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TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2011
Volume 10 Issue 217

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

LACK OF RESPECT FOR LATINOS
SEE PAGE 5

THE CONGRATS TO THE GENSERS ISSUE

State cuts cost SMMUSD its toddler program

Younger children too expensive to keep in the system; space availability also an issue

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS For months, as the governor and state legislators wrangled over budget deals, Californians were told that cuts would be borne by every age group and demographic to balance the state budget.

Once again, Santa Monica is feeling the sting of the state's fiscal knife.

At a presentation before the Board of Education last Wednesday, Judy Abdo, Santa Monica's former mayor and the school district's child development services director, revealed unsettling news.

As a result of a 12 percent cut in state funding for child development programs, the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District could no longer afford to provide child care services to the city's 2 year olds.

Those cuts resulted in a $600,000 to $700,000 loss to pre-school programs and

SEE PROGRAM PAGE 9



FREE TREAT

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

Representatives from DoubleTree Hotel Monday hand out cookies on the Santa Monica Pier. It was part of the hotel's Cookie 'Careavan' promotion. Its next stop is Long Beach this afternoon.

Spending green on green streets

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 Ocean Park Boulevard will finally go green.

Tuesday, City Hall will move to get over $5 million in contracts approved to begin converting a section of Ocean Park Boulevard into what planners call a "complete green street."

It only took four years.

The project, originally conceived in June 2007, got its design phase approved in April 2010. When completed, the "green street" will improve conditions for alternative forms of transportation, include new tree species and reduce the amount and impact of run-off that flows into the Santa Monica Bay.

Six companies bid on the construction portion of the project, with PALP-EPC coming in as the lowest bidder at $4,448,438.

The company has done work for Santa Monica in the past, completing the 2003 Annual Street Improvement Project.

The design team, KHA, will get a $90,000 increase to its contract to continue doing shop drawings, requests for information and submittals, to attend project construction meetings and to prepare record drawings.

Finally, if approved, the Arcadis, US, Inc. company will perform construction management and inspection services. Arcadis beat out 25 other firms for a $366,652 contract.

The Green Street project is the most expensive item on the $13,902,204 consent agenda, pricing out at a total of $5,349,934.



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

GOING: **A car travels down Ocean Park Boulevard on Monday. The boulevard is slated to see new landscaping and runoff management.**

MORE STREET IMPROVEMENTS

Arizona Avenue, the Mid-City area and the city's office district will all be getting makeovers if the City Council approves two contracts that will connect 40 signalized intersections to City Hall's centralized traffic control system.

The work represents the fourth phase in a five-phase effort to connect all of Santa Monica's intersections using fiber optic cables. Some signals will need to be fully replaced, while others can get by on smaller

SEE CONSENT PAGE 10

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Tuesday, July 26, 2011

Time for art
Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club
1210 Fourth St.,
11:30 a.m. — 2 p.m.
The Artists League of the Santa Monica Bay Woman's Club invites you to drop in to work on independent projects in watercolor, gouache and collage. This is a self-directed workshop that provides a supportive environment for those wishing to concentrate on their painting and an opportunity for painters to learn from each other. For more information, call (310) 310-2273.

Calling all writers
Fairview Library
2101 Ocean Park Blvd., 12 p.m.
Meet with other aspiring writers for inspiration, guidance and support during this regular meeting. For more information, call (310) 450-0443.

Book signing
Main Library
601 Santa Monica Blvd.,
7 p.m. — 8:45 p.m.
Dee Wallace shot to fame in the '80s with her role in the acclaimed movie "E.T. the Extra Terrestrial," but quickly faltered after her movie career began to fizzle. Wallace chronicles her journey back to spirituality in her book, "Bright Light." A book signing will take place in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Auditorium. For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

Gershwin revival
The Annenberg Community Beach House Gallery
415 PCH,
6:30 p.m. — 8:30 p.m.
Portions of the Gershwin songbook, including the famed "Porgy and Bess," will be revived by pianists Victoria Kirsch and Alan Chapman. Karen Benjamin, Shana Blake Hill, Cedric Berry and Haqumai Sharpe will accompany with vocals. Admission is free but reservations are required. For more information, call (310) 458-4904.

Wednesday, July 27, 2011

So fresh and so clean
Arizona Avenue and Second Street, 8:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.
Find fresh produce at Downtown's weekly Farmers' Market and sample food from Santa Monica's own sub shop, The Curious Palate. For more information, visit smgov.net/farmers_market.

Calling all teen writers
Main Library
501 Santa Monica Blvd.,
2 p.m. — 4 p.m.
"Write On!" is a workshop set up for aspiring teen writers in middle and high school. Teens can come together, communicate and discuss their craft while helping one another improve. For more information, call (310) 458-8600.

To create your own listing, log on to smdp.com/submitevent

For help, contact Daniel Archuleta at 310-458-7737 or submit to editor@smdp.com

For more information on any of the events listed, log on to smdp.com/communitylistings



Applicants line around the block for market jobs

BY SERLI POLATOGLU
Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN Over 100 people in suits and ties lined up in front of Vons on Monday, spilling over onto the Broadway sidewalk in hopes of snagging a job at the grocery chain.

With Los Angeles County's unemployment rate at a staggering 12.4 percent, 3 percent higher than that of the nation as a whole, 600,000 able-bodied workers are left without a means to support themselves.

Though a Vons manager and applicants alike were surprised by the hefty turnout for job interviews, unemployment trends prove that California's labor force is in for hard times.

It's no wonder an open interview session for a mere 38 entry level openings in 11 Vons across Santa Monica and the Westside drew so much attention.

Openings included courtesy clerks, to be paid $8.10 per hour; general merchandise and health and beauty care clerks paid $8.20

SEE **JOBS** PAGE 10



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

SEEKERS: **Job applicants stand outside of Vons on Broadway Monday hoping to land an interview. Vons officials said more than 100 people came out.**

Pot backers get approval for ballot petitions

DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO Supporters of legalizing recreational marijuana will try to win over California voters again next year, after the secretary of state's office on Monday cleared them to begin circulating ballot petitions.

This time they will argue that pot growers should be treated the same as vineyard owners or microbrewers. Those who grow marijuana for their own use would not be taxed, but those who sell it would be regulated by the state Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control.

Medical marijuana activist Steve Kubby, who is one of the key backers of the current movement, said keeping the recreational use of marijuana illegal was like the federal government's prohibition of alcohol, which ended in 1933.

"We're repealing bad laws," he said in an interview Monday. "We're creating a sales tax on the biggest crop in the state, and we're bringing it within a regulated model."

Kubby said the latest effort stands a better chance than Proposition 19, which fell 6 percentage points short of the majority vote it needed last November. That initiative would have made California the first state to legalize recreational marijuana use and sales.

Voter attitudes are evolving, said Kubby, who helped write the medical marijuana law California voters approved in 1996 and was the 1998 Libertarian candidate for

SEE **POT** PAGE 9

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

DOWNTOWN

Shopping benefits schools

The Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation has partnered with Santa Monica Place to raise money to "support educational excellence for every child in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District," according to a statement released Monday.

A dollar will be donated to the Ed Foundation per Santa Monica Place Gift Card or GIVE Green Gift Card purchase. Gift cards must be purchased at the Santa Monica Place Concierge Desk in order to benefit the nonprofit organization.

The dollar will be donated from a purchase fee of $4.95 when buying a Santa Monica Place Gift Card, or $3.95 when buying a GIVE Green Gift Card.

SERLI POLATOGLU

SM BEACH

City Hall plans new beach playground

A new universally accessible playground at Santa Monica State Beach is in the early planning stages, City Hall announced last week.

The park, planned for the 2900 block of Bernard Way, will be accessible by all children, regardless of their abilities, city officials said.

The community design process will kick off with a Design Open House on July 30, at 10 a.m. in the east wing of the Santa Monica Civic Auditorium. At this first blank-slate meeting, the project team led by Katherine Spitz Associates will explore the concept of universal accessibility and the opportunities it presents. The public is encouraged to come to learn about the project and share input that will help shape the new playground.

"We are thrilled to kick off the universally accessible playground project," said Santa Monica Mayor Richard Bloom. "This playground creates an amazing space for kids of all abilities to connect with each other and play. Locating Santa Monica's playground at the beach has the added bonus of giving kids with a disability an opportunity to more fully enjoy the beach. Any time we're able to make Santa Monica State Beach more accessible, it's a win for us all."

The community is also encouraged to participate in the project through the e-workshop located online at facebook.com/smbuap.

DANIEL ARCHULETA

CITYWIDE

Community classes offered

Whether you're into Zumba or beach volleyball, the city's Community Recreation Programs offer something for nearly any taste.

Class descriptions, schedules and registration forms are available in the city newsletter Seascape, which is mailed to residents and available at many public facilities, or online at www.smgov.net/seascape.

Starting at 6 a.m. from Aug. 3-9, Santa Monica residents can take advantage of priority online-only registration. For those who need computer access, computers will be available for registration at Virginia Avenue Park (2200 Virginia Ave.) on Aug. 3 only, from 6-10 a.m. Computers are also available at all public library branches – visit www.smpl.org for hours. Non-resident online registration begins Aug. 10 at 6 a.m.

Proof of residency is required for Santa Monica residents (a driver's license or government-issued photo ID and one of the following in the registrant's name is required to verify residency: rental agreement, mortgage statement, or current utility bill.

Registration forms are available in Seascape or at www.smgov.net/recreation.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Put the brakes on development

Editor:

Another development project – unnecessary and unwanted, unreasonable and ill-conceived – for the already struggling Pico Neighborhood? Are you serious? Overcrowding, traffic, environmental and humanistic concerns all shout out against this project. Safety and health notions dictate against it, and yet in all likelihood, as with nearly every development project that comes across your tables, the City Council will hem and haw, make a sham of debate in a show hearing, and then rubber stamp the monster.

Are you truly intent upon creating a stranglehold of big business and big developers on the so-called democratic process in the city of Santa Monica? Are you so beholden to these developers and big business interest for your positions on the council that almost nothing will deter you from approving yet another foolish and shortsighted development that will inevitably lead to the further decline in the quality of life in Santa Monica?

Have you – any of you – attempted to traverse the city at or near rush hour that is quickly coming to encompass all the daylight hours? Have any of you dodged ever-increasing vehicular traffic on your bikes in the so-called bike lanes? Do any of you have to deal with the many deleterious effects of overcrowding derived from overdevelopment, or are you so removed from real life that you have no notion of what you do in the end? Do you, at last, have no shame?

I urge you to disapprove the project.

William N. Fordes
Sunset Park

'Pedaling' paranoia

Editor:

I don't know where Ms. Betty A. Darling ("Criticizing cyclists," Letters to the Editor, July 21) does her surveillance work on the outlaw bicycle gangs besieging the streets of Santa Monica, but I just can't agree that "as a group most bikers ignore the laws of the road."

I find her obsessive campaign against the imagined brutish army of two-wheeled road warriors inaccurate, if not delusional. Her remark that "a 200-pound bike and rider riding thoughtlessly is no match for a 2-ton car" is unsupportable. I have never seen the carnage she speaks of; the twisted wreckage of a four-wheel van lying upside down and spinning its wheels next to an unscathed beach cruiser.

Maybe if Ms. Darling could pry herself out of her automobile and (the horror) onto the seat of a personally propelled two-wheeled transport, she might discover the joy that awaits the law-abiding majority of Santa Monica pedal pushers.

John "Pollyanna" Blanchette
Santa Monica





What's the Point?

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

Elevators could uplift SM

I SPEND A GREAT DEAL OF TIME EACH week Downtown. I have set lunches on Monday and Fridays that put me on the Third Street Promenade. Friday dinner means that you can usually find me at T's Thai on Fourth, sitting at a table with my travel buddy and his wife, who rarely travels with us to exotic locales like Parker, Ariz., where the double-wide trailers haven't been painted since Nixon was in office.

Frequently the restaurant has on the show "How It's Made," which is one of our favorites. He's a machinist by trade and I'm a lover of factories. So while we chow down on the short ribs (which are awesome there, by the way) we chat about the various ways in which things like lawnmowers are manufactured. It's odd, I know. Usually any two men sitting over dinner would be discussing sports, but I don't think we could name the last two World Series champs.

We do, however, have some very strong opinions on the way the city is run. Generally, we're both very positive and passionate about this city. He has in his living room a 2-by-3 foot sign that says, "never leave the beach" — which pretty much sums up his attitude. I too am a big booster of the city. As much as I hate to pay local taxes and fees, I recognize that they serve a purpose.

Taxes and fees are supposed to be used to maintain common services and assets; common services like the police and fire department, and assets like the parking structures. Our parking structures are crucial to a vibrant Downtown. The parking experience will have a direct and dramatic effect on people's desire to stay or return to the city.

It wasn't that many years ago that stepping into the elevator, or worse, the stairwell, was like stepping into a toilet. The stench was overwhelming and, personally, I wanted to have a decontamination shower afterward. Thankfully that situation has for the most part been corrected.

However, there is another problem that is occurring with the parking structures, and that is the erratic workings of the elevators. It seems like there is always at least one elevator out in each of the structures. I realize that my complaining about the status of a parking structure seems a bit ungrateful, however, let's remember that the structures are publicly-owned and that we all pay for them.

I wanted to track down who was responsible for the condition of the elevators, so I started with Kathleen Rawson from Downtown Santa Monica Inc., the property-based assessment district CEO to discuss the situation. Downtown Santa Monica, which used to be called the Bayside District, has on their website the following as part of their purpose:

"In an effort to create a clean environment in Downtown Santa Monica the Enhanced Maintenance Program will maintain all parking structures, alleyways and sidewalks."

Kathleen and I had a great conversation about the status of the elevators and she filled me in on the overall conditions. It seems that the inner workings of the elevators are as old as the structures themselves. This means that they have had decades worth of muck and sea air to contend with and some are showing the signs of age.

THERE IS ANOTHER PROBLEM THAT IS OCCURRING WITH THE PARKING STRUCTURES, AND THAT IS THE ERRATIC WORKINGS OF THE ELEVATORS.

Downtown Santa Monica is supposed to keep the Third Street and surrounding areas in good condition, and they've been doing a great job, but they are not responsible for capital improvements like renewing the elevators; that needs to come from City Hall's budget. I recognize that there are many places for the City Council to spend money and the competing choruses for cash are always unhappy with how little they each receive, but when it comes to something as visible as the elevators, I think we need to put them at the top of the list.

I think this is not just because it is a convenience factor, or that it is one of the first and last experiences someone has of the city. I have actual concerns about safety. These elevators have been exposed to years of abuse and sea air, and yes they are inspected on a regular basis, but inspections obviously don't catch everything that is wrong, otherwise the elevators wouldn't break down.

There are multiple redundant safety measures in every elevator. I learned that one day watching "How It's Made," but that is no guarantee against an accident and I'd like to avoid that.

The City Council needs to address this issue, and do so quickly. Elevators are the first and last memorable experience people have in our city so I would like to see the entire experience of being Downtown, be an uplifting one.

Sorry, just couldn't resist that joke.

DAVID PISARRA is a family law attorney focusing on father's rights and men's issues in the Santa Monica firm of Pisarra & Grist. He can be reached at dpisarra@pisarra.com or (310) 664-9969.





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Your column here

Alvaro Huerta
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

MLB's lack of respect for Latinos

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL COMMISSIONER Bud Selig recently struck out, big time, by stubbornly refusing to relocate the 82nd All-Star Game from Phoenix, Ariz. to another city due to the desert state's racist immigration law, SB 1070. Although the core of this draconian law remains under a federal court injunction, if Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer has her way, it can go all the way to the conservative-dominated Supreme Court and set a devastating legal precedent against 50 million Latinos in the U.S.

Petitioned by numerous civil rights and immigrant advocate groups to take a moral and financial position against a law that promotes racial profiling against all Latinos, especially since SB 1070 allows for police officers and other government officials to demand legal documents against individuals under the guise of "reasonable suspicion." The fundamental problem here is that those most likely to be targeted will be brown-skinned individuals and those with Spanish-surnames.

Despite this fact, Selig and the owners of the MLB baseball teams don't care that almost 30 percent of the MLB baseball players — those of Latin American decent with Spanish surnames like Gonzalez, Ortiz, Rivera and Rodriguez — will be directly impacted by this racist law that has spread like wildfire to other states, such as Utah, Indiana, South Carolina, Georgia and Alabama.

Taking the so-called apolitical position that America's greatest pastime will not get involved in a law that should be settled through the political process, Selig conveniently ignores the fact that locating the All-Star Game in Phoenix in the first place represents a political act. It's no secret that major U.S. cities compete against each other to secure major sports events like the MLB All-Star Game, National Basketball Association (NBA) All-Star Game and National Football League (NFL) Super Bowl. Not only do governors and mayors get involved in this competitive process on behalf of their states and cities to capture the financial and publicity benefits that major sports games generate, but also powerful business leaders since they too benefit financially from all those professional sports fans who purchase tickets, consume food, drink alcohol, rent hotels, attend tourist attractions and buy memorabilia.

This is not the first time that the Latino community has been taken for granted by Major League Baseball. In the mid-1900s, for example, then-Brooklyn Dodgers owner Walter O'Malley and his friends had no problem in displacing an entire Latino community, Chavez Ravine, to make room for the new tenants: the Los Angeles Dodgers. By labeling the barrio as "blighted," the Housing Authority of Los Angeles, in cahoots with the federal government, utilized eminent domain — the legal practice of taking private property from individuals for the common good — to forcefully clear the land of its longtime residents. While originally intended for public housing projects, O'Malley and his powerful friends in City Hall eventually prevailed by locating a professional baseball team in a major market like Los Angeles. To the present, living family members who lost their homes vividly remember this tragic American story.

Despite this dark history, Latino fans continue to wear Dodger blue, spend their hard-earned money on tickets, parking, over-priced beer and Dodger Dogs. And what do the Latino baseball fans get in return for their loyalty? A dysfunctional owner, Frank McCourt, and an insensitive commissioner who refuses to meet one simple demand from Latino and Latina leaders: to relocate an MLB game to another state on the basic premise that we, as a society, can't reward racist and inhospitable states against Latinos.

Is this too much to ask? Didn't the NFL relocate the Super Bowl in 1993 from Phoenix to Pasadena, Calif. since this same desert state refused to recognize Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as a paid holiday?

How can the MLB continue to boast about being a leader in the civil rights movement with the historic case of Jackie Robinson — the first great African American baseball ball player in 1947 to break the dehumanizing color line — when it ignores Arizona's institutional racism against Latinos in general and immigrants in particular?

While it's too late for the MLB to reverse its course on the recently played All-Star Game at Chase Field on July 12, 2011, it's not too late for the millions of Latino baseball fans in this country to sit on the bench, permanently, when the next baseball game takes place in any field.

Instead of pleading for change, Latinos need to learn from the brave African-American men and woman who refused to take the bus in Montgomery, Ala., on Dec. 1, 1955, until they received the dignity and respect that they deserved.

ALVARO HUERTA is a Ph.D. candidate at UC Berkeley and a visiting scholar at the Chicano Studies Research Center at UCLA.

The Q Line

What's in a name?

City officials are looking for names for a pair of parks planned for the Civic Center.

So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
What should the pair of parks be named?

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) 458-7737 ext. 102.**





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Dream Act opens private aid to Illegal students

JUDY LIN
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO Gov. Jerry Brown on Monday signed a bill that will let students who entered the country illegally receive private financial aid at California's public colleges, even as debate continues over a more contentious bill that would allow access to public funding.

The Democratic governor signed AB130 at Los Angeles City College. It is the first of a two-bill package referred to as the California Dream Act, which is aimed at getting financial aid for college students who entered the country illegally.

"It's crucial that we invest in every child that lives and is born in this state. Signing this Dream Act is another piece of investment in people because people drives the culture, the economy," Brown told a crowd of about 100 students and community leaders who gathered inside the city college's library. "This is another piece of a very important mosaic which is a California that works for everyone."

The governor did not address the second bill in the package, which is more contentious because it would allow illegal immigrants to receive state-funded scholarships and financial aid. That bill, AB131, is in the state Senate.

The legislative package authored by state Assemblyman Gil Cedillo, D-Los Angeles, differs from the federal Dream Act, which would include a path to citizenship for those bought to the country illegally as children.

Critics of the package say granting public or private financial aid to illegal immigrants will force citizens and students who are here legally to compete with them for limited resources. Assemblyman Tim Donnelly, R-Twin Peaks, said California's public colleges and universities have already had to raise tuition fees in the face of recent budget cuts.

"Bottom line is California doesn't have enough money to take care of its obligations to its citizens right now," Donnelly said. "The people, who if they're lucky enough to have jobs, certainly would like those limited resources to go to their children or grandchildren. They certainly wouldn't want that to go to people who come here illegally."

Cedillo said he admired the students without legal status because of the obstacles they have had to overcome. He said allowing students to qualify for private scholarships and financial aid is one step that will help them get through college.

California's community college and public universities systems support the bill, noting that it affects less than 1 percent of their student population. According to the University of California, fewer than 80 students across its system of more than 220,000 students would be affected by the bill signed Monday.

The California State University estimated that some of the 3,600 students who have permission to pay in-state tuition rates even though they lack legal documentation could be affected by the new law. The CSU system enrolls about 440,000 students.

At least one student who stands to benefit from the California Dream Act said an education will improve his perspective and quality of life even if he'll still have trouble finding work out of college. Rigoberto Barboza, a 21-year-old from Mexico who studies sociology at Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut, Calif., said the new law could help him take more courses and finish sooner.

NAACP chief focuses on voting laws at convention

CHRISTINA HOAG
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES The NAACP plans to spend the next year fighting against a slew of voting laws that it says disenfranchise huge swaths of minority voters, the civil rights organization's president said at the group's convention on Monday.

Benjamin Todd Jealous said legislation promoted by what he called racist elements in the tea party has surged in 47 states as Barack Obama faces re-election in 2012, with 30 states passing some type of limitation on voting.

Jealous, the head of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, likened the new legislation to Jim Crow laws, which sought to disenfranchise and segregate blacks prior to the 1960s.

Among the latest laws are mandates for a photo ID to vote, a copy of a photo ID attached to the voter registration application as well as restrictions on ex-felons' rights to vote.

"We broke the color line in this country. That was followed by a great backlash," said Jealous, who addressed about 1,500 people at the convention in Los Angeles. "These are the last existing legal pillars of Jim Crow."

Jealous pointed to Wisconsin's law that requires a photo ID at the polls, saying it will disqualify half of black and Latino voters in that state. "People too poor to own a car generally don't have a driver's license," he said.

Another new law in Florida, which requires a waiting period of five to seven years before ex-felons can vote, will disqualify 250,000 black voters, as well as 250,000 others, he said.

The other key issue for the NAACP is to rescue black men and boys from high rates of incarceration, murder, and unemployment. "We must fight equally as hard to hold on to our family," Jealous said.

Noting that there are numerous government social programs aimed at boosting black males, Jealous said the NAACP would work to defeat government policies that perpetuate a lack of opportunity for black males.

That lack of opportunity leads to more black men in prison than in college, he said. Jealous pointed to failing urban schools and the criminal justice system as two key culprits.

The death penalty disproportionately affects black men, as well as drug sentencing laws that mandate harsher terms for offenses involving crack cocaine as compared to powder cocaine, Jealous said.

More blacks are involved in crack cocaine offenses.

The disparity of funding for urban schools is another issue the NAACP will work to solve, he noted.

Day laborers double as actors to teach, empower

AMY TAXIN
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES Most days, they are construction workers and painters and maids.

But twice a year, this group of day laborers morphs into actors in a traveling street theater troupe that performs at the very job centers where they and others gather to seek work across Southern California.

Blending at-times bawdy humor with a serious message about employer abuses, the Los Angeles-based Day Laborer Theater Without Borders has helped teach illegal immigrants with little education or knowledge of the law about their rights in this country.

Some who push for tougher border enforcement questioned whether the effort encourages illegal immigration. But advocates say the group and others like it elsewhere in the U.S. have done more to educate and empower workers than lectures or handouts ever could.

"When they take it to the streets, to the corners, they use the language that day laborers use because they know it," said Pablo Alvarado, executive director of the National Day Laborers Organizing Network, which helps fund the theater troupe. "The minute they start doing that, people gather around just like that."

The troupe had its start three years ago when day laborers found themselves at the heart of a heated national debate over illegal immigration. Now, the group is helping other troupes get going in San Francisco and Maryland, while a similar group already exists in New Orleans.

On a recent weekday morning, three dozen day laborers waiting for construction gigs at a hiring site in Los Angeles filed inside and grabbed seats on folding chairs to watch the troupe's first performance of a two-week summer tour.

The first skit was called "Modern Slavery." Two actors wearing blue uniforms hurried to the front of the hiring center, where space had been set aside for a makeshift stage. Cracking jokes rife with sexual innuendo and slang, the pair complained about the conditions at their office-cleaning job where an abusive boss tried to get his female subordinate to do more than just wash floors.

Played by another laborer, the English-barking suit-wearing boss admired the woman from behind while she scrubbed the floor — drawing laughter from the nearly all-male audience. But when he propositioned her and threatened to call immigration if she dared report him to police, the workers watching the show grew more serious.

Actors said the story line, crafted jointly during rehearsals, drew from their own experiences — which is why workers could relate to it.

"Most of us who come here, not many have schooling," said 62-year-old Prospero Leon, a painter from Guatemala whose face lit up during the comedic parts of the performance. "They're interested in knowing their rights."

The idea for the theater group dates back to a 2007 production about the experiences of day laborers entitled "Los Illegals" by the Cornerstone Theater Company, a Los Angeles-based nonprofit that helps build community theater. Several workers acted in the play written by Cornerstone's artistic director Michael John Garces, and one of them later adapted the script for an ad-hoc performance at a conference of day laborers near Washington D.C.

That set the stage for the formation of a theater troupe by and for day laborers under the tutelage of Salvadoran immigrant worker-turned-artistic director, Juan Jose Magandi. In the 1990s, day laborers had mounted a similar traveling theater group but struggled with logistical problems and the cast disbanded.

"In our countries, the theater is from very elitist movements," Magandi said. "We try to do theater from below — that's why we use their vocabulary, their style and we share their experiences."

Garces, who advises the current group and has helped bring acting and voice experts to train laborers as volunteer actors, said the tradition of street theater in Latin America and the fiery speeches and border-watching groups active in the immigration debate made theater a perfect fit for the subject.

Alvarado, of the national day laborer organization, said the feedback from audiences has been anecdotal but positive. The troupe has been funded by the organization and grants from groups such as the Ford Foundation and Open Society Foundations to the tune of roughly $80,000 a year.

One person is paid to help run the troupe and actors are given $75 a month for bus passes to get to rehearsals and a $50 stipend for days when they perform, said Lorena Moran, the group's associate artistic director.

Roughly half a dozen actors will perform two different plays at 10 different job centers through July 29. The group rehearses twice a week for three or four months leading up to each tour.

Some advocates for tougher immigration enforcement questioned whether the effort might be going too far, arguing such performances shouldn't encourage workers to flout the law.

"It's always good for people to know their rights, but we also have to be careful we're not going anything to encourage illegal immigration," said Steven Camarota, director of research at the Washington-based Center for Immigration Studies.

In Los Angeles, organizers said the plays can be therapeutic for workers who are often reluctant to share their experiences of employer abuse, discrimination and loneliness. The skits have also lifted the spirits of those who have joined the troupe's rotating cast, which currently has about a dozen members, though they don't all perform on every tour.

Moran said the group saved her from falling into depression after she came to the U.S. from Guatemala. She was working construction gigs she landed outside Home Depot, often the only woman on a job.

"The theater is what brought me back to life," said Moran, a 39-year-old college graduate who started as a volunteer actor and is now paid to administer the group full-time.

Juan Romero, 49, said he was shy before he joined the cast, though he always liked to sing and write poetry. Now, the Salvadoran immigrant bellows out his roles with ease — and he thinks that confidence has also translated to his real life as a gardener and construction worker.

During the recent performance in Los Angeles, Romero played the immigrant laborer whose wife was being harassed by the couple's boss. When his character learned what was really going on, he stood up for her, even though they lost their jobs in the process.

Dr. Deborah Wallen

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PROGRAM
FROM PAGE 1

those that serve infants to 3 year olds, Abdo said.

Compounding the problem, district space that could be used for toddler care will now be taken up by the federally-funded Head Start program, a national initiative that makes sure young children of poor families can get educational, nutritional and health services.

The district recently took over the Head Start programs previously offered by the Delta Sigma Theta Pre-School for Santa Monica and Venice families, which added another 127 children to the local Head Start rolls.

So, while it will look as though the number of children served is on the rise, entire groups of kids will be cut out of local programs.

"We're able to serve children eligible for Head Start, but that's taking up the space where we were going to serve toddlers," Abdo summarized. "But we don't have the funding to serve toddlers."

The school district will also lose the ability to offer full-day child care, a service that is critical to working families that either don't have the ability to be home with their kids all day, or work unusual hours.

As a result, the impacts of the cuts are falling disproportionately on low-income families.

Children 2 years old and younger are the most difficult age group to serve, said Patti Oblath, executive director of Connections for Children, a nonprofit group that helps connect families with childcare, and low-income families with subsidies to pay for it.

"It's something that's always been difficult, but now it's stretched even thinner," Oblath said, referring to the difficulty of finding places for younger children in Santa Monica.

The problem rests with funding and state regulations, which require one adult to every four children aged 2 and under, versus the one adult to every eight children ratio for ages 3 and above.

The extra staffing makes it harder for providers to offer spots for younger children and infants, and often leads to families traveling far afield of their homes to get adequate care for their children.

That's particularly hard on low-income families, Oblath said, and the $1 million in cuts to Connections' subsidies program has made it more difficult to help those people.

There were 700 families with 1,000 children on the waiting list for Connection subsidies as of June 30 in the region that the organization serves, which includes the Westside, beach cities, Westchester and Culver City.

Those subsidies can be used on formal child care, but, according to Oblath, they can also be used on less expensive, informal arrangements between family and friends.

"A high number of families we serve through the state subsidy use the funds from us to pay a family member or neighbor or friend to look after their children," Oblath said. "It serves two functions. They increase family financial stability and ensure that the children are in a safe environment."

That's critical, particularly for younger children.

According to a 2010 study published in the May/June 2010 edition of Child Development that tracked care provided to children between birth and age 4.5, early care plays a significant role on a child's success later on in life.

The study showed that children that receive care from non-relatives do better in school by age 15, when the study ended, than kids who did not.

Children who received care from relatives, on the other hand, typically had better emotional and social skills, according to the study.

Deborah Lowe Vandell, Ph.D., a researcher at UC Irvine who worked on the study, said that there is strong evidence that high-quality child care programs for young children help kids to achieve academically and socially later in life, and that children from low-income families reap the biggest rewards.

"Funding high quality programs is a good investment, because it reduces later needs for special education placements and other services," Vandelll wrote in an e-mail. "When the loss of child care means that parents need to cut back on their work hours, additional strains come into play."

SMMUSD staff are working to find space on campuses and multiple sources of funding to support toddler care programs so that they can be brought back, Abdo said.

Exactly what's available won't be clear until September, when school enrollment numbers — and therefore the space available to serve more kids — are finalized.

ashley@smdp.com

POT
FROM PAGE 3

governor. He said his measure also stands a better chance during a presidential election.

Supporters say older, more conservative voters are more likely to participate in midterm elections, while presidential elections tend to draw a broader electorate.

On Monday, the secretary of state's office said proponents can begin gathering the 504,760 signatures they'll need to collect by Dec. 19 to put the initiative on the June or November ballots next year. The timing depends on how quickly the signatures are submitted and verified, although Kubby said proponents plan to submit revisions that would likely push the measure to the November general election.

Opponents said legalization could lead to increased addiction, drugged drivers and a clash with federal drug agents.

Critics also said last year's proposal, if voters had approved it, would have created a patchwork of marijuana policies by letting local governments permit and tax commercial cultivation and sales.

Kubby's proposal would require statewide regulation.

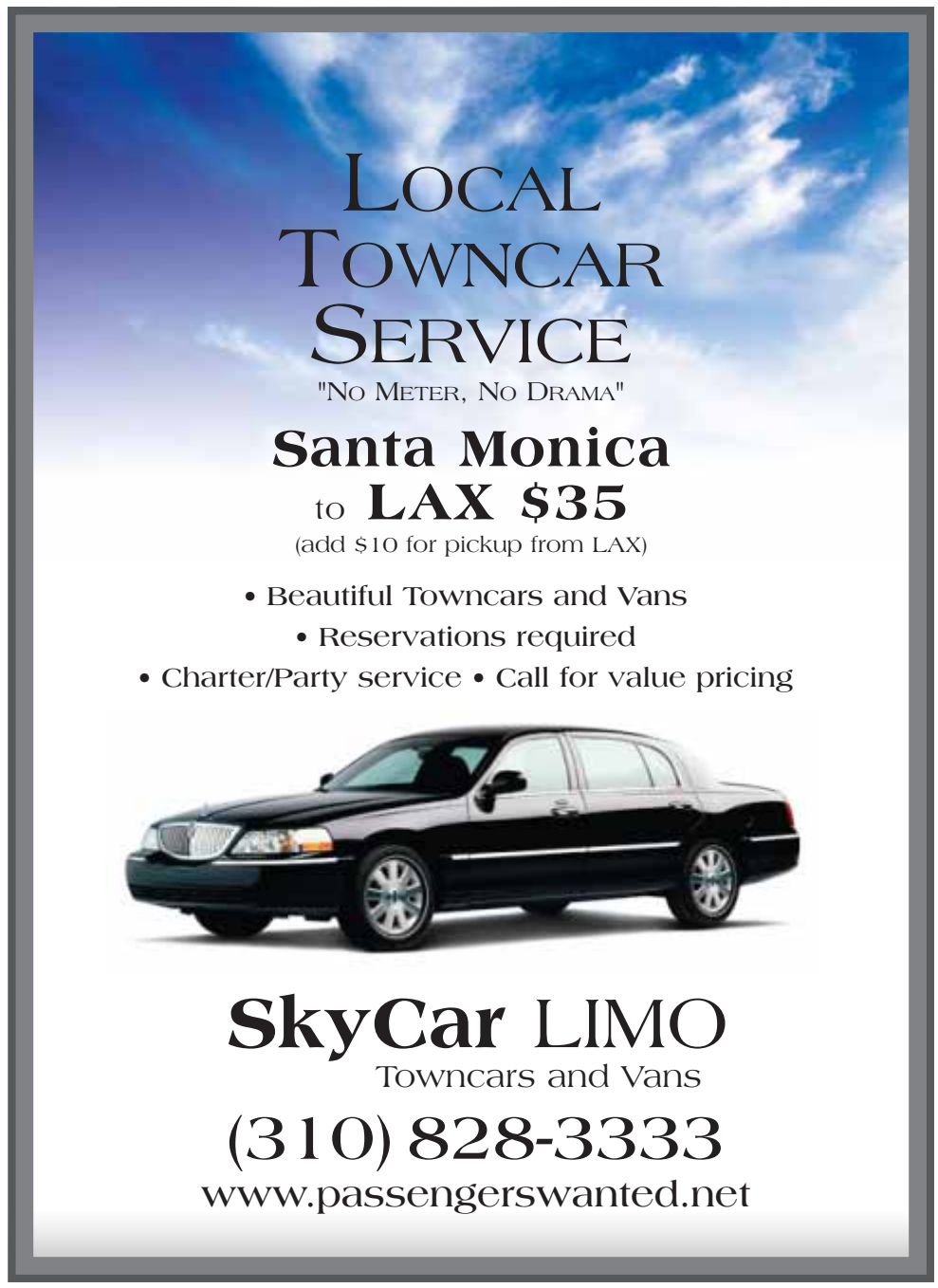
It also directs the state and local governments to avoid assisting the federal government in prosecuting marijuana crimes and seeks to remove marijuana from the federal government's list of controlled substances.

Kubby is joined by retired Orange County Superior Court Judge James P. Gray as chief proponent. The third listed proponent is William R. McPike, the Fresno-area attorney who represented Kubby as he fought drug charges. Kubby fled to Canada before returning in 2006 to serve his sentence for a 2001 conviction for possession of a psychedelic mushroom and mescaline, a hallucinogen found in peyote.

Former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger last year signed a bill making possession of up to one ounce of marijuana an infraction no more serious than a speeding ticket. Reducing the crime from a misdemeanor to an infraction means offenders no longer face arrest, do not have to appear in court and do not have a criminal record.







CONSENT
FROM PAGE 1

upgrades, according to the staff report.

Select Electric won the bid, with a price tag of $3,276,871. The company did similar work for the first phase of the Exposition Light Rail Line, amongst other projects.

PSOMAS Engineering, a construction management firm, won the oversight contract of $580,000.

The total of both contracts, plus a 10 percent contingency on each, is $4,480,000.

The work is expected to be completed by July 2012.

SUPED UP

Over the next three years, City Hall plans to replace approximately 110 police department vehicles, all of which will need specialized equipment.

With that in mind, city staff recommend a contract with AirWave Communications Enterprises, Inc. to install a range of things from computers to equipment used to transport prisoners, depending on the vehicle.

AirWave's bid of $12,082 per car was higher than the only other competing bid, which belonged to the 911 Vehicle company.

According to the staff report, only AirWave could complete all the installations rather than forcing the police department to rely on multiple companies, which could be more expensive in both time and money.

The contract, if awarded, would not exceed $1,300,000 over the course of three years.

POPPED A MAIN

Some things do not improve with age, not the least of which are Santa Monica's water mains.

City staff identified 2,000 feet of piping that needs replacing between Broadway and Wilshire Boulevard, and recommends Williams Pipeline Contractors, Inc. and SA Associates to provide construction and inspection services, respectively.

According to the staff report, the section of pipe will be removed and replaced by a pipe of larger diameter. The work will cost $922,784 for the construction and $81,400 for inspection.

BEACH RESTROOMS

Remember those eight restrooms along the beach that were supposed to be completed by Memorial Day?

Well, they're still not quite done, and they'll need another $578,526 to get them finished by the end of August, according to a staff report.

Excavation for final utility connections turned up "unforeseen conditions," including inadequate water supply at one site, unsafe electrical components at three sites and major sewer line problems at two of the sites.

The extra costs fall into three categories — $295,000 to CWS Systems Inc. for design and structural modifications amongst other improvements; another $137,500 to Monarch Plumbing & Mechanical to put in additional water piping; and $132,751 to Blois Construction to do extra sewer construction work.

If approved, staff say that restrooms at 1200 Palisades Beach Road, 2600 and 2800 Ocean Front Walk will be completed by Aug. 1. The remaining four — at 810 and 1100 Palisades Beach Road and 2000 and 2500 Ocean Front Walk — will be done by the end of August.

THE DARK SIDE

City Hall wants to take a walk on the dark side and lease out an additional dark fiber connection through the Department of Water and Power of Los Angeles as part of a disaster recovery network.

The $367,850, five-year lease would provide a redundant connection to protect its voice, video and data communications when its primary connection gets some scheduled maintenance.

Dark fiber connections provide those services to the libraries, other city facilities, businesses and wi-fi hot zones.

ENGINE REPAIR

While many Californians are getting their cars smog-checked, City Hall is making sure that its vehicles pass all of their inspections as well.

That's what a $270,000, three-year contract with Valley Power Systems Inc., a California-based company that supplies the Big Blue Bus with replacement engine parts, is meant to accomplish.

State standards require that the buses use original manufacturer parts as replacement pieces when engine or transmission pieces wear out.

Although the council approved a $780,000 contract for a three-year term in September 2010, the first year's bills have already exceeded its budget by $70,000.

With that in mind, staff recommended increases to cover the overage and an extra $100,000 for each of the next two years of the contract.

HLP, I NEED SOMEBODY

The police department's Homeless Liaison Program, or HLP, is requesting a contract with contractor West Coast Care to provide services to Santa Monica's homeless.

The contract would actually be a continuation of services for West Coast Care, which has helped with housing, shelters, medical treatment and family reunifications since June 2008.

The programs focus on individuals identified as new arrivals to prevent them from becoming regulars on city streets.

If the City Council approves the contract, it would cost $246,250.

DUMP THE TRUCK

The City Council will get a chance to further two community goals Tuesday with the purchase of a new dump truck for the Water Division.

The truck, which costs $204,808, will carry through a vehicle replacement plan that has been ongoing in city departments, and will also replace an aging vehicle with a cleaner, natural gas burning unit.

Rush Truck Center was chosen out of four bids to supply the truck.

KEEPING IT CLEAN

Even bus parts need a good hose down.

To that end, city staff recommend an extra $51,208 go toward covering the cost of non-hazardous cleaning solutions from the 2010-11 fiscal year and to recycle old solution that was used in the same time frame.

The allocation was based on the amount of cleaner used the previous year, but a larger maintenance facility and bigger parts used up more solution.

Another $29,444 also had to be added for cleaning solutions for the buses' exteriors.

SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE

To keep $26 million worth of business license tax revenues in order, the Finance Department needs an extra $20,000 to keep its software contract current.

That's how much the department has exceeded its 14-year, $100,000 contract with provider HdL Software, LLC.

A new competitive bidding process is scheduled for fiscal year 2012-13.

ashley@smdp.com

JOBS
FROM PAGE 3

"I'LL TAKE ANYTHING."

Darius Samuel,
job-seeker

per hour; and Starbucks employees at $9.25 per hour, according to Carlos Illingworth, Vons manager of public affairs.

Antwain Hollis, Ryan Johnson and Jabani Nantambu were three strangers who bonded while standing in line together for over an hour. The three men did not expect so much competition for a handful of job openings, and decided to distract themselves from the upcoming interviews with sports talk.

"I was excited when I first got in line," Nantambu said, but the sun and hour-long wait did nothing to aid his spirits.

Nantambu, like many others, was vying for the position of courtesy clerk, also known as a grocery bagger. He and his two peers smiled at the glorified title.

"That's like calling a janitor a custodial technician," Hollis said, laughing.

Hollis said if he were hired the job would be his main source of income.

Individuals in line represented various sectors of the working class — teens as young as 17 were looking to get their first summer job, others were looking for supplemental income, and middle-aged, seasoned workers hoped to secure a steady cash flow during the economic downturn.

Of the 109 potential employees who arrived and waited for an interview, 24 interviews had to be rescheduled.

Though a few expressed preference for a position as a Starbucks barista or courtesy clerk, most people echoed the sentiments of 17-year-old Darius Samuel: "I'll take anything."

news@smdp.com

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Send letters to **editor@smdp.com**



U.S. Muslims prepare for Ramadan fasting in the heat

RASHA MADKOUR
Associated Press

MIAMI The Muslim holy month of Ramadan falls during the long, hot days of August this year, and Muslim Americans are getting ready to accommodate the daylight fasts required during Ramadan with adjustments in their schedules and eating habits. It can be even tougher for Muslims in America than for their counterparts in majority-Muslim countries, where business slows down during Ramadan and people take it easier during the day, says Dr. Elizabeth Rourke, an internist at Boston Medical Center.

"In the U.S., everyone is required to do what they would do ordinarily, the entire month," Rourke says, "so it makes the fast much more demanding for American Muslims."

Mubarakah Ibrahim, a personal trainer, hopes to cram all her clients in the morning when she has the most energy. She'll serve vegetables as the first course when her family breaks their fast in the evenings to make sure they get their nutrients for the day. And she'll buy her four kids — ranging in age from 10 to17 — shiny new water bottles as a reminder to hydrate during the hours they're not fasting.

"We know spirituality can get you through anything," says Ibrahim, who lives in New Haven, Conn. "But the choice really is, you can suffer through it and still do it, or you can do it and do it efficiently without making your health suffer."

Ramadan requires daily fasts of food and water during daytime hours. Typically observers eat a meal before dawn and break their fast at sunset. The fast-breaking meal — which varies by ethnic group but traditionally starts with a handful of sweet dates — is seen by many Muslims as an opportunity to gather with family and friends.

This year Ramadan begins Aug. 1, when the period from dawn to sunset in the continental U.S. can range from around 14 to around 16 hours, depending where you live. The Islamic calendar follows the lunar cycle, which is shorter than the sun-based Gregorian calendar, so Ramadan creeps up 11 days every year. Ramadan can last 29 or 30 days, again depending on the lunar cycle.

Fasting during Ramadan is one of the most important duties in Islam, one that even the not-so-religious typically observe. Children are not required to fast until they hit puberty, though many start building up to it when they're younger with half-day fasts. Also exempt are the elderly, women who are pregnant or nursing, and people with chronic medical conditions. But even for healthy Muslims, the daily fast from dawn until sunset can be grueling.

Rourke teaches medical residents about Ramadan and its implications for patients — how to adjust medication regimens to fit the daytime fast when possible, how to advise patients on avoiding dehydration, how to enlist help from a local religious leader if someone who shouldn't be fasting expresses the intention to do so.

Even for a totally healthy person to sustain that fast for a long period of time during a time where it can be very hot, it's a very demanding thing to ask of your body," Rourke says.

Sheikh Ali, a college student from Boca Raton, Fla., tries to ease his body into Ramadan mode by fasting intermittently the prior month, a practice of the Prophet Muhammad that some people emulate.

The premed chemistry major also extols the benefits of eating a high-fiber breakfast, like whole grain cereal, especially in the predawn meal before fasting to help keep him feeling full.

Still, many Muslims say they won't do much differently this year and they're not too worried about the summer Ramadan.

"Once you've done it for this long," says Natasha Chida, a medical resident at the University of Miami who's been fasting since she was in middle school, "it's not really something that's physically difficult, it's just about continuing to learn self-restraint."

Beyond abstaining from food and drink, Muslims try to avoid negative words, thoughts and actions while fasting. Ramadan is seen as an opportunity to improve oneself, spiritually and personally.

Rizwan Jaka, a technology manager in Washington, D.C., puts the fast in perspective by reflecting on and empathizing with those in need, one of the main purposes of fasting.

"In the end, we have to realize that people go without food and water on a regular basis," Jaka says. Whatever hardships people feel during their fast, he adds, "we've got it easy compared to people who don't have access to food and running water."

A mind is responsible
for the traffic light, the blood bank, ice cream,
peanut butter, the doorknob, the microphone, the elevator,
clothes dryer, lawn mower, pacemaker, the typewriter, guided
missile, mailbox, the air conditioner, automatic transmission, curtain
rod, baby carriage, lawn sprinkler, fountain pen, dust pan, the hand
stamp, first open-heart surgery, cataract laser, fire extinguisher, doorstop,
home security camera, the golf tee, fire escape, potato chip, food preservation,
synthesized cortisone, the guitar, railroad telegraphy, envelope seal, printing press,
bicycle frame, rocket catapult, insect destroyer gun, ice cream scoop, window cleaner,
laser fuels, folding chair, gas mask, mop, refrigerator, pressing comb, urinalysis
machine, door lock, electric cutoff switch, telephone transmitter, stair-climbing wheel-
chair, hairbrush, egg beater, eye protector, electric lamp bulb, biscuit cutter, chamber
commode, almanac, horse shoe, lunch pail, motor, lantern, key chain, furniture caster,
ironing board, sugar-refining system, lemon squeezer, portable weighing scales,
wrench, airplane propeller, ore bucket, steam boiler, portable x-ray machine, cotton
chopper fertilizer, street sweeper, cattle-roping apparatus, spark plug, galoshes, casket-
lowering device, clothes wringer, disrail car coupling, riding saddles, and so on
and so on. The list is endless. Indeed, it's time to stop and celebrate the fact
that each and every one of the wonderful innovations mentioned here came
from the mind. The mind of an African American. By supporting minority
education, you keep open the possibility of tomorrow's great ideas.
Because of all the things that the human mind has created,
perhaps the most amazing is the one that has yet
to be created. And that possibility is
a terrible thing to waste.
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45	30.02	26.54
50	43.50	37.41

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SURF REPORT

Surf Conditions **Water Temp:** 61°

Swell Forecast

NW swell come ashore, hitting SB/VC early in the day, and finally SD mid to late morning. Size should run head high at most west facing breaks with pluses at standouts going about 2' overhead.

Long Range Synopsis

NW is expected to back off a bit, more along the lines of chest to at times head high for 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 20, 2011**

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 -- 0
- Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 32 / ns
- Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / ns

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Diller – von Furstenberg Family Foundation, Grousbeck Family Foundation, simplehuman, LAcarGUY, SMA

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

LOCATION	DRY	WET
Leo Carrillo Beach, at Arroyo Sequit Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechasa and Las Alisa creeks.	A+	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	ns
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	ns
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	D	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Don Blocker County Beach.	C	ns
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd..	F	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A+	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location)- daily.	A	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	ns
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A	ns
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A+	ns
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A	ns
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	A+	ns
Tuna Canyon.	A+	ns
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	D	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.	A	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chautauqua).	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Municipal Pier.	A	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Kenter storm drain.	A+	ns
Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restrooms).	A+	ns
Ocean Park Beach at Ashland Ave. drain.	A	ns
Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Venice Beach at Windward Ave. drain.	A+	ns
Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.	A+	ns
Venice Beach- projection of Topsail St..	A	ns
Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach- lifeguard tower.	A	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Ballona Creek mouth.	B	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of D&W jetty).	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	ns

LEGEND

DRY -- each location is graded on an A – F scale based on bacterial pollution levels present in the surf zone
WET -- grades for days of recorded rainfall and the following 3 days
ns -- no sample taken

Heal the Bay'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.

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

Heal the Bay

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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.

NFL

Lockout comes to an end

HOWARD FENDRICH
AP Pro Football Writer

WASHINGTON After months of public nastiness and private negotiations, of court filings and rulings, of players and owners squabbling over more than $9 billion a year, NFL fans finally saw the handshake and heard the words they awaited: "Football's back."

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and NFL Players Association head DeMaurice Smith both used that phrase while standing shoulder-to-shoulder Monday, announcing their agreement on a 10-year deal to end the lockout that began in March.

Then came what may truly be the lasting image of the dispute's resolution: Indianapolis Colts offensive lineman Jeff Saturday wrapped one of his burly arms around New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft and enveloped him in a hug — a gesture that symbolized the acrimony's end more than any statement could.

"I'd like, on behalf of both sides, to apologize to the fans: For the last five, six months we've been talking about the business of football — and not what goes on, on the field, and building the teams in each market," Kraft said. "But the end result is we've been able to have an agreement that I think is going to allow this sport to flourish over the next decade."

Owners can point to victories, such as gaining a higher percentage of all revenue, one of the central issues — they get 53 percent, players 47 percent; the old deal was closer to 50-50. There's also a new system that will rein in spending on contracts for first-round draft picks.

Players, meanwhile, persuaded teams to commit to spending nearly all of their salary cap space in cash and won changes to offseason and in-season practice rules that should make the game safer.

One important compromise came on expanding the regular season from 16 to 18 games, which owners favored. That can be revisited for the 2013 season, but players must approve any change.

"Both parties were trying to stand their ground — and rightfully so," said Vikings linebacker Ben Leber, one of the 10 named plaintiffs in the players' antitrust suit against the league that will not be dropped. "In the end, against all the negativity that was out there publicly, they took their time and hammered out what I think is going to turn out to be one of the best deals in the history of sports."

An interesting choice of phrase, given that Smith and some players grew fond of calling the owners' last offer before talks fell apart in March "probably the worst deal in sports history."

Here was Smith's take Monday: "We didn't get everything that either side wanted ... but we did arrive at a deal that we think is fair and balanced."

Now comes frenzied football activity, starting immediately. Club facilities will open to players Tuesday, when 2011 draft picks and rookie free agents can be signed, and teams can begin talking to veteran free agents. Training camps for some teams may begin as soon as Wednesday.

"Chaos," said Jets fullback Tony Richardson, a member of the NFLPA's executive committee. "That's the best word for it."

Only one exhibition game was lost: the Hall of Fame opener between the Bears and Rams, scheduled for Aug. 7 in Canton, Ohio.

Otherwise, the entire preseason and regular-season schedules remain intact.

"Our players can't be more excited about going back to doing the thing they love the most," NFLPA president Kevin Mawae said. "We always said during this process we would do a deal when it's right and when it's the right deal. Our players did that. We stuck it out to the end."

When Saturday spoke to reporters, he offered an eloquent tribute to Kraft, lauding him as "a man who helped us save football," and to Kraft's wife, Myra, who died Wednesday from cancer.

"A special thanks to Myra Kraft, who even in her weakest moment allowed Mr. Kraft to come and fight this out," Saturday said. "Without him, this deal does not get done."

Kraft, meanwhile, took a verbal jab at the nearby White House and Congress, saying: "I hope we gave a little lesson to the people in Washington, because the debt crisis is a lot easier to fix than this deal was."

Owners overwhelmingly approved a proposal to end the dispute Thursday, but some unresolved issues needed to be reviewed to satisfy players. The sides worked through the weekend and wrapped up nearly every detail by about 3 a.m. Monday on a final pact that runs through the 2020 season and can't be terminated before then.

That's significant because the old collective bargaining agreement contained an opt-out clause, and owners exercised it in 2008. That led to the contract expiring when talks broke down March 11; hours later, owners locked out the players, creating the NFL's first work stoppage since 1987 — and longest in league history.

"I know it has been a very long process since the day we stood here that night in March," Smith said in a brief appearance about 20 minutes before being joined by Goodell and three owners. "But our guys stood together when nobody thought we would. And football is back because of it."

As he spoke, Smith was surrounded by some players, including Saints quarterback Drew Brees, one of 10 plaintiffs in the antitrust lawsuit that players filed against the league March 11. Two unanimous NFLPA leadership votes cleared the way for that case to be dropped and the lockout to go away: first, to recommend to the plaintiffs that they accept the settlement; second, to recommend that all 1,900 players re-establish the union.

All players now will take a vote to re-certify the union — it was dissolved March 11, turning the NFLPA into a trade association — and then one more vote to approve the final CBA. It all needs to be wrapped up by Aug. 4 to make everything official, something everyone involved believes will happen without a hitch.

Only once it is back to being a union can the NFLPA finish the contract, covering remaining items such as player discipline, drug testing, disability programs and pensions.

Several people involved in the negotiations praised Goodell and Smith for working with each other to try get the sides to arrive at a deal.

"If we don't have a good relationship, it hurts the game and the business of football," Smith said. "I'm not sure any two people have ever come together in a more compressed, public, interesting time than Roger and I."

Now get set for a wild week.

On Tuesday, clubs can begin talking to veteran free agents, who can sign as soon as Friday. On Wednesday, training camps will start to open.

The major economic framework for the deal was worked out more than a week ago.

That included dividing revenue; a per-club cap of about $120 million for salary and bonuses in 2011 — and at least that in 2012 and 2013 — plus about $22 million for benefits; a salary system to rein in spending on first-round draft picks; and unrestricted free agency for most players after four seasons.

"If I don't have to hear the word 'lockout' for a long time, I'll be happy about that," Arizona Cardinals receiver Larry Fitzgerald said. "I know guys are ready to get back to work."

MOVIE TIMES

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1441 Third Street Promenade
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Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 2 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
1:05pm, 4:15pm, 7:20pm, 10:25pm

Super 8 (PG-13) 1hr 52min
12:00pm, 5:00pm, 10:20pm

Little Help (R) 1hr 48min
11:00am, 1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:10pm, 10:00pm

Bad Teacher (R) 1hr 29min
2:40pm, 7:55pm

Friends With Benefits (R) 2hrs
11:30am, 2:15pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:30pm

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

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 2 (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
12:35pm, 3:40pm, 6:45pm, 9:05pm, 9:50pm

Zookeeper (PG) 1hr 44min
11:05am, 1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 2 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
11:15am, 2:20pm, 5:25pm, 8:30pm

Winnie the Pooh (G) 1hr 3min
11:00am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm

Friends With Benefits (R) 2hrs
10:45am, 1:30pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

Bridesmaids (R) 2hrs 5min
10:50am, 1:50pm, 4:45pm, 7:40pm, 10:40pm

Captain America: The First Avenger 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 5min
10:40am, 1:35pm, 4:40pm, 7:45pm, 10:50pm

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

Trip (NR) 1hr 47min
3:00pm, 7:45pm

Terri (R) 1hr 41min
1:40pm, 4:20pm, 9:40pm

Buck (PG) 1hr 29min
5:30pm

Project Nim (PG-13) 1hr 39min
1:00pm, 10:15pm

Midnight in Paris (PG-13) 1hr 28min
1:00pm, 3:20pm, 5:40pm, 8:00pm, 10:15pm

Snow Flower and the Secret Fan (PG-13) 2hrs 00min
1:50pm, 4:30pm, 7:10pm, 9:50pm

Will The Real Terrorist Please Stand Up (NR) 1hr 20min
7:00pm

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

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows - Part 2 (PG-13) 2hrs 10min
11:50am, 2:55pm, 6:00pm, 9:05pm

Captain America: The First Avenger (PG-13) 2hrs 05min
12:30pm, 3:30pm, 6:30pm, 9:30pm

Transformers: Dark of the Moon (PG-13) 2hrs 34min
2:40pm, 9:45pm

Horrible Bosses (R) 1hr 40min
12:15pm, 2:45pm, 5:25pm, 8:00pm, 10:35pm

Cars 2 (G) 1hr 53min
11:05am, 1:50pm, 4:35pm, 7:20pm, 10:05pm

Transformers: Dark of the Moon 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 34min
11:10am, 6:10pm

Beats, Rhymes & Life: The Travels of a Tribe Called Quest (R) 1hr 38min
11:40am, 2:00pm, 4:35pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm

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

Hang with the gang tonight, Leo

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Keep your eyes wide open when dealing with another person. Brainstorming might produce a great solution and a great idea. Open up to new possibilities. Read between the lines. Tonight: Talking up a storm.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★ Listen to another person's analysis of what needs to happen. Investigate and do necessary research, especially if you feel something might be off. Trust your sixth sense and see what comes up. Cancel a meeting or appointment if you need more time. Tonight: Easy does it.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You could see a situation differently because of what comes up. You also see that others are far too serious or dominated by what they are hearing. All personality and smiles, others seem to willingly agree with you. Tonight: Dance away.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★ Understanding will evolve if you don't close down. Discuss your feelings and opinions with a respected friend or adviser. You might be jumping to some ungrounded conclusions. Question what is happening within your immediate circle. Tonight: Anchor in.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ A meeting might not only be provocative but also a source of friendship. Listen to news and realize the variables in others' responses. Center on what you want rather than your expectations. You will head down a direct path. Tonight: Where the gang is.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ Take a stand and stay ahead of the game. Be aware of the natural pitfalls of a decision you make. Remember, the variables are the people you will be dealing with. Everyone comes from a different space. Tonight: Where the action is.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Be forthright. Call a spade a spade. Reach out for an expert if you don't have a solution. Your instincts carry you where intellect doesn't. With integrity and resolution, plus quality information, the inevitable happens. Tonight: Go for the unusual.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Open up to new people and extreme situations. You might want to approach a situation differently. You'll become more in tune with your inner needs. Listen to a partner. Evaluate this person's concerns. Tonight: Enjoy yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★ Let others call the shots. You are full of humor, fun and mischief. Allow others to see your less-professional personality. You might have some extra, unexpected time and freedom. Use it well. You'll have a ball wherever you go. Let the fun begin. Tonight: The only answer is "yes."

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Understand what is going on with an associate or someone in your daily travels. No one knows the dynamics more than you. Feel free to move forward, though pay attention to what is needed to oil the cogs. Tonight: Put your feet up.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ Choose to be more in touch with your feelings. If you do head down this path, you will notice a major change in other areas of your life. The more connected you are to your authentic self, the more fluid your life becomes. Tonight: Let your hair down.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ Interest in a personal matter could cause you to look within. You note a similarity to something from your past. You just might not be sure what to do about it. Talk to someone who has succeeded in processing what you are looking at. Tonight: Dinner for two.

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 focus even more on living and loving. Friendship and networking play significant roles in your plans. If you know what you want, manifesting it becomes likely. Often, you might be overly serious or tense, creating a lot of tension in those around you. Learn to relax and go with the flow. A stress-buster hobby might be great, too. If you are single, you draw many potential suitors because of an innate intensity. If you are attached, the two of you will enjoy more togetherness if you can get through the tension. GEMINI is a fun friend.



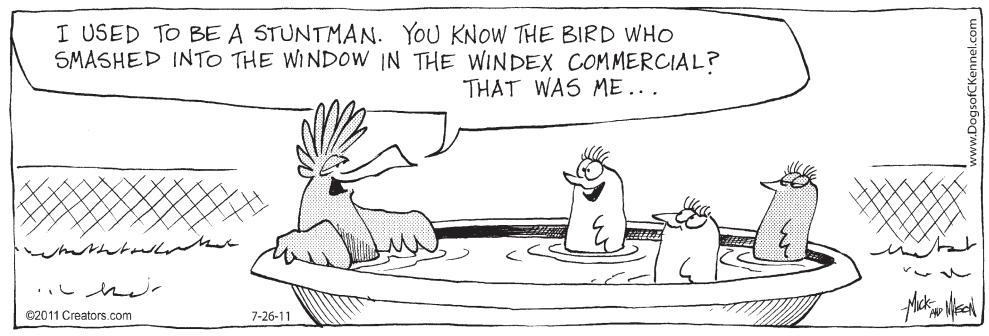
MYSTERY PHOTO

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.

Dogs of C-Kennel

By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



The Meaning of Lila

By John Forgetta & L.A. Rose



Garfield

By Jim Davis



Strange Brew

By John Deering



Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



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).

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

1 Taxi feature
6 Part of Polynesia
11 Muscat man
12 Long for
13 Light jacket
15 Caribou's kin
16 Storage spot
17 Memorable time
18 Do another take
20 Perched
21 Tiny worker
22 Sitar's cousin
23 They may be furrowed
26 Lassos
27 Chain part
28 Summer zodiac sign
29 Genesis name
30 Irritated
34 Wee bite
35 Rower's need
36 Gardner of movies
37 Non-negotiable issue
40 Flynn of film
41 Deal maker
42 Tattered
43 Wrongful acts

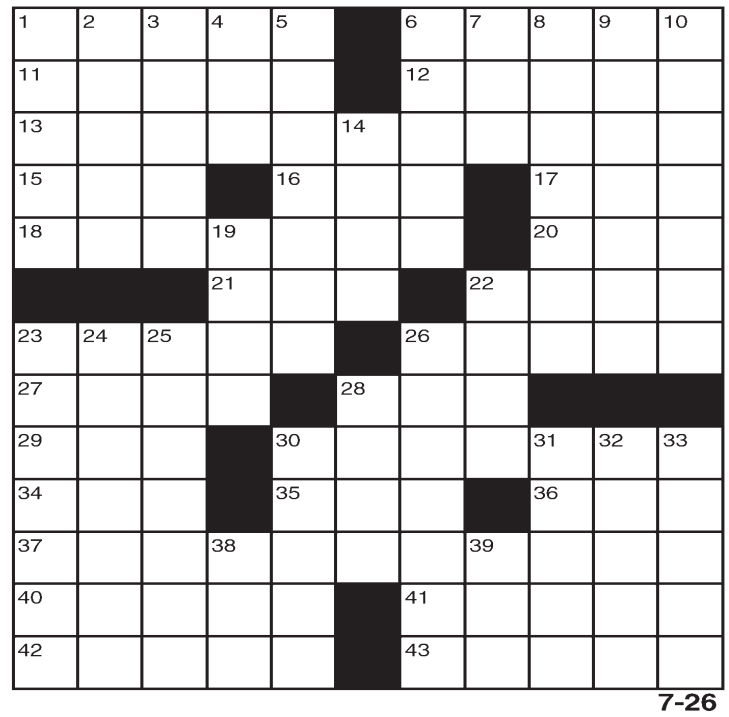
DOWN

1 Yard cutter
2 Writer Zola
3 Aquariums
4 Conclude
5 Hair ties
6 Perfume
7 Coach Parseghian
8 Forgives and forgets
9 Pigged out
10 Pumps full of bubbles
14 Real hoot
19 War backer
22 Pirate's take
23 Kitchen device
24 European resort
25 Self-contained
26 Fall back
28 Tragic king
30 With dignity
31 Kobe, for one
32 News item
33 Pub pastime
38 Bundle
39 In the past

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

Yesterday's answer

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7-26

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• Insert the given numbers in the empty squares so when they are calculated in threes from left to right and top to bottom they satisfy the demands in the shaded boxes both horizontally and vertically.

• Each empty square dictates the math operation that must be performed to meet the demands.

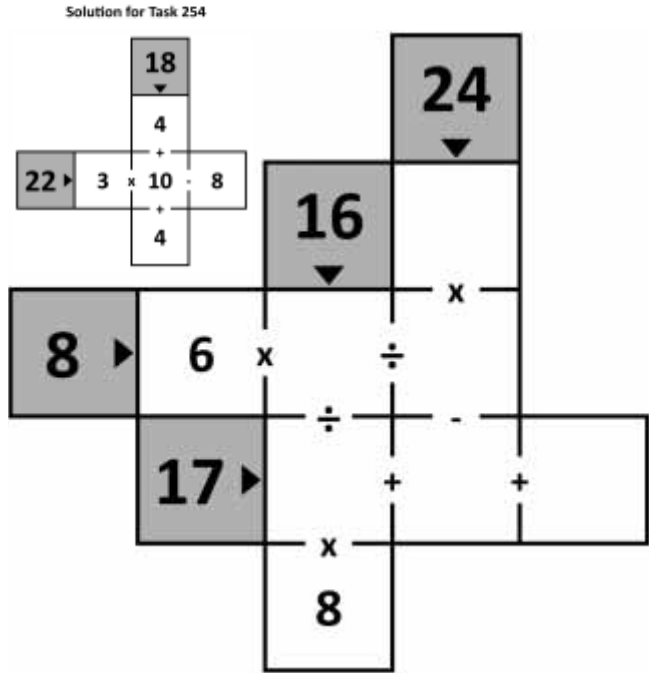
• Remember to multiply or divide before you add or subtract.

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Fill in the empty fields with the given numbers so when calculated together they satisfy all Equas in the gray boxes:

3, 3, 6, 8, 9, 12

Solution for Task 254



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Fantasy 5: 3 4 18 36 39

DAILY 3: MIDDAY: 8 9 6 EVENING: 5 5 3

DAILY DERBY: 1st: 04 Big Ben 2nd: 09 Winning Spirit 3rd: 05 California Classic RACE TIME: 1:46.28

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

■ Unclear on the Concept: (1) The initial explanation by Melvin Jackson, 48, upon his arrest in June for sexually assaulting an unconscious woman in Kansas City, Mo., was to deny that he would ever do such a thing. Rather, he said, "I thought the lady was dead." (2) The initial explanation by Thomas O'Neil, 47, upon his arrest in Wausau, Wis., in June for criminal damage to property (breaking into a neighbor's garage and defecating on the floor) was to claim that he thought he was in his own garage.

■ Emerging democracies typically exhibit growing pains as they develop stability. For example, in July in Afghanistan's parliament, one female legislator attacked another with her shoe (and then dodged the second lady's flying water bottle before colleagues separated them). Older democracies, however, act more maturely -- except perhaps in California, where in June, an Italian-American legislator got into a shoving match with a colleague whom he thought had made a "Sopranos"-type slur about recent legislation. And in the mature democracy of Wisconsin in June, one state Supreme Court justice was accused of roughing up another (though who started it is in dispute) as the justices privately discussed a case.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1989 A federal grand jury indicts Cornell University student Robert T. Morris, Jr. for releasing the Morris worm, thus becoming the first person to be prosecuted under the 1986 Computer Fraud and Abuse Act.

1990 The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 is signed into law by President George H. W. Bush.

2005 Space Shuttle program: STS-114 Mission – Launch of Discovery, NASA's first scheduled flight mission after the Columbia Disaster in 2003.

2005 Mumbai, India receives 99.5cm of rain (39.17 inches) within 24 hours, bringing the city to a halt for over 2 days.

WORD UP!

handsel
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1. First encounter with or use of something taken as a token of what will follow.

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