America fell, doomed by its own freedoms.

Neil Macula
Santa Monica

Calling for clean air

Editor:

I am writing to you as a resident/renter/Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights member and 100 percent voter of Santa Monica. Thank you for all your interest in members of our community. As you may know, on the "air issue" [Santa Monica] leaders have got it very wrong.

There is no reason whatsoever to make excuses for smoke anywhere in our community. To do so is such a delusional and old-school mentality (it's not the 1960s anymore!); shouldn't Santa Monica be on the forefront, leading? Get with it! The best way to protect nausea/cancer sufferers is not by sending them the message that smoking will help. Smoke is dangerous to everyone!

Realistically,

• cancer.org/Treatment/TreatmentsandSideEffects/ComplementaryandAlternativeMedicine/HerbsVitaminsandMinerals/marijuana

• dying.about.com/od/paincontrol/a/Alternatives-To-Smoking-Medicinal-Marijuana.htm

And, why not?

• www.blisssville.com

The only thing worse than cancer induced nausea is unnecessary carcinogenic smoke in our shared air. Please have respect and empathy for cancer as well as asthma sufferers; all of the members of our community deserve clean air!

Thank you for your fair reporting!

C. Hill
Santa Monica

Vote for hope

Editor:

The Daily Press reports that the choice for president is grim.

"While a lack of specifics is something that voters bemoan about their candidates every presidential election, the vagueness of the 2012 race is even more pronounced as both campaigns spend more time arguing about past issues like Obama's health care law and Romney's private sector experience than on what they'd do in the future if elected," the paper says ("Obama, Romney short on specifics," July 14-15).

Or you could register and vote Green for a future.

The Green's presidential candidate Jill Stein offers a "Green New Deal," including:

- guaranteed jobs
- tuition-free college
- nationalized banks
- massive military cuts
- end to the Patriot Act

Why not vote your hopes, not your fears?

Andy K. Liberman
Santa Monica



Back to Nature

Reese Halter — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Wild prairies deep in drought

THE UNITED STATES HAS NOW ENTERED the worst drought since 1956.

It's having a ruinous effect on corn, soybean and honey production (to name just a few crops); it's even disrupting the flow of the mighty Mississippi River. The Great Plains grasslands are no stranger to droughts, but in combination with higher than normal temperatures this occurrence is particularly brutal. Let me tell you about this tremendous ecosystem.

The Great Plains grasslands occupy an astoundingly vast area of central North America, encompassing 14 percent of Canada and the United States. It is truly one of the most remarkable and timeless ecosystems on the planet.

To comprehend the arid prairie of today, we must delve back into time examining the bedrock from 3.6 billion years ago. The layers above this bedrock tell the story of the last 550 million years of Earth's history. They clearly show the floors to the many different seas and its life forms, to tens of millions of years of mountain building and millions of years of wind and water erosion, glaciations and, finally, deglaciation.

Scientists have documented rich fossils in sandstones and shale now buried 3 miles beneath the canola fields of the grasslands. The beautiful tyndall stone of Manitoba, Canada, used as a hallmark of prairie buildings, represents ancient Silurian coral reefs from 440 million years ago. When that sea evaporated, intense concentrations of salts precipitated out the salty waters, leaving thick beds of potash and other salts in Saskatchewan. Other seas and sea life left the legacy of vast gooey oil fields for Alberta.

Frenchman's Valley in Grasslands National Park reveals extensive prehistoric details of the fearsome Tyrannosaurus-rex, like its 3 quarts sample of intact dung with the undigested head of its Triceratops prey.

About 3 million years ago the Earth cooled and entered a permanent winter that lasted up to about 18,000 years ago. Slabs of ice 3 miles thick bulldozed the prairies. And then came the extraordinary glacial melt, equivalent to all the ice on present-day Antarctica melting at once.

Soon after the melt, unusual looking Ice Age mega-mammals like woolly mammoths, mastodons, saber-toothed lions and bison roamed the prairies. By 11,000 years ago there were chipped fragments of stone and bone as humans hunted mammoths, mastodons and bison.

Ten thousand years ago mean global temperatures rose abruptly. Woodland vegetation, in the form of clumps of trees, shifted dramatically in response to warmer and drier conditions. The Ice Age mega-mammals abruptly died, bison became dominant and about 140 different kinds of drought tolerant grasses moved in.

The story of the prairies revolves around the climate. Its plants, animals — including its people — are some of the hardiest in the world. The prairies are a land of extremes: either inundated by saline or glacial melt waters, or the land that is as dry as a bone.

Grasses have figured out how to contend with aridity. They invest as much as 80 percent of their growth into roots and are able to regenerate by cloning from vegetative structures. They are well adapted to seasonal grazing and the frequent occurrences of lightning induced, fast moving surface fires.

The soils of the Great Plains grasslands are legendary for their fertility. Trillions upon trillions of soil algae, fungi, mycorrhizae, bacteria and protozoa create what may be the greatest diversity of living organisms on Earth, and in turn, the soil of the prairies.

Microscopic water bears called tardigrades waddle through the film around soil granules, and drill into roots with sharp snouts, sucking out nourishment.

The soils are fertile because the grasses produce more below-ground vegetation than soil organisms can consume. The excess nutrients are stored in a layer called humus, which very slowly releases nutrients back into plant roots. Moreover, four different species of dung beetles process huge amounts of organic matter, enhancing the soil fertility and providing their offspring with food, water and shelter; a rare example of adult insects caring for their offspring.

The assemblage of over 2,000 native species of plants and animals on the prairies outdoes that of the subtropical Florida Everglades. The wonderful tangled web of interconnections on the grasslands is breathtaking. For example, the black-tailed prairie dog, or beaver of the grasslands, creates living space for scarlet mallow and prickly pear cactus, also making food and shelter for insects, birds, mice, rabbits, hares and the endangered burrowing owls reoccupy old prairie dog burrows. In addition, 160 species of vertebrates, two species of rattle snakes, hawks, weasels, skunks, badgers, bobcats, coyotes, foxes and the endangered black-footed ferret prey on prairie dogs.

The prairies are truly unique because of the ephemeral aquatic potholes and the exquisite pockets of animal and plant diversity that surround them. The aquatic life forms have all adapted to drying up. Cattails and bulrush seeds can live in a dormant state for over 30 years awaiting rainfall to germinate and refill potholes. The Great Plains spade toads have spurs or spades on their hind legs and as a drought sets in they excavate like augers into the soil, reducing their metabolism for months, or even years, until the thunder awakens them and rain finally occurs.

Over the past 100 years our prairies have fed the world; yet inadvertently we have destroyed crucial natural habitat by harming the soils with fertilizers. Only about 1 percent of the Great Plains grasslands is currently protected. There is, however, hope. The Herculean efforts of the Nature Conservancy, Land Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited and the Land Institute in Kansas are making headway to safeguard the land and provide sustainable alternatives for our children.

The key to our future is to protect the diversity of swimming, flying, walking, crawling and wriggling forms of life on the wild prairies.

DR. REESE HALTER is an award-winning broadcaster and distinguished biologist. His latest books are "The Incomparable Honeybee" and "The Insatiable Bark Beetle." Contact him through www.DrReese.com.

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Your column here

Rev. James L. Snyder

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

All I ever wanted to do was go fishing

I JUST CELEBRATED ANOTHER BIRTHDAY, which got me to thinking about the "good old days." You can usually tell how old a person is by how many times they refer to the "good old days," or the phrase, "when I was a youngster."

I have come to the conclusion that getting old is not something to be ashamed of in the least. A person reaches a certain age simply because they have not died yet, which is nothing to make a person feel guilty.

Although I do not think too much of birthdays, I intend to have as many as possible. Don't get me wrong. I am ready to go when my time is up, but, in the meantime, I am going to enjoy life.

My recent birthday got me thinking about the "good old days" of my youth. Memory is a funny thing. For the most part, we remember the good of our youth and rarely the bad. I often hear some old geezer say, "I wish I were 16 again." If their memory was serving them correctly, 16 was not a very good year for any of us. I am glad I have gotten beyond my 16th birthday. As I remember it, it was a terrible year.

I can honestly say that the best years of my life are the ones I am living now.

Sure, I have some regrets. I have done things I probably should not have done, and I did not do some things I probably should have. If I had to live my life over again not only will I make the same mistakes, but also I probably would add to the list quite significantly. I do not want to live my life over again. Once is enough for me, thank you.

But as I was thinking of those "good old days," I could not help but think what I was thinking about back then. It went something like this.

When I was in school sitting in Ms. Ammon's class, I was daydreaming about going fishing. All I could think about was what kind of fish were biting out by the lake this afternoon. Ms. Ammon would call upon me and I would have no idea what she was talking about. In my mind, I was fishing. In my body, I was suffering under classititis. It is what students, especially boys, get when they are bored with the class they are in at the time. It involves a lot of jittering.

"Where was your mind?" Ms. Ammon would ask. "I hope you weren't fishing, now, were you?"

One thing about good ole Ms. Ammon, she could read a boy's mind like a book. Maybe because there are so many blank pages in a young boy's mind.

I would suffer through counting down the hours and minutes and seconds until the school day would end.

You did not hear it from me, and this is not a confession, but on those rare occasions when I would skip school and go fishing, I had another problem. I was where I wanted to be, doing what I wanted to do, but then as I threw out the line waiting for a bite all I could think of was what was happening back in school I was missing. I often wondered if Ms. Ammon was missing me.

I would smile and then the fish would bite and my attention would be on the task at hand.

It was not long before my mind would wander back to the classroom. What were they doing? What was I missing? For the life of me, I cannot understand why, but I could never enjoy fishing and when I was playing hooky from school for thinking about what I was missing back in school.

One of the advantages of getting older is developing a sense of maturity. Don't ask me to define maturity, because I am not quite sure what it really means. As a person matures, he begins to learn how to enjoy the moment. This, I say, comes with age. A lot of age in some instances. By the time you learn to enjoy the moment, it is gone.

I have come a long way from good ole Ms. Ammon's classroom. I will not tell you how many years it has been, let's just say a lot. I still find myself doing the same thing.

I am in the middle of doing one thing and I begin thinking of what I could be doing. I could be home reading a book. Then when I go home and begin reading, I think about what I could be doing in the office.

I have tried to take a day off for many years. I just cannot seem to manage it. I take a day off and think of what I really could be doing if I was working. When I am working, I think of how much fun I could have if I was taking the day off.

I hope to live long enough to be able to bring these two opposites together in some magnificent activity. I have not got there yet. I am aspiring, to be sure.

David was right. "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalms 118:24 KJV).

The only thing I need to do today is to rejoice in the goodness of the Lord.

REV. JAMES L. SNYDER is pastor of the Family of God Fellowship, Ocala, Fla. He lives with his wife, Martha, in Silver Springs Shores. Call him at (866) 552-2543 or e-mail jamessnyder2@att.net. His web site is www.jamessnyderministries.com.

The Q Line

In the mail

The U.S. Postal Service is considering shuttering the post office on Fifth Street, something that doesn't sit well with some residents.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
Where do you stand on the possible closure, or does it not matter if it goes away?

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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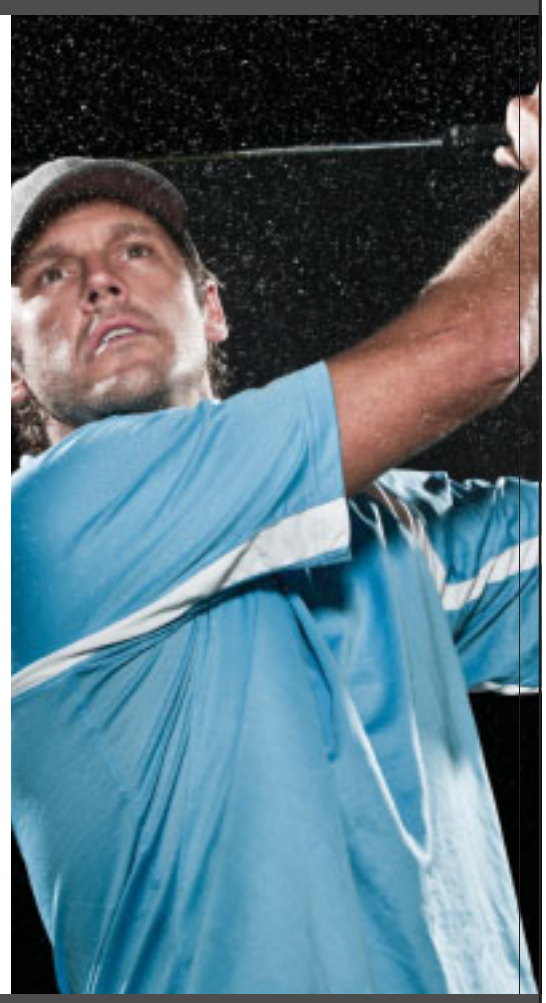
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Fatal police shooting stirs distrust, unrest in Anaheim

AMY TAXIN
Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. The densely-packed neighborhood where police shot to death an unarmed man this weekend and angry residents faced off with authorities in fiery clashes is just a few miles up the road from Disneyland but a world away from the theme park's shine and shimmer.

With another officer-involved killing on Sunday, involving a man who allegedly shot at police, residents of this city of 336,000 people are questioning what has made officers resort to deadly force and crack down on demonstrators by firing pepper ball and bean bag rounds.

The killings take the tally of officer-involved shootings to six so far this year, up from four a year before, said Anaheim police Sgt. Bob Dunn. Five of the incidents this year have been fatal.

"It concerns me when we have any officer-involved shooting," said police Chief John Welter, adding that he believes an uptick in gang-related crime in the last eight to 10 months is driving the increase.

"There just seems to be a lot more violence between the gangs. As a result, we've increased our gang unit, which has increased our contact with gang members," he said.

Anaheim is a city of contrasts that ranges from upscale, hilltop homes to packed, gritty rental apartment complexes. The city 25 miles southeast of Los Angeles is known as home to the Angels baseball team, and above all, to the world-famous Disneyland.

In the largely Hispanic, working-class neighborhood where 25-year-old Manuel Diaz was shot to death Saturday afternoon, residents left candles, flowers and posters blasting police and questioned why officers would shoot a man they said was a gang member but didn't have a gun or appear to be committing a crime.

Jose Gallardo, 30, said he was chatting with Manuel Diaz in an alley behind the complex on Saturday afternoon just a few minutes before he saw an unmarked police car pull up carrying two officers. Gallardo said he stayed away to avoid drawing attention from police until he heard two shots and went running.

"He was laying there, dead," Gallardo said, adding that he saw bullet marks in his friend's lower back and neck. "They were searching him — I was like, why are you searching him? He's dead right there."

The death sparked two nights of protests. On Saturday, angry demonstrators hurled rocks and bottles at officers who were securing the scene for investigators and police responded by firing bean bags and pepper balls at the crowd.

The next morning, protesters stormed a news conference at police headquarters. Later that night, demonstrators set fire to a trash bin and pushed it into the street outside the apartment complex, which was still strewn with litter early Monday from the unrest.

Welter said the shooting occurred after two officers approached three men who were acting suspiciously in an alleyway before running away. One of the officers chased Diaz to the front of the apartment complex.

The chief would not say what exactly led the officer to shoot Diaz, who authorities say was a known gang member. But Diaz wasn't just hanging out in the alley. He failed to heed police orders to stop and threw something on the roof of the complex that contained what officers believe to be heroin, Welter said.

"He certainly was running from police and not stopping," Welter said. "That's no justification for shooting him, so I will be interested in what the district attorney finds out."

Both officers were placed on paid leave pending an investigation.

The second officer-involved shooting occurred Sunday when anti-gang officers spotted a suspected gang member in a stolen sport utility vehicle. A brief pursuit ended when three people jumped from the SUV and ran, authorities said.

During the chase, a suspect fired one or two rounds at an officer. The officer returned fire, killing the gunman, who was identified as 21-year-old Joel Mathew Acevedo, Dunn said.

Both incidents were under investigation by the county's district attorney office, which asked witnesses to come forward with information or video footage of Saturday's shooting.

Online court records show Diaz was convicted last year of drug possession, and three years earlier of possessing a firearm on school grounds and being a member of a criminal street gang.

On Monday, residents remembered him as a young man who was friendly to people in the neighborhood and stopped to read posters affixed to a fence near the spot where Diaz was shot. The signs read, "another person dead' and "stop killing, start protecting."

Junior Lagunas, 19, had his forearm wrapped in white bandages and a hospital identification bracelet around his wrist as he recovered from being bit by a police dog during the Saturday night melee.

Lagunas said he went outside with his girlfriend and 1-year-old son to observe the commotion when police began firing something, possibly bean bags, at the crowd.

He said he ducked and pushed the child, still in his stroller, to the ground, then turned around and saw a dog gnaw on his arm, leaving teeth marks and drawing blood.

"It's just crazy, the cops are going crazy on us," said Lagunas, who was friendly with Diaz.

Video captured by a KCAL-TV crew showed a chaotic scene as some people ducked to the ground and others scattered screaming. A man is seen yelling at an officer even as a weapon is pointed at him. Two adults huddled to shield a boy and girl.

Police said five people, two of them juveniles, were arrested that night. Authorities said the dog accidentally escaped from a patrol car, and the incident is being investigated by the department.

Police also are reviewing the use of bean bags and pepper spray during the protests, which grew raucous when officers moved to arrest someone in the crowd suspected of committing a minor crime, Welter said. The man was later found to be wanted on a murder case.

Carroll Seron, a professor of criminology at University of California, Irvine, said relations between police and minority communities are often tense and an incident such as a shooting can trigger a loud reaction.

"In lots of instances, people kind of reach a threshold where they feel their communities are a little bit under siege," she said.

The shootings in Anaheim came a year after an unarmed, mentally ill homeless man died after a violent confrontation with police in the nearby city of Fullerton. The death of Kelly Thomas sparked protests by outraged residents and criminal charges against two officers.

Judge: SoCal school district improperly rejected petition

CHRISTINA HOAG
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES The effort to have parents drive school reform received a substantial boost with a court ordering a San Bernardino County school district to accept a parent petition demanding changes at a failing elementary school.

The case is seen as an important test of California's so-called "parent trigger" law, which allows parents to force reforms at low performing schools through a petition signed by 50 percent of parents. The 2010 law was the first of its kind in the country and has inspired similar versions in several other states.

It also has also sparked fierce resistance from teachers unions and school districts, which have fought the first two cases in California. In the first case, Compton Unified School District successfully defeated a parent petition on a technicality last year in court.

In the closely watched second case, involving the Adelanto Elementary School District, the issue has centered on parent signature rescissions.

Superior Court Judge Steve Malone ruled late Friday that rescissions are improper, a key victory for parent reformers who have seen their petition drives undone by opponents mounting campaigns to convince signers to rescind their signatures.

Malone said signatures cannot be rescinded and stated that the district's acceptance of rescissions, which caused the number of validated signatures to fall below the 50 percent threshold, was "an abuse of discretion."

He ordered the district to accept the petition filed by the Desert Trails Parents Union within 30 days and to immediately seek proposals from charter school operators to take over Desert Trails Elementary School in Adelanto, located about 90 miles northeast of Los Angeles.

Ben Austin, executive director of the Los Angeles-based nonprofit, Parent Revolution, which helps organize parents and guide their campaigns, said it was the first ruling in the nation to uphold a parent-trigger law.

"They are the first parents to take control of the educational destiny of their children," he said at a press conference. "This is a new paradigm of parent power."

School board President Carlos Mendoza said the board has not yet discussed the ruling, but he will recommend that the board file an appeal based on the parents union strategy of having parents sign two petitions: one calling for wide-ranging reforms and another calling for charter school conversion if reforms were not implemented.

He said parents were more in favor of the first petition, but the second one was submitted instead.

Mendoza said the move was misleading.

"I call it bait and switch," he said. "I am not concerned about converting Desert Trails into a charter school as long as the board has a say with community input on what that charter school will be. I do not believe the two petition strategy should be acceptable nor allowed to be used again anywhere."

Desert Trails parent organizers also said they found evidence that several petition signatures had been fraudulently altered to show rescissions. The district invalidated those rescissions.

"This is a huge milestone in our struggle for our children to receive the basic education they are entitled to and deserve," said Doreen Diaz, lead petitioner and coordinator of the Desert Trails Parent Union.

Parents' complaints about Desert Trails, where just 35 percent of children last year tested proficient in English and 46 percent in math, ranged from curriculum to homework to discipline. The school has been classified as failing for the past six years.

Fingerprint expert shortage causes case backlog in L.A.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Detectives investigating burglaries, auto thefts and other property-related crimes in Los Angeles have been forced to wait an average two to three months to get fingerprints analyzed because of an employee shortage at the Police Department's Latent Print Unit.

The backlog of 2,200 cases means fingerprint analysis in some active criminal investigations is being delayed more than a year, and in some older cases it is ignored altogether.

LAPD officials have come up with a rationing plan to address the backlog, at least for property-related cases, the Los Angeles Times reported (http://lat.ms/NqUanp) Monday. It will be rolled out in coming months.

The plan will not apply to homicides, sexual assaults and other violent crimes, which are handled separately. Detectives investigating such crimes usually wait up to eight weeks for results.

"We're taking in more than we can process," Deputy Chief Kirk Albanese said. "We have to look at our capacity."

Under the rationing plan, each of the LAPD's 21 stations and divisions will be allowed 10 cases a month in which property-crime fingerprint evidence will be promptly analyzed.

Additionally, a handful of officers will be trained to collect fingerprints at crime scenes so print unit specialists can spend more time analyzing prints in the lab.

The backlog has been frustrating for detectives.

"In a perfect world, we'd get results back in a day or two," Detective Michael Brausam said. "The longer you leave these criminals out on the street, they're likely going to be committing more crimes. And, if you do get a match on prints months later, it can be much harder to prove your case."

Since a 2009 hiring freeze, the LAPD's Latent Print Unit lost 27 of its 97 analysts. Budget-trimming furloughs and injuries also have added to the backlog.

"We could solve a lot of crimes if we had more people," said Yvette Burney, commanding officer of the department's crime labs.

The demands on the fingerprint unit continue unabated, the Times reported. Last year, detectives requested fingerprints at 19,000 crime scenes, and that pace continues this year.

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SMOKING
FROM PAGE 1

councilmembers Bobby Shriver and Bob Holbrook. Kevin McKeown and Pam O'Connor voted against the measure.

Mayor Pro Tem Gleam Davis was not present for the July 10 vote, but said Monday that she had problems with restricting legal activity "behind closed doors."

If one or both of them choose to vote "no" on Tuesday, it will be a rare occasion that a measure does not pass on its required second reading.

Councilmember Bobby Shriver, who fought to strengthen the ordinance with more strict provisions, will not be at Tuesday's meeting. He said he was shocked to hear about the possible change in the vote.

"I deeply regret the change of views, and I hope that when it comes back, public health concerns will override any other concerns," Shriver said.

As passed, the ordinance would have banned smoking for all new residents of apartments or condominiums in Santa Monica. Existing smokers could continue to smoke, but would have had to declare their unit "smoking" by a certain date or lose the right.

If they didn't, their unit would automatically default to "nonsmoking." The list of smoking and nonsmoking units would then be distributed to existing tenants and new tenants as they joined the building.

That was a departure from the recommendation by city staff, which would have made "smoking" the default setting.

As written, the ordinance bans all smoking, and does not distinguish between tobacco products and marijuana, which is legal to smoke in California with the recommendation of a doctor.

When the matter first came before the City Council on July 10, O'Day threw his support behind the staff recommendation, but chose to vote for the more restrictive ban when the initial motion failed.

"Then the question I had was would I move ahead with something or would I continue to have no solution around these public health questions," O'Day said last week about his vote. "I took something instead of nothing."

He got heat for that decision from members of Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights (SMRR), a major political organization within Santa Monica. He did not get the group's endorsement for his council re-election run on Sunday, although SMRR has supported him in the past.

Michael Tarbet, a co-founder of SMRR, left O'Day's name off of a list of candidates that he personally supported, a list which he distributed to the membership on Sunday.

Tarbet opposes the smoking ban. His reasons were identical to O'Day's reasons to reconsider his vote — no outreach to condominium owners and a lack of consideration for medical marijuana users.

"The anti-smoking ordinance needs work," Tarbet said Monday. "The one thing that's wrong is that nobody communicated in any systematic way."

He has spent some time in the intervening two weeks talking to council members to sway them to change their vote.

The subject is an emotional one for many Santa Monica renters who came before the City Council to talk about the health issues caused by living next to smokers.

Second-hand smoke has over 60 carcinogenic substances, and has been proven to seep through shared walls and pass through electrical sockets and other small openings.

According to the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, at least 30 percent of the air in one apartment originated in another in the same complex, meaning that a smoker's fumes can impact their neighbors.

It's one of the reasons that Esther Schiller, director of the Smokefree Apartment House Registry, is saddened by the news of the measure's probable failure.

"I think that something like this will pass eventually because the problem is so egregious," Schiller said. "It's very disappointing it won't be happening [tonight]."

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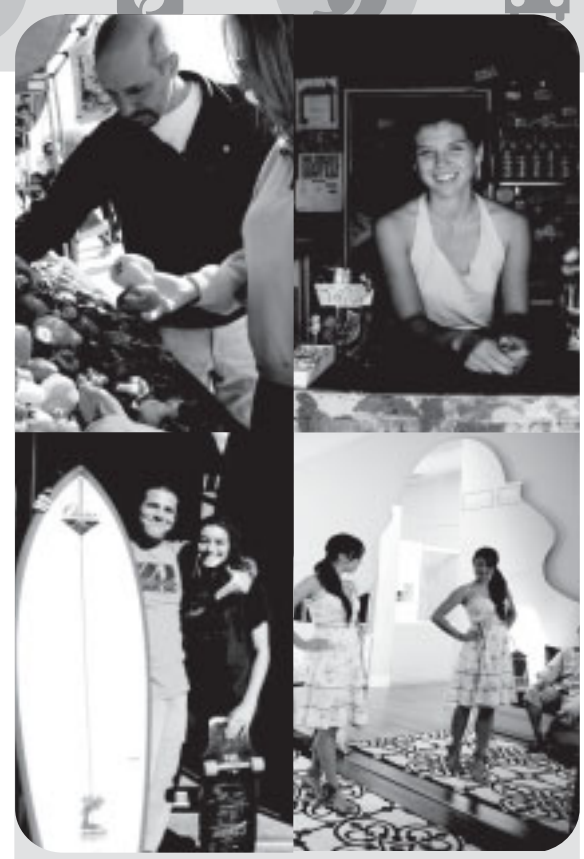


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CONSENT
FROM PAGE 1

have parts on hand for regular maintenance and emergencies.

The amount was based on the expenses from previous years.

Officials chose the lowest of two bidders, S&J Supply Co., for the contract.

BIKE ROUTES

City officials propose to sign a $160,000 contract with design firm Ryan Snyder Associates to plan, design and do outreach for bicycle improvements at Santa Monica High School.

The work is part of the "Safe Routes to School" program, which is supposed to make it easier for students to walk and bike to the Samohi campus.

Ryan Snyder Associates will observe student behavior at six critical intersections around the school beginning in the 2012-13 school year, and staff plans to come back to the City Council in summer 2013 for permission to get started on construction.

The company has finished similar plans for over 55 schools, and bicycle and pedestrian plans for cities and counties.

The work will be paid for with a state grant of $880,000 and a $100,000 local match.

BATTERIES

Santa Monica may not have an all-electric fleet, but even its more traditional cars need a little jump every once in a while.

The City Council is expected to approve $120,000 to purchase new heavy-duty batteries for buses and fire vehicles.

Valley Power Systems, a California-based company, was selected out of three submitted bids.

The contract requires $120,000 upfront and potential two-year renewals with a 4 percent increase each additional year for a total of $375,000.

BARGAINING TABLE

City Hall expects to save $60,000 under a new contract with three of its unions, with cost cuts up to three times that in future years.

The three groups — the Management Team Associates, Public Attorneys Union and Public Attorneys' Legal Support Staff Union — will accept a 3 percent pay raise to account for cost-of-living increases.

All three will see a decrease or elimination in their performance-based bonuses.

The Management Team Associates and executive pay plan would no longer get an annual performance bonus, which currently provides a bump of between 1 and 5 percent.

Support staff will also lose their opportunities for performance-based bonuses, which previously ranged between 1 and 10 percent, and some members of the Public Attorneys Union will see their bonus opportunities decreased from 10 percent to 5 percent.

They will lose those bonuses entirely by June 30, 2015.

Instead of bonuses, the base salaries for Management Team Associates, support staff, executive pay plan recipients and some members of the attorneys union will be increased by 3.8 percent.

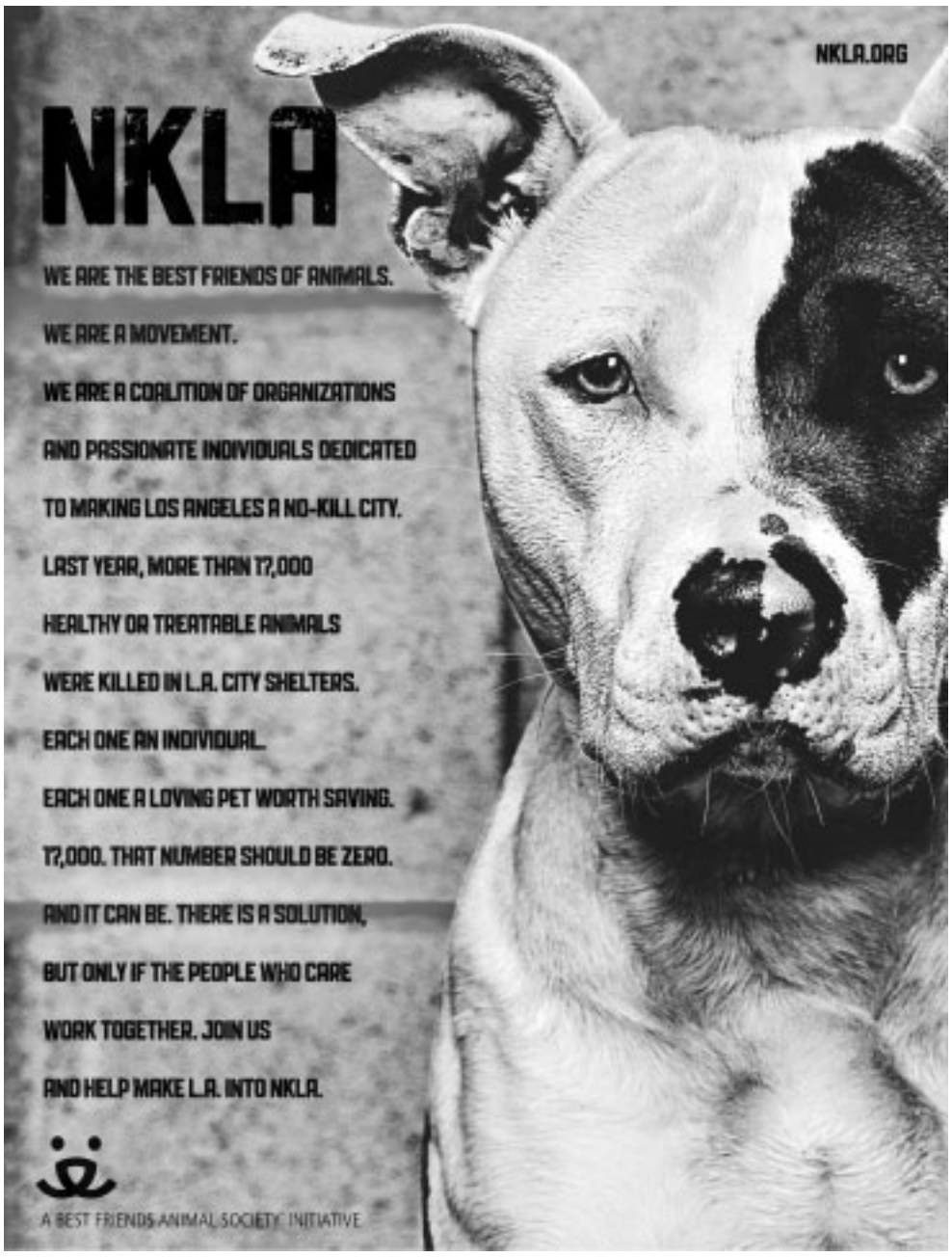
Bargaining groups will also see changes in their ability to cash out vacation days, which will reduce costs when those employees leave their city jobs.

The changes are expected to save $60,000 in 2012-13 and another $170,000 in 2015-16.

ashley@smdp.com









PETS
FROM PAGE 3

The Humane Society Petique opened at the Biltmore Fashion Park in Phoenix in November 2009. More than 2,000 animals have been adopted out of the rescue storefront.

Phoenix-based PetSmart and PetCo, also work with animal welfare organizations on adoption programs in their stores. According to the Humane Society, 1,700 pet stores nationwide — 53 of which are in Arizona — have pledged not to sell puppies in their stores.

Animal rescue groups say the storefronts help bring in new customers, and raise money for and awareness about animal overpopulation.

"Some people have this stigma around visiting a shelter, they may be sad ... and then you offer people this unique setting," said Arizona Humane Society spokeswoman Bretta Nelson. "It's more cozy. It's more homelike."

CHARGES
FROM PAGE 1

8:30 a.m.

If convicted, Robinson faces up to life in prison.

Gilligan said three homeless people, two men in their 50s and a woman in her 40s, were stabbed in the back while they were sleeping. All three victims survived.

The first incident was reported July 4 when a 56-year-old homeless man was found bleeding with a large "hunting-type" knife protruding from his back near the intersection of Third and Main streets in Los Angeles. The man crawled 100 yards looking for help while the weapon was lodged between his shoulder blades, according to Los Angeles Times.

On July 17, another homeless man was stabbed in similar fashion as he slept on a bus bench at the corner of Santa Monica Boulevard and Sixth Street across from the Main Library.

And on July 19, a homeless woman was stabbed in the back as she slept near the intersection of La Brea and De Longpre avenues, blocks away from Hollywood High School. Police recovered a black kitchen knife from the scene.

Smith said investigators believe Robinson might also be connected to the unsolved stabbings of two homeless men in Santa Barbara.

Santa Barbara Police Sgt. Riley Harwood said, however, that there were no notes and the knives were different in the Santa Barbara cases.

Most crimes against the homeless are committed by other homeless people, while crimes by outsiders have typically been one-time acts by hooligans in pursuit of thrills, said Neil Donovan, executive director of the National Coalition for the Homeless.

Serial crimes, however, seem to have turned into a trend over the past year, he said, noting the stabbing murders of four homeless people in Orange County, Calif. last December and January.

news@smdp.com

The Associated Press contributed to this report.



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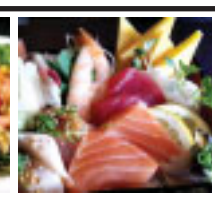
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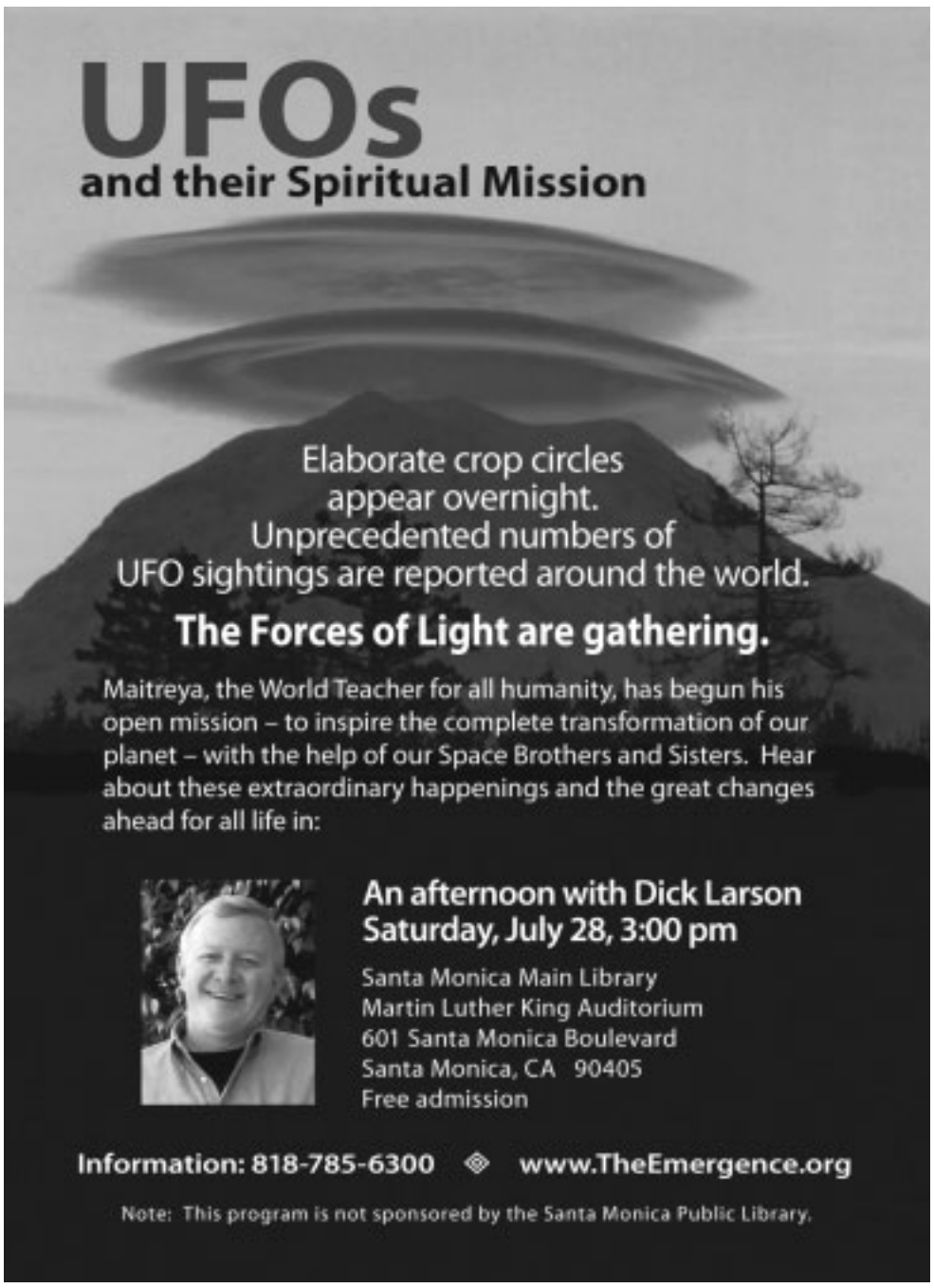
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U.S. poverty on track to rise to highest since 1960s

HOPE YEN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON The ranks of America's poor are on track to climb to levels unseen in nearly half a century, erasing gains from the war on poverty in the 1960s amid a weak economy and fraying government safety net.

Census figures for 2011 will be released this fall in the critical weeks ahead of the November elections.

The Associated Press surveyed more than a dozen economists, think tanks and academics, both nonpartisan and those with known liberal or conservative leanings, and found a broad consensus: The official poverty rate will rise from 15.1 percent in 2010, climbing as high as 15.7 percent. Several predicted a more modest gain, but even a 0.1 percentage point increase would put poverty at the highest level since 1965.

Poverty is spreading at record levels across many groups, from underemployed workers and suburban families to the poorest poor. More discouraged workers are giving up on the job market, leaving them vulnerable as unemployment aid begins to run out. Suburbs are seeing increases in poverty, including in such political battlegrounds as Colorado, Florida and Nevada, where voters are coping with a new norm of living hand to mouth.

"I grew up going to Hawaii every summer. Now I'm here, applying for assistance because it's hard to make ends meet. It's very hard to adjust," said Laura Fritz, 27, of Wheat Ridge, Colo., describing her slide from rich to poor as she filled out aid forms at a county center. Since 2000, large swaths of Jefferson County just outside Denver have seen poverty nearly double.

Fritz says she grew up wealthy in the Denver suburb of Highlands Ranch, but fortunes turned after her parents lost a significant amount of money in the housing bust. Stuck in a half-million dollar house, her parents began living off food stamps and Fritz's college money evaporated. She tried joining the Army but was injured during basic training.

Now she's living on disability, with an infant daughter and a boyfriend, Garrett Goudeseune, 25, who can't find work as a landscaper. They are struggling to pay their $650 rent on his unemployment checks and don't know how they would get by without the extra help as they hope for the job market to improve.

In an election year dominated by discussion of the middle class, Fritz's case highlights a dim reality for the growing group in poverty. Millions could fall through the cracks as government aid from unemployment insurance, Medicaid, welfare and food stamps diminishes.

"The issues aren't just with public benefits. We have some deep problems in the economy," said Peter Edelman, director of the Georgetown Center on Poverty, Inequality and Public Policy.

He pointed to the recent recession but also longer-term changes in the economy such as globalization, automation, outsourcing, immigration, and less unionization that have pushed median household income lower. Even after strong economic growth in the 1990s, poverty never fell below a 1973 low of 11.1 percent. That low point came after President Lyndon Johnson's war on poverty, launched in 1964, that created Medicaid, Medicare and other social welfare programs.

"I'm reluctant to say that we've gone back to where we were in the 1960s. The programs we enacted make a big difference. The problem is that the tidal wave of low-wage jobs is dragging us down and the wage problem is not going to go away anytime soon," Edelman said.

Stacey Mazer of the National Association of State Budget Officers said states will be watching for poverty increases when figures are released in September as they make decisions about the Medicaid expansion. Most states generally assume poverty levels will hold mostly steady and they will hesitate if the findings show otherwise. "It's a constant tension in the budget," she said.

The predictions for 2011 are based on separate AP interviews, supplemented with research on suburban poverty from Alan Berube of the Brookings Institution and an analysis of federal spending by the Congressional Research Service and Elise Gould of the Economic Policy Institute.

The analysts' estimates suggest that some 47 million people in the U.S., or 1 in 6, were poor last year. An increase of one-tenth of a percentage point to 15.2 percent would tie the 1983 rate, the highest since 1965. The highest level on record was 22.4 percent in 1959, when the government began calculating poverty figures.

Poverty is closely tied to joblessness. While the unemployment rate improved from 9.6 percent in 2010 to 8.9 percent in 2011, the employment-population ratio remained largely unchanged, meaning many discouraged workers simply stopped looking for work. Food stamp rolls, another indicator of poverty, also grew.

Demographers also say:

—Poverty will remain above the pre-recession level of 12.5 percent for many more years. Several predicted that peak poverty levels — 15 percent to 16 percent — will last at least until 2014, due to expiring unemployment benefits, a jobless rate persistently above 6 percent and weak wage growth.

—Suburban poverty, already at a record level of 11.8 percent, will increase again in 2011.

—Part-time or underemployed workers, who saw a record 15 percent poverty in 2010, will rise to a new high.

—Poverty among people 65 and older will remain at historically low levels, buoyed by Social Security cash payments.

—Child poverty will increase from its 22 percent level in 2010.

Analysts also believe that the poorest poor, defined as those at 50 percent or less of the poverty level, will remain near its peak level of 6.7 percent.

"I've always been the guy who could find a job. Now I'm not," said Dale Szymanski, 56, a Teamsters Union forklift operator and convention hand who lives outside Las Vegas in Clark County. In a state where unemployment ranks highest in the nation, the Las Vegas suburbs have seen a particularly rapid increase in poverty from 9.7 percent in 2007 to 14.7 percent.

Szymanski, who moved from Wisconsin in 2000, said he used to make a decent living of more than $40,000 a year but now doesn't work enough hours to qualify for union health care. He changed apartments several months ago and sold his aging 2001 Chrysler Sebring in April to pay expenses.

"You keep thinking it's going to turn around. But I'm stuck," he said.

The 2010 poverty level was $22,314 for a family of four, and $11,139 for an individual, based on an official government calculation that includes only cash income, before tax deductions. It excludes capital gains or accumulated wealth, such as home owner-

SEE POVERTY PAGE 13

Sally Ride, first American woman in space, dies at 61

SETH BORENSTEIN
AP Science writer

WASHINGTON Sally Ride, who blazed trails into orbit as the first American woman in space, died Monday of pancreatic cancer. She was 61.

Ride died at her home in the San Diego suburb of La Jolla, said Terry McEntee, a spokeswoman for her company, Sally Ride Science. She was a private person and the details of her illness were kept to just a few people, she said.

Ride rode into space on the space shuttle Challenger in 1983 when she was 32. After her flight, more than 42 other American women flew in space, NASA said.

"Sally was a national hero and a powerful role model. She inspired generations of young girls to reach for the stars," President Barack Obama said in a statement.

NASA Administrator Charles Bolden, a former astronaut, said Ride "broke barriers with grace and professionalism — and literally changed the face of America's space program."

"The nation has lost one of its finest leaders, teachers and explorers," he said in a statement.

Ride was a physicist, writer of five science books for children and president of her own company. She had also been a professor of physics at the University of California in San Diego.

She was selected as an astronaut candidate in 1978, the same year she earned her doctorate in physics from Stanford University. She beat out five women to be the first American female in space. Her first flight came two decades after the Soviets sent a woman into space

"On launch day, there was so much excitement and so much happening around us in crew quarters, even on the way to the launch pad," Ride recalled in a NASA interview for the 25th anniversary of her flight in 2008. "I didn't really think about it that much at the time — but I came to appreciate what an honor it was to be selected to be the first to get a chance to go into space."

Ride flew in space twice, both times on Challenger in 1983 and in 1984, logging 343 hours in space. A third flight was cancelled when Challenger exploded in 1986. She was on the commission investigating that accident and later served on the panel for the 2003 Columbia shuttle accident, the only person on both boards.

She also was on the president's committee of science advisers.

The 20th anniversary of her first flight also coincided with the loss of Columbia, a bittersweet time for Ride, who discussed it in a 2003 interview with The Associated Press. She acknowledged it was depressing to spend the anniversary investigating the accident, which killed seven astronauts.

"But in another sense, it's rewarding because it's an opportunity to be part of the solution and part of the changes that will occur and will make the program better," she said.

Later in the interview, she focused on science education and talked about "being a role model and being very visible."

"She was very smart," said former astronaut Norman Thagard, who was on Ride's first flight. "We did have a good time."

It was all work on that first flight, except for a first-in-space sprint around the inside of the shuttle, Thagard recalled by phone on Monday. He didn't know who won.

One of Ride's last legacies was allowing middle school students to take their own pictures of the moon using cameras aboard NASA's twin Grail spacecraft in a project spearheaded by her company.

"Sally literally could have done anything with her life. She decided to devote her life to education and to inspiring young people. To me, that's such a powerful thing. It's extraordinarily admirable," said Maria Zuber, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who heads the Grail mission.

Ride's office said she is survived by Tam O'Shaughnessy, her partner of 27 years; her mother, Joyce; her sister, Bear, a niece and a nephew.

POVERTY
FROM PAGE 12

ship, as well as noncash aid such as food stamps and tax credits, which were expanded substantially under President Barack Obama's stimulus package.

An additional 9 million people in 2010 would have been counted above the poverty line if food stamps and tax credits were taken into account.

Robert Rector, a senior research fellow at the conservative Heritage Foundation, believes the social safety net has worked and it is now time to cut back. He worries that advocates may use a rising poverty rate to justify additional spending on the poor, when in fact, he says, many live in decent-size homes, drive cars and own wide-screen TVs.

A new census measure accounts for noncash aid, but that supplemental poverty figure isn't expected to be released until after the November election. Since that measure is relatively new, the official rate remains the best gauge of year-to-year changes in poverty dating back to 1959.

Few people advocate cuts in anti-poverty programs. Roughly 79 percent of Americans think the gap between rich and poor has grown in the past two decades, according to a Public Religion Research Institute/RNS Religion News survey from November 2011. The same poll found that about 67 percent oppose "cutting federal funding for social programs that help the poor" to help reduce the budget deficit.

Outside of Medicaid, federal spending on major low-income assistance programs such as food stamps, disability aid and tax credits have been mostly flat at roughly 1.5 percent of the gross domestic product from 1975 to the 1990s. Spending spiked higher to 2.3 percent of GDP after Obama's stimulus program in 2009 temporarily expanded unemployment insurance and tax credits for the poor.

The U.S. safety net may soon offer little comfort to people such as Jose Gorrin, 52, who lives in the western Miami suburb of Hialeah Gardens. Arriving from Cuba in 1980, he was able to earn a decent living as a plumber for years, providing for his children and ex-wife. But things turned sour in 2007 and in the past two years he has barely worked, surviving on the occasional odd job.

His unemployment aid has run out, and he's too young to draw Social Security.

Holding a paper bag of still-warm bread he'd just bought for lunch, Gorrin said he hasn't decided whom he'll vote for in November, expressing little confidence the presidential candidates can solve the nation's economic problems. "They all promise to help when they're candidates," Gorrin said, adding, "I hope things turn around. I already left Cuba. I don't know where else I can go."

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City of Santa Monica

CITY OF SANTA MONICA
NOTICE INVITING BIDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City of Santa Monica invites Contractors to complete and submit sealed bids for the:

Universally Accessible Playground
SP 2204

Bids shall be delivered to the City of Santa Monica, Office of the City Clerk, Room 102, 1685 Main Street, Santa Monica, California, 90401, not later than 2:30 p.m. on **Thursday, August 9, 2012**, to be publicly opened and read aloud after 3:00 p.m. on said date in City Hall Council Chambers. Each Bid shall be in accordance with the Request for Bids.

NON-MANDATORY PRE-BID JOB WALK:
8:00 AM, Wednesday, July 25, 2012, at 2900 Ocean Front Walk, Santa Monica, CA 90405

PROJECT ESTIMATE: $700,000
CONTRACT DAYS: 210
LIQUIDATED DAMAGES: $500.00 Per Day
COMPENSABLE DELAY: $600.00 Per Day

Bidding Documents may be obtained by logging onto the City's Finance website at: http://www01.smgov.net/finance/purchasing/. The Contractor is required to have a **Class B** license at the time of bid submission. Contractors wishing to be considered must submit Bids containing all information required pursuant to the City's Request for Bids.

Pursuant to Public Contracts Code Section 22300, the Contractor shall be permitted to substitute securities for any monies withheld by the City to ensure performance under this Contract.

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Another triple-digit loss for Dow

BERNARD CONDON
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK Fear that Spain may need a bailout sent its borrowing costs soaring, the euro to a two-year low against the dollar and stocks around the world tumbling as investors pulled back Monday from all manner of risk.

The Dow Jones industrial average, after falling 239 points earlier in the day, ended down 101.11 at 12,721.46. Yields for U.S. government bonds sank to record lows as traders sought the safety of American debt.

Borrowing costs rose sharply for Spain and Italy after news that the Spanish economy contracted by 0.4 percent in the second quarter. Falling economic output makes it more difficult for Spain to deal with its debts.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 12.14 points to 1,350.52. The Nasdaq composite index dropped 35.15 points to 2,890.15.

"Increases in Spanish borrowing costs have brought back questions about the health of Europe," said Guy LeBas, chief fixed income strategist at Janney Montgomery Scott in Philadelphia. "That's driven a flight to safety."

The selling was widespread. All 10 industry groups within the S&P 500 were down, with materials and health care companies off more than 1 percent. Including Friday's drop, the Dow is down 222 points, the biggest back-to-back drop in more than a month.

In addition to Spain, investors are worried that Greece might get cut off from emergency loans it needs to avoid default. On Tuesday, inspectors from its international creditors arrive in the country to check on its progress in cutting its budget and in meeting other conditions it had agreed to in exchange for aid.

The Greek government has repeatedly failed to hit targets required for the two bailouts it has received so far.

Adding to the jitters, a Chinese central bank adviser forecast that China's economic growth could slow from its second-quarter rate of 7.6 percent, which was already the slowest in three years.

Investors had hoped that the world's second-largest economy would compensate for slowdowns in the U.S. and Europe but now aren't so sure.

"I wish it were still the weekend," said Lawrence Creatura, a portfolio manager at Federated Investors, a mutual fund firm. "People were initially worried just about the Europe, but now it's spread to China and beyond."

In Spain, the yield on the benchmark 10-year government bond rose to 7.43 percent, the highest since the euro was launched in 1999 and a level considered unsustainable for more than a few months. The fear was registered in other trading, too. The cost for investors to take out insurance on Spanish government debt soared to a record high Monday.

The message: After Spanish banks had to seek money from international creditors to stay afloat, now maybe the Spanish government needs help.

The prospect of bailing out Madrid is worrisome for Europe because the potential cost far exceeds what's available in existing emergency funds.

The fear ratcheted up over the weekend when a southern region of Spain announced that it might need a financial lifeline from Madrid to make ends meet. That followed news last week that an eastern region of the country had asked for help.

In a move that recalled the global financial crisis four years ago, Spain's market regulator on Monday said it was temporarily banning short selling of shares on its stock indexes. In a short sale, an investor seeks a profit by betting that the price of a certain stock will fall.

The U.S. briefly banned short selling of dozens of stocks in 2008 as prices were tumbling.

Strong selling rattled European markets. The main stock index dropped more than 7 percent in Greece, 1 percent in Spain, 3 percent in Germany and France. Asian stocks were also sharply lower.

Bank stocks, which tend to take a hit when fear flares in Europe, were among the biggest losers. Citigroup stock dropped 53 cents, or 2 percent, to $25.34.

The price of oil fell $3.69, or 4 percent, to finish the day at $88.14 per barrel in New York. Exxon Mobil stock declined 74 cents, or nearly 1 percent, to $85.21.

The euro slipped just below $1.21 against the dollar, its lowest since June 2010.

There were also signs that a global economic slowdown is hitting U.S. companies that rode out the anemic recovery well by selling more abroad. Now, they can't grow those sales as fast as before, and what they do sell has fallen in value as foreign currencies have weakened against the dollar. That's because U.S. companies must translate foreign currency earnings into dollars when reporting to investors, and weaker foreign currencies fetch fewer dollars.

While global sales at McDonald's restaurants open at least a year rose 3.7 percent, for instance, profits slid by about the same rate due to currency exchange. McDonald's generates about two-thirds of its revenue outside the U.S.

"A disproportionately large amount of revenue overseas is seen as a negative today," said Creatura of Federated Investors. "The list of weakening overseas markets is getting longer by the day."

Stock in the world's largest hamburger chain slid $2.64, or 2.9 percent, to $88.94 after the company fell short of most Wall Street expectations for both net income and revenue.

Hasbro is also getting hurt by currency trading. If not for the surge in the dollar, its international revenue in the second quarter would have risen 5 percent, instead of falling 4 percent, the toy maker said Monday. Still, the company beat analyst estimates of net income, thanks partly to cost cutting.

Stock in Hasbro, whose products include Monopoly and Scrabble, rose $1.35, or 4 percent, to $35.19.

In other stock news:

• RailAmerica Inc., a short-line railroad operator, rose $2.44, or nearly 10 percent, to $27.25 after announcing it planned to sell itself another short-line operator, Genesee & Wyoming, for $1.39 billion in cash.

• Halliburton, an oil and natural gas services firm, rose 2.4 percent after reporting flat earnings for the second quarter. The company has benefited lately from selling oil drilling around the world.

• Peet's Coffee and Tea surged 28 percent to $73.05 after announcing a sale to Joh A. Benckiser, a privately-held consumer goods company in Germany.





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Experts: Global economy in worst shape since 2009

PAUL WISEMAN
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON Mounting fears about Spain's financial health help illustrate why the global economy is in its worst shape since 2009.

Six of the 17 countries that use the euro currency are in recession. The U.S. economy is struggling again. And the economic superstars of the developing world — China, India and Brazil — are in no position to come to the rescue. They're slowing, too.

The lengthening shadow over the world's economy illustrates one of the consequences of globalization: There's nowhere to hide.

Investors drove up Spain's borrowing rates Monday over concern that the government's debts might force it to seek a bailout. The interest rate on Spain's 10-year bond touched 7.56 percent — the highest since the euro began in 1999. Stocks around the world tumbled in response.

Worries about Spain intensified after its central bank said the economy shrank 0.4 percent in the second quarter. The government predicts the economy will keep contracting next year as tax hikes and spending cuts hurt consumers and businesses.

Italy has also been swept up by fears that it may need to request aid. Rates on Italy's government bonds jumped Monday, and stock prices sank.

Economies around the world have never been so tightly linked — which means that as one region weakens, others do, too. That's why Europe's slowdown is hurting factories in China. And why those Chinese factories are buying less iron ore from Brazil.

As a result of this global economic slowdown, the International Monetary Fund has reduced its forecast for world growth this year to 3.5 percent, the slowest since a 0.6 percent drop in 2009. Some economists predict the global economy will grow a full percentage point less.

For now, few foresee another global recession. Central banks in China, Britain, Brazil, South Korea and Europe have cut interest rates in the past month to try to jolt growth. European leaders have begun to focus more on promoting growth, not just shrinking debt and cutting budgets.

The Chinese government, in particular, is expected to do what it takes to protect its economy from deteriorating too quickly. And despite their slowdowns, China and India are still growing at rates America and Europe can only imagine.

But many economists say European policymakers aren't moving fast enough to strengthen European banks and ease borrowing costs for Italy and Spain. They fear the global impact if Europe's economy deteriorates further.

Stock prices in the United States and elsewhere are fluctuating almost daily depending on the outlook for a resolution of Europe's debt crisis.

Around the world, sales at companies ranging from automakers to technology companies are falling. Advanced Micro Devices, a California-based maker of computer chips used in everything from slot machines to smart cameras, says revenue likely dropped 11 percent in the second quarter because of weaker-than-expected sales in China and Europe.

At Jagemann Stamping Co. in Manitowoc, Wis., sales to Europe have dropped more than 10 percent from a year ago. The company makes metal parts for auto companies and other customers. It's still enjoying strong sales in the United States, so it hasn't had to cut workers because of falling business in Germany and the Czech Republic.

"What it does is slow our new hiring," says company president Ralph Hardt.

One growing concern about the global economy is there's little margin for error: Unemployment is already at recession levels in Europe and the United States.

The United States, by far the world's biggest economy, has long pulled the global economy out of slumps. Now it needs help. Three years after the Great Recession officially ended, the American economy can't maintain momentum. For the third straight year, growth has stalled at mid-year after getting off to a promising start.

Unemployment stood at 8.2 percent in June — the 41st straight month it's been above 8 percent.

Americans spent less at retail businesses for a third straight month in June, the longest losing streak since the recession. Economists are downgrading their estimates of economic growth in the April-June quarter. When the government releases its first estimate on Friday, many think it won't even match the first quarter's sluggish 1.9 percent annual pace.

The global slowdown is squeezing U.S. exports, which have accounted for an unusually large 43 percent share of U.S. growth since the recession officially ended in June 2009.

Consumer confidence has fallen four straight months in the face of scant hiring and weak economic growth. U.S. companies are nervous about the threat of tax increases and spending cuts that are scheduled to kick in at year's end unless Congress breaks a deadlock. The IMF has warned of a spillover to the rest of the world if the U.S. economy falls off the so-called fiscal cliff.

Europe's obstacles are even more severe. It's faced with crushing government debts, struggling banks and scant economic growth. Unemployment in the 17 countries that use the euro is 11 percent, the highest since the euro was adopted in 1999.

Greece, Portugal, Italy and Spain are in recessions. Germany and France are faring better, but both are likely to grow more slowly this year than America.

French retail giant Carrefour SA — the Wal-Mart of Europe — says its sales fell in the second quarter amid a slowdown in its core markets in Europe.

Italy's Fiat lost nearly $260 million in Europe the first three months of the year. French carmaker PSA Peugeot-Citroen plans to slash 8,000 jobs in France and close a major factory. Europe's banks are stuck with bad real estate loans and shaky European government bonds.

The European Central Bank has made massive amounts of money available to Europe's banks at cheap rates to try to revive lending. But borrowing by many businesses and consumers remains weak because they are uncertain about future income.

Many fear that Greece and perhaps other countries will default on their debts and have to abandon the euro currency, which could ignite financial chaos across Europe.

A summit of European leaders last month produced some agreements that helped calm markets for a few days. But optimism faded as investors recognized that governments are still saddled with big debts and banks with bad loans. And that Europe itself still faces the threat that growth will stall and the euro currency alliance will collapse.

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My Personnel File: Why Do I Want it and How Do I Get a Copy?

The permanent record from our youth may have been a ruse cooked up to keep children in line, but these days, we are close to having permanent records due to our rapidly all encompassing digital world. Thankfully, personnel files are not yet in digital format. While we still can, we should at least always be prepared to have access to these records to check and to fix any wrong information. We may also want access when we think we should get a raise and want to use former evaluations, client letters, or training records to get it.

The Why:

More often than not, employees do not even know how to access this information until they talk to a lawyer. And if you are talking to a lawyer about work, something's already gone wrong. Lawyers want to see what your performance record is, any personnel actions and the basis, or any other records that could help determine whether, say, a termination was legally wrongful or justifiable in light of the bigger history. Most of these employment cases turn on performance, the reason the employer gives for the termination, versus whatever you as a plaintiff will show. For example, one good way to maintain better records in your file is to put in writing what you disagree with, such as in a negative evaluation. Later when these are reviewed, and the employee has these notes, it will be more difficult for a bad employer to justify their wrongful behavior through performance issues.

Another reason to keep track is that personnel records can be subpoenaed by a third party, which is something that could happen in any type of legal action where you are involved. The law does require that you are given a notice and opportunity to object to the subpoena. If any of it is relevant to whatever legal action is happening, not necessarily even an employment case, then usually the subpoena is allowed.

The How:

There are no federal laws about these records, but California has very clear laws. Still, some employers do not know them or follow them properly so it is better to know your rights and educate your employer if needed. Here are the types of records that you are legally entitled to get: Pay Records: Employers have to keep for at least three years of your pay records and give their employees a copy within 21 days of request or face civil penalties (Labor Code 226). Personnel Files: Employers have to keep records and give you access to them within a reasonable time (Labor Code 1198.5). All documents you signed: These are the ones signed at hire or as continuing term and condition of employment (not documents signed in the course of conducting business). (Labor Code 432).

Tips: Though these requests do not have to be in writing, it is usually better so that you can keep track of the response time.
Employers may have part of your personnel file in different offices. Be sure to know where yours is kept so when the time comes you know how to find it without being given the run around.
Ask for or make copies of all personnel documents as they come up and hold on to the hiring paperwork so that you have your own set for comparison later.

Unemployment Benefits: Do I Qualify?

The news is not getting better about the economy and the unemployment office has to be really picky when it comes to claims. You were not laid off, but instead quit or were terminated. How can you file for unemployment and be approved? This is one of the most often asked questions from my clients. Some who are still working want to know if they should quit or wait to be terminated. The decision will vary from person to person to situation. The decision can also be personal or health related or that you just want to be out of there. Here are some legalities to consider in your decision.

The Quit:

In a situation with a quit, there is generally just one type of circumstance that will get you these benefits. If you can show that you quit because the work conditions were such that no reasonable person could be expected to work there, then you can still qualify for the benefits. This is a high standard limited to what the law requires of the workplace, such as safe conditions, free from harassment, being paid, and free from retaliation. This is not an easy showing to make and so arguments based on personality, rudeness, bad bosses, etc, will not fly.

The Termination:

Most people think that if you have been terminated, there is no unemployment for you. However, there are exceptions to this. Of course, if you have been terminated based on policy violations, gross misconduct, and other severe actions, then you are disqualified. One way to overcome that, if the facts are there, is the exception that the conduct may not have been appropriate but it was an isolated instance of poor judgment, or something excusable that happened the one time for a good reason. Criminal activity at work or assault or harassment is never excusable.

The Wrongful Termination:

If you have been "wrongfully terminated" in the legal sense, you may still qualify for unemployment. Most employees who file lawsuits have been terminated. If the facts are there for a lawsuit, then they should be there to qualify you for unemployment. You need to show that the termination was not based on whatever the employer is claiming, but because of some legal violation they have committed. For example, if you complain of sexual harassment, then a week later, you are terminated for some work issue that happened two months ago, then the termination was retaliation. When an employer retaliates for your report of a prohibited workplace activity, that employer just violated anti-retaliation laws.

Tip: If you are unemployed but develop a disability and you can't work, then you no longer qualify for unemployment. At this point, apply for State Disability Benefits. Again, these is not easy to get and you will need medical proof, but it is one safety we are lucky to have here in California.

THIS COLUMN WAS PREPARED BY SARA ELIOT, AN EMPLOYMENT ATTORNEY. SHE 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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SURF REPORT



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

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 63.7°

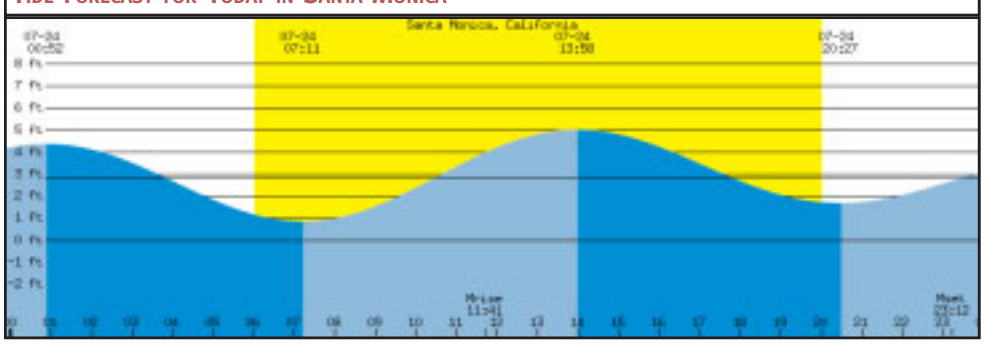
Swell Forecast

Looks waist to chest high high at south facing breaks. NW wind swell is more likely than on Monday, still about waist high or so at west facing breaks.

Long Range Synopsis

Looks waist to chest high at south facing breaks, knee to waist at west 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 18, 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 -- 36 / 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.	D	as
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	as
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	as
Solstice Canyon at Ben Blocker County Beach.	A+	as
Pearce State Beach at creek mouth.	A	as
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pearce Beach, at 21672 Malibu Rd.	A+	as
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A	as
Surfrider Beach (breach location) - daily.	A	as
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	F	as
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A	as
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	as
Big Rock Beach at 19648 PCH stairs.	A+	as
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	as
Tuna Canyon.	A+	as
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A	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.	C	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.	D	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 CBW 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

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

Opener to games will be spectacular but not secret

JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON The London Olympics opening ceremony will be a grand spectacle — but will it be a surprise?

In a word, no.

Director Danny Boyle wants the details to stay secret and games chief Sebastian Coe has pleaded for insiders to stop leaking details of the extravaganza. But in the age of camera phones and social media, with 10,000 performers in the ceremony, thousands of Olympic security and staff and more than 10,000 journalists already at the Olympic Park, not much can be kept out of the public domain.

"Part of the modern world means you can't really do that," Boyle acknowledged about keeping secrets as he showed journalists a mock-up of the set for the opening scene of the ceremony, weeks before the event.

So, a spoiler alert: Stop reading now if you want Friday's opening ceremony to be a surprise. Stop, stop, stop.

But if you are as irresistibly curious as the rest of us, well, prepare for everything from James Bond to Lord Voldemort to a spoonful of sugar.

Boyle has revealed only selected details about the show, But since the performers started rehearsals in June at the Olympic Stadium — and an army of journalists started arriving to cover the July 27-Aug. 12 games — a trickle of details about the 27 million pound ($42 million) opening ceremony has become a torrent.

The leaks became too much for Coe, who tweeted: "Share the frustration of volunteer performers and the public at Opening Ceremony being unofficially trailed. Let's (hash)savethesurprise."

His imploring hashtag fell on deaf ears. Still more information emerged.

So what do we know?

The ceremony's theme is "Isles of Wonder," inspired by William Shakespeare's play about shipwrecked castaways, "The Tempest." An actor is due to recite Caliban's speech, the one that runs "Be not afeard; the isle is full of noises." Mark Rylance, who had been due to perform the lines, pulled out after the death of his stepdaughter. Kenneth Branagh is rumored to be his replacement.

Despite Boyle's enchanted-island inspiration, few expect the man who depicted Scottish heroin addicts in "Trainspotting" and Indian slum dwellers in "Slumdog Millionaire" to deliver a sanitized image of Britain.

It sounds more like Isles of Wonder and Woe — with a big dash of British whimsy thrown in.

Boyle has said the show is "trying to show the best of us, but we're also trying to show many, many different things about our country."

The ceremony will open at 9 p.m. with the sound of a 27-ton bell — the largest harmonically tuned bell in the world — forged at London's 442-year-old Whitechapel Bell Foundry, which made London's Big Ben and Philadelphia's Liberty Bell.

A prerecorded segment has been filmed inside Buckingham Palace, reportedly involving Queen Elizabeth II and Daniel Craig as secret agent James Bond. If rumor is to be believed, a stuntman dressed as 007 will parachute into the stadium to start the show.

The opening sequence will evoke a pastoral idyll, the "green and pleasant land" described in William Blake's poem "Jerusalem," which has been set to music and is regarded as England's unofficial national anthem. There's a meadow, livestock, a farmer plowing his field, a cricket match — and, in a nod to Britain's plethora of rural summer music festivals, a mosh pit.

Boyle hasn't disclosed what comes next, but has said the ceremony will depict Britain's past, present and future for a global television audience estimated at 1 billion. In addition to the athletes and performers, some 60,000 spectators will be in the stadium, including political leaders from around the world. U.S. first lady Michelle Obama and her daughters and a sprinkling of European and celebrity royalty will be among those attending.

Aerial photographs of the set for the second section of the show depict dark buildings and smokestacks with the River Thames running through it. This is the other side of the country described in "Jerusalem" — a land of "dark satanic mills."

A third act will tackle the regeneration of east London, where the Olympics are taking place, as parkland and a creative heartland, home to many artists, designers and Internet startups.

There will be vignettes drawing on British history — Boyle's people-power version of it — including Depression-era jobless protesters and nurses performing a tribute to the National Health Service, founded in 1948 to provide free health care for all Britons and now a much fought-over national institution.

Performers dressed as miners and factory workers have also been seen going into the stadium, and one set piece is a model of the Empire Windrush, a ship that brought hundreds of Caribbean migrants to Britain in 1948.

According to the Sunday Times, one section will feature characters from children's fiction classics including "Alice in Wonderland" and "Peter Pan" — and a showdown between Voldemort, the villain of J.K. Rowling's "Harry Potter" books, and a horde of flying magical nannies based on Mary Poppins.

SANTA MONICA

First AME Church by-the-Sea presents their Mid-Week Revival

Theme: **Renew, Restore and Refresh, Romans 12: 2, July 25th, 7 pm.**
Our guest Preacher is Rev. Shirley LaCour of Bethel AME Church, Los Angeles.
Special guest Rev. Cecil "Chip" Murray introducing his new book
"Tested by Fire" A memoir of faith and service.

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

Amazing Spider-Man (PG-13) 2hrs 16min
1:15pm, 4:40pm, 8:00pm

Dark Knight Rises (PG-13) 2hrs 44min
1:30pm, 5:15pm, 9:00pm

Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted (PG) 1hr 33min
1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Katy Perry: Part of Me 3D (PG) 1hr 35min
1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

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

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

Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 16min
3:00pm, 9:45pm

Brave (PG) 1hr 40min
11:15am, 1:40pm, 4:15pm, 6:45pm, 9:30pm

Ted (R) 1hr 46min
11:45am, 1:15pm, 2:30pm, 4:05pm, 5:30pm, 7:00pm, 8:30pm, 10:00pm

Dark Knight Rises (PG-13) 2hrs 44min
11:00am, 12:45pm, 2:45pm, 4:30pm, 6:40pm, 8:15pm, 10:30pm

Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG) 1hr 34min
11:15am, 1:55pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:20pm

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

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

Beasts of the Southern Wild (PG-13) 1hr 31min
1:00pm, 3:20pm, 5:40pm, 8:00pm, 10:15pm

30 Beats (R) 1hr 28min
1:10pm, 3:20pm, 5:30pm, 7:50pm, 10:10pm

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
1:20pm, 3:45pm, 6:30pm, 9:00pm

Moonrise Kingdom (PG-13) 1hr 33min
11:55am, 2:40pm, 5:15pm, 7:55pm, 10:25pm

Dark Knight Rises (PG-13) 2hrs 44min
11:30am, 2:15pm, 3:15pm, 6:10pm, 7:10pm, 10:00pm

Savages (R) 2hrs 10min
12:15pm, 3:35pm, 7:00pm, 10:10pm

Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG) 1hr 34min
11:45am

Magic Mike (R) 1hr 50min
11:30am, 2:10pm, 4:50pm, 7:40pm, 10:30pm

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

Visit with a special friend tonight, Scorp

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ Defer to others, as they will demand a lot, no matter what you do. Opportunities come through conversations and could be most unexpected. Do not leave the table without a "yes" or a "no." Time is not your ally right now. Tonight: What suits you? Do that.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ You throw yourself into whatever you need to finish. You might be spending a lot and feeling more affluent than in the past. A conversation gives you the push you need. Note someone's response to your ideas. Tonight: Squeeze in some exercise.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ Your sense of humor helps ease you through the day. The unexpected occurs in a meeting or with some friends. You might want to have a long-overdue conversation but not want to jump through all the hoops to get there. Tonight: Be your loving self.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★ You might want to stay close to home. You could be confused by a decision that you are choosing not to discuss. Your instincts help you with your finances. As a result, you'll buy a token of affection for a special person. Tonight: Cozy and comfortable at home.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ You might want or need to deal with a money-related matter. A meeting reveals a lot of insight into this situation, which helps you to make a decision. Make phone calls later today. Tonight: Your perspective changes because of a conversation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Using self-discipline might be easier for you than for others. A partner or associate appears to be unusually reactive. Worry less about this person's unpredictability. Tonight: Honor your budget.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★★ Give 100 percent. Others are inclined to do more for you right now. Friends interact with a smile. It becomes clear that you need to let an admirer know where he or she stands. Tonight: Whatever makes you happy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★ Listen to your inner voice when dealing with a child or loved one. This person appreciates your attention and caring. Your creativity adds to a meeting and leads to new ideas and greater understanding. Tonight: Visit with a special friend.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Zero in on what you want. Flex with a cascading change of plans. Many people around you seem full of ideas, and they want to share them. A male friend could become quite assertive. Be understanding in your response. Tonight: Where the action is.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★★ Take a stand and move through a problem. Your work ethic demands strict focus, which is a trait others rarely seem to have. Whether doing a personal project or simply helping a friend, you give 125 percent. Tonight: Could go to the wee hours.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ While others bicker, you wonder when enough is enough. Understanding evolves because of your ability to detach. You generally come in with a unique perspective. You will get feedback. Accept the negative with the positive. Tonight: Exercise to music.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ One person absolutely needs and wants your attention. You could be dismayed that you do not have more time. A personal matter might be making you a little too jittery for your own good. Take a walk rather than get into a dispute. Tonight: Clear the air.

Happy birthday

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

This year you are on cruise control until a key person seems to throw a boomerang in your direction. As you become more flexible, you won't be able to predict when a surprising situation or person could enter your life. Excitement is a theme throughout this year. If you are single, do not count on anyone entering your life for the long term in 2012. A potential suitor could travel often or pop in and out your life randomly. If you are attached, your sweetie seems very different this year; he or she might become quite zany. Strap on your seatbelt, and try to remain calm -- this is just a phase. LIBRA has a romantic perspective on nearly everything.

Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



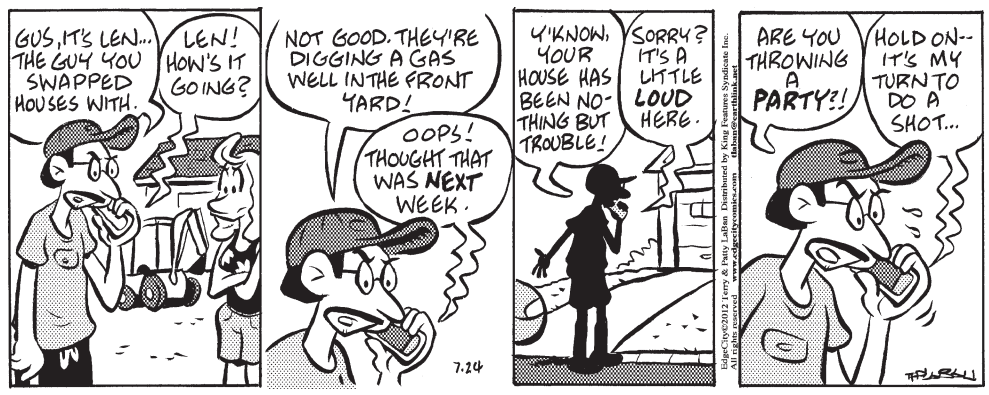
Strange Brew
By John Deering



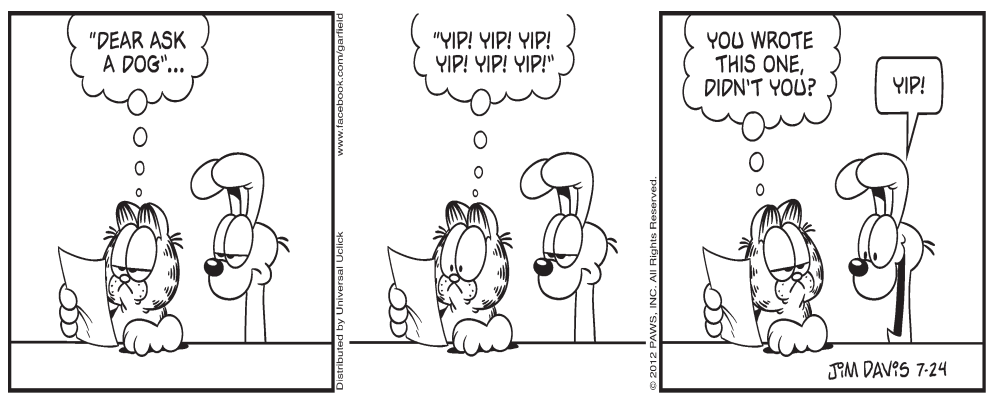
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



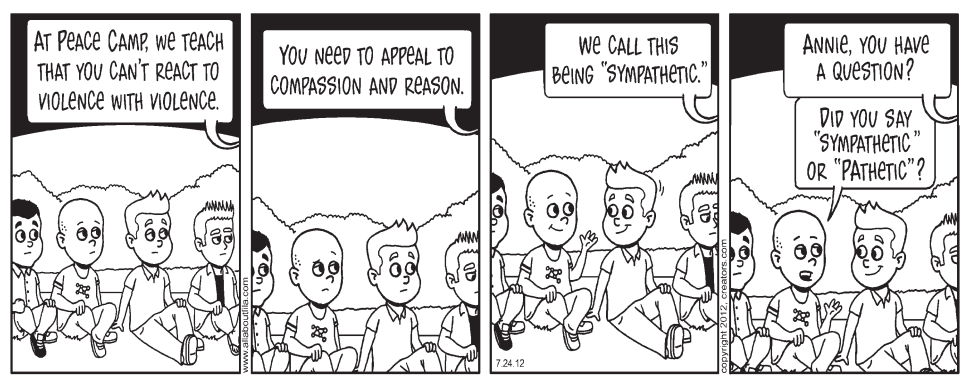
Edge City
By Terry & Patty LaBan



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 ★★

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

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.

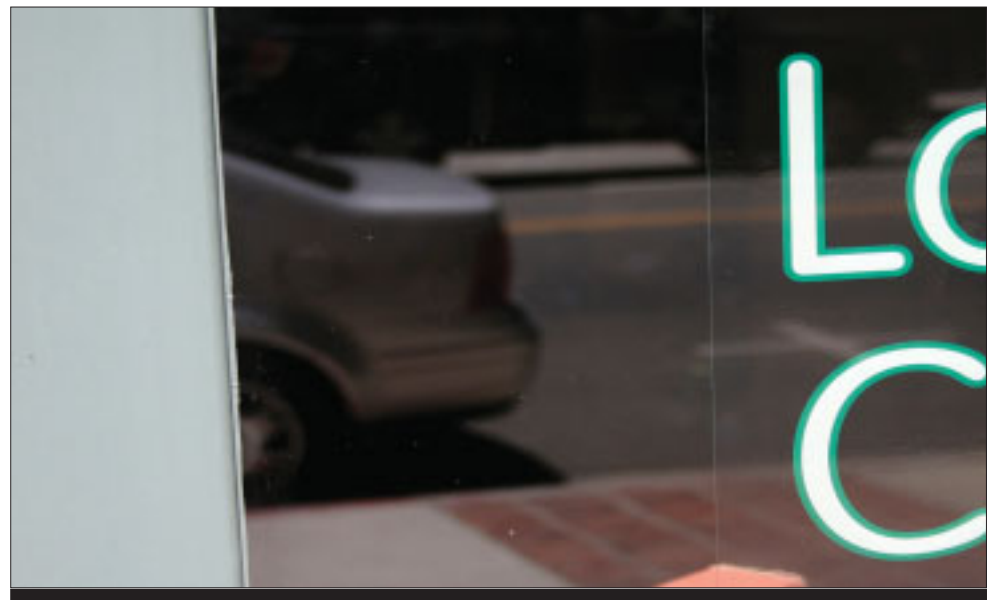
SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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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

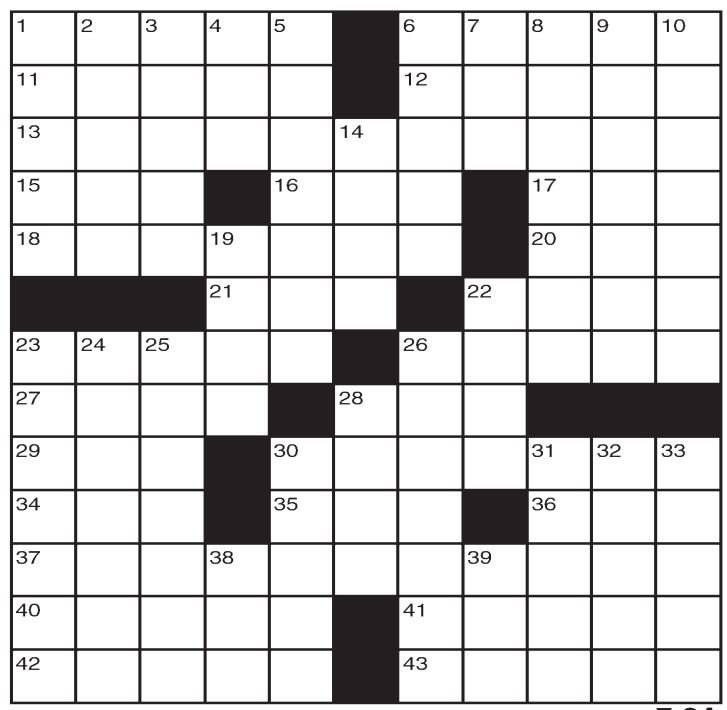
ACROSS
1 Jeweler's unit
6 Restrained
11 Wise saying
12 Wonderland guest
13 Clairvoyance
15 Caribou's cousin
16 Word on a bill
17 Garden tool
18 Tyrants
20 "— folly to be wise"
21 Some amount of
22 Spring period
23 Roof support
26 Has a yen
27 Radiator sound
28 Sticky stuff
29 "— had it!"
30 Sleep
34 Disencumber
35 Writer Fleming
36 Yale player
37 Question decisions, in a way
40 Commerce
41 Bert's pal
42 Gridiron units
43 Insolent look

DOWN
1 Studied for a heist
2 "Rolling in the Deep" singer
3 Store fixtures
4 In the past
5 Muscle connectors
6 Diamond corners
7 Boxing legend
8 Constrain
9 Reverberating
10 Loathes
14 Obligation
19 Forgo bidding
22 Weaving need
23 Parched
24 European resort
25 Lemon, perhaps
26 Hotel areas
28 Pleased
30 Trig functions
31 Designer Geoffrey
32 Commercial cow
33 Stair part
38 Unmatched
39 Coffee dispenser

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

Yesterday's answer

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



7-24

DAILY LOTTERY

MEGA MILLIONS
Draw Date: 7/20
2 44 48 50 52
Meganumber: 3
Jackpot: $45M

SUPER LOTTO PLUS
Draw Date: 7/20
8 19 23 24 30
Meganumber: 23
Jackpot: $15M

Fantasy 5
Draw Date: 7/23
6 16 24 28 39

DAILY 3
Draw Date: 7/23
MIDDAY: 0 2 3
EVENING: 8 2 1

SANTA ANITA PARK
Draw Date: 7/23
1st: 03 Hot Shot
2nd: 11 Money Bags
3rd: 05 California Classic
RACE TIME: 1:46.51

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

■ **Medical Marvel:** A 63-year-old woman in South Korea bit into a portion of squid and later felt "bug-like organisms" moving around in her mouth. According to doctors at the National Center for Biotechnology Information in Bethesda, Md., writing in a recent paper, the squid had probably expelled its spermatophores as if it were attempting insemination. (When squid is eaten in the West, the internal organs have been removed, but apparently not in South Korea.) A scientist who has worked with squid commented on the professional network Science 2.0, "I've probably had hundreds of spermatophores ejaculate on my fingers and never felt a sting."

■ A start-up venture in Singapore announced in June that it has developed an adult diaper made of "Sofshell," a substance that hardens on contact and redistributes weight -- so that if seniors fall on their rear ends, the impact will be absorbed with a lesser risk of broken bones. One of the developers demonstrated by dropping a bowling ball on a cellphone protected by the material, and the phone suffered not a scratch.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1981 - Mark David Chapman is sentenced to 20 years to life in prison for murdering John Lennon.

1989 - Colombian drug barons declare "total war" on the Colombian government.

1989 - Cincinnati Reds manager Pete Rose is banned from baseball for gambling by Commissioner A. Bartlett Giamatti.

1991 - Mikhail Gorbachev resigns as head of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

1992 - Hurricane Andrew makes landfall just south of Miami as a Category 5 hurricane.

WORD UP!

nubilous
**\ NOO-buh-luhs ** , adjective;
1.Cloudy or foggy.
2. Obscure or vague; indefinite.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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- Travel
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- Rent
- Houses for Rent
- Roomates
- Commerical Lease
- Real Estate
- Real Estate Loans
- Storage Space
- Vehicles for Sale
- Massage
- Services
- Computer Services
- Attorney Services
- Business Opportunities
- Yard Sales
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DBAS

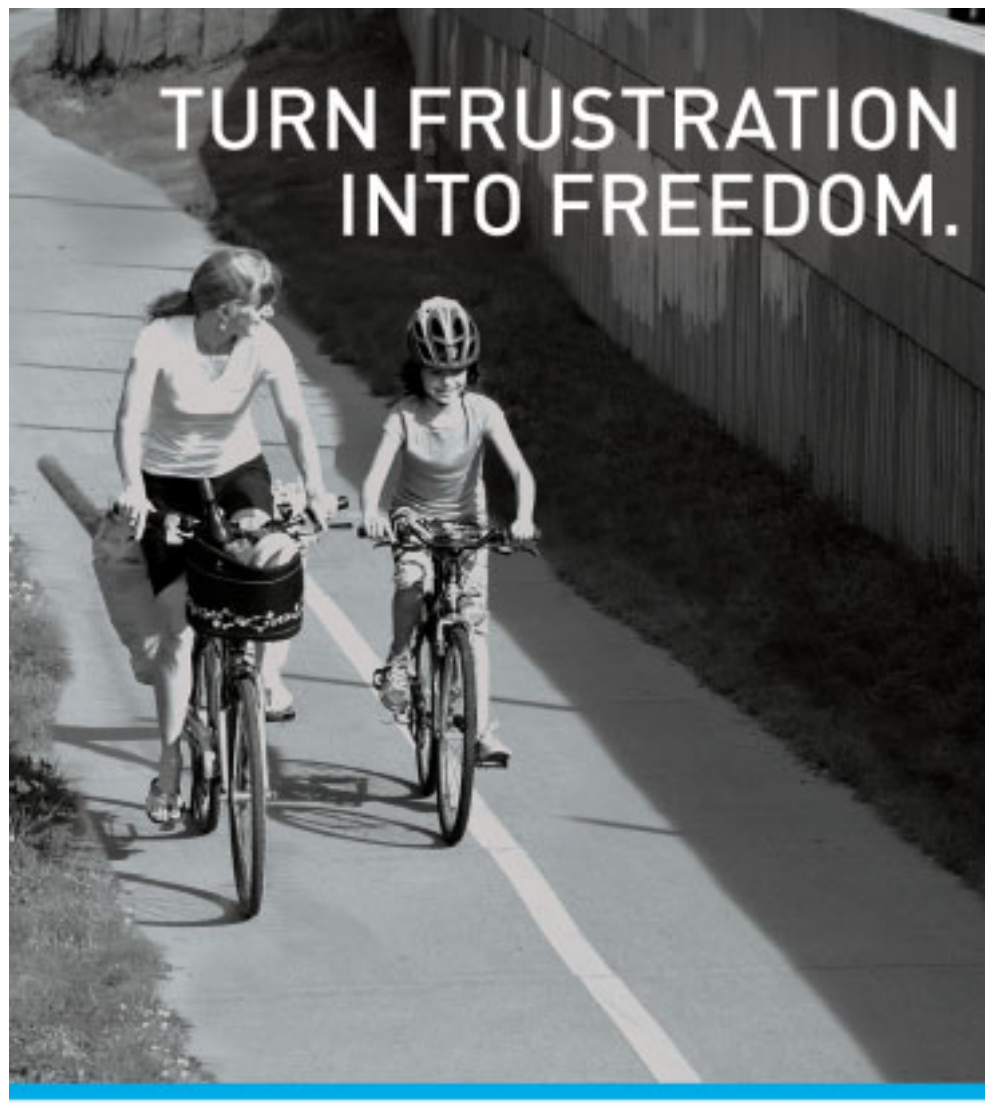
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NUMBER: 2012127523 ORIGINAL FILING This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES on 06/25/2012 The following person(s) is (are) doing business as MAKS BIG DEALS. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: ABDELMALEK NASHED ABDELMALEK 5644 RAVENSPUR DR. APT #307 RANCHO PALOS VERDES CA 90275. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)04/03/2012. /s/: ABDELMALEK NASHED ABDELMALEK. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 06/25/2012. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq.,Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 07/24/2012, 07/31/2012, 08/07/2012, 08/14/2012.

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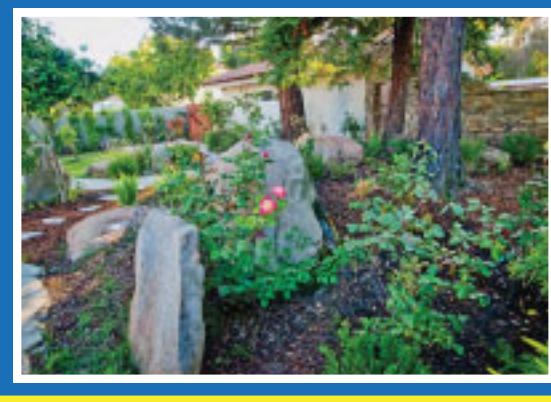
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Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$3,079,000
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