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JULY 28-29, 2012
Volume 11 Issue 221

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

DON'T SHUTTER FIFTH STREET POST OFFICE
SEE PAGE 5

THE STUNNER SHADES ISSUE

SM ranks second in U.S. for pricey hotels

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

DOWNTOWN Tourists flock to Santa Monica's sun-soaked beaches, but if they intend to turn their day trip into an overnight stay, they had better be willing to part with some significant coin.

According to a survey by Cheaphotels.org, Santa Monica is second only to Newport, R.I. as the most expensive place to get a hotel room during peak summer vacation times.

It costs an average $287 to stay in one of Santa Monica's central hotels, compared to $319 for the eastern town.

Santa Monica narrowly beat out Calistoga, Calif. at $285.

California, in general, got high markings on the survey.

Santa Monica and Calistoga were joined by Avalon and Laguna Beach to take four spots in the top 10, and Napa came in at the 12th spot.

However, not only are Santa Monica hotels more expensive, they're also almost always booked.

According to the Santa Monica Convention and Visitors Bureau, hotels are boasting 82 percent occupancy rates so far this year, topping the 2011 projections and 2010 actuals listed in a report on lodging sta-

SEE RATES PAGE 13

Suspect charged in nail-throwing case

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

AIRPORT COURTHOUSE The man who allegedly threw nails into the driveways of two flight schools and an aviation business at Santa Monica Airport has been charged with a misdemeanor count of attempted vandalism.

Jeremiah Kean Mayman, 31, of Venice, was arrested on May 31 on suspicion of felony vandalism when a Santa Monica Police Department employee witnessed him allegedly throwing 1.5-inch roofing nails into driveways as he rode by flight schools on an 18-speed bicycle.

His bail was set at $20,000, and he posted soon after.

That count has been knocked down to a misdemeanor, and the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office is prosecuting the case.

Kean Mayman was scheduled for arraignment Friday, but it was continued until Aug. 23.

SMO and the aviation businesses that call it home are a source of division within the Santa Monica community, particularly now as City Hall embarks on a three-part process to make the airport more compatible with the neighborhood surrounding it.

Flight schools factor into the discussion, with many residents calling for their ouster in 2015 when the leases come up for renewal.

Student pilots perform repetitive flights around airport over densely-populated neighborhoods. Residents of Santa Monica, Mar Vista and West Los Angeles dislike the noise and feel that their health is negatively

SEE NAILED PAGE 13



Brandon Wise *brandonw@smdp.com*

NICE PAIR: **Rose Ann and J.V. Salumbides created Siempre Verde, an eco-friendly sunglass company that promises to plant trees for every product sold.**

Selling shades to create more shade

BY ADRIANNA DINOLFO
Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN In perfect time for summer, Rose Ann Salumbides, a Santa Monica High School teacher, and her husband J.V., an advertising executive, launched Siempre Verde, a new line of sunglasses and prescription eyewear that links environmental awareness and passion for design.

Directly translating into "forever green" in Spanish, Siempre Verde aims to rally support for worldwide environmental efforts.

"It came to us a natural idea to combine our love of nature with our products by offering sustainability in our merchandise and building eco-awareness into our marketing," Rose Ann said.

Prior to the company's official founding

SEE BUSINESS PAGE 12

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Wednesday, July 25, 2012 • 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Elder Fraud

Learn about the latest financial scams, particularly those targeting older adults and precautions to take to avoid becoming a victim.

Wednesday, August 1, 2012 • 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.

Connecting with your Grandchildren

An interactive discussion about financial strategies that will help you support your grandkids throughout their lives. Includes a free keepsake journal for you to share with your grandkids!

Wednesday, August 15, 2012 • 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

Monday Morning Legal Clinics

In collaboration with the Santa Monica office of Legal Aid Foundation of Los angeles. Topics vary weekly to include government benefits, family law and housing. Please call for topic.

August 6, 13, 20 & 27, 2012 • 9:00 a.m. – Noon

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Saturday, July 28, 2012

The flying boat
Museum of Flying
3100 Airport Ave.,
10:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.
The Museum of Flying will begin its "Aviation Presentation" series with this talk about the famous Spruce Goose. Nissen Davis, president of the Aero Club of Southern California and chairman of the selection committee of the California Aviation Hall of Fame, will present the program. The presentation is included with the admission price: $10 for adults, $8 for seniors and students, $6 for children 6-12 and free for children 5 and under.
For more information,
call (310) 398-2500.

Working on your fitness
Third Street Promenade,
11 a.m. — 4 p.m.
Discover a new life style at the Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce's Health and Fitness Festival. Drop by to get health advice and expertise and sample products from some of Santa Monica's best organizations. Also, all trainers on the Westside can compete in a series of events for the title of "Santa Monica's Best Trainer." For more information,
call (310) 393-9825 x14.

Celebrating summer
Grand Lawn of National Veterans Home
11301 Wilshire Blvd.,
12 p.m. — 5 p.m.
Vietnam Veterans of America, Region 9, will host this celebration with refreshments, music, guest speakers and a special tribute to World War II and Korean War veterans. Whole Foods Brentwood and Martinelli's are two of the sponsors for this event. For more information,
call (310) 490-6495.

Appreciate the ocean
Santa Monica Pier Aquarium
1600 Ocean Front Walk,
12:30 p.m. — 6 p.m.
Celebrate and appreciate the sea at the Heal the Bay Santa Monica Pier Aquarium. You can take costumed photos with your friends and family, play fishing games, make and race plankton in the "Great Plankton Race," go on a scavenger hunt, create ocean-themed arts and crafts and get your face painted with a sea creature. There will also be presentations about environmental issues.
For more information,
call (310) 393-6149.

Sunday, July 29, 2012

Paddle out
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 Pacific Coast Highway,
9 a.m. — 10:30 a.m.
If surfing isn't in your best interest, come to the Annenberg Community Beach House every Sunday until Aug. 5 to learn how to do another fun water activity: paddleboarding. Drop-in rates and full session registration is available. For more information, call (310) 458-4904.

Splash dance
Annenberg Community Beach House
415 Pacific Coast Highway,
7:30 p.m. — 8:45 p.m.
Ever dreamed of becoming a underwater ballerina? Well you can if you take the beginner class, instructed by the water ballet company Aqualillies. A session of six classes is available for a charge of $160.
For more information,
call (310) 458-4904.

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



Wilmont stands by member purge

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD
Daily Press Staff Writer

WILMONT The Wilshire-Montana Neighborhood Coalition announced Friday it would stand by its decision to purge its membership of an opposition group that tried to dominate the coalition's elections in June.

The board sent out notices to what some estimate to be 30 people who supported or participated in what it holds were "unlawful" elections at a canceled annual meeting on June 9.

Those who received letters had until Friday to fight to retain their membership. While several did so — including the eight people that had prevailed in the contested elections — only two received consideration.

The first, Adam Rakunas, was reinstated along with an apology.

Rakunas never attended the annual meeting, but was axed because of a letter to the editor published on a local news website that was critical of the Wilmont board.

A second person, Harriet Epstein, was given the option to reapply for membership.

She and her husband, Stan Epstein, had held a joint membership until the Wilmont board decided to permanently remove Stan Epstein. Harriet Epstein also did not attend the controversial annual meeting.

The exact number of terminations was left purposefully vague, said Becki Kammerling of the Sustainable Law Group, a Santa Monica firm representing the seated Wilmont board.

"There are a couple more than that," she said, referring to the 11 people whose peti-

SEE **GROUP** PAGE 12



Hannah Berkman *news@smdp.com*

ROLLING: **The Santa Monica Bike Center is enticing commuters to give up their cars by giving them a free bike to use for two weeks.**

Bike center debuts commuter program

BY HANNAH BERKMAN
Special to the Daily Press

DOWNTOWN There always seems to be traffic in Santa Monica, especially in the morning during people's commute to work. The Santa Monica Bike Center is now providing some relief.

The Bike Center on Friday kicked off a new commuter program to loan bicycles to people for two weeks to give them a taste of what it's like to ride a bike to work.

Many are hesitant to start commuting to work on a bike, but this gives them an easy solution, Ron Durgin, manager of the Bike Center, said.

"A lot of people don't know what kind of bike to get, but this gives us a chance to have that conversation with them and give people a hands-on experience," Durgin said.

The Planning and Community Development Department at City Hall came up with the funding for the Bike Center to get the program started, Durgin said. They provided just under $3,500 to purchase five bikes, bike bags, headlights, taillights and locks.

"[The Planning and Community Development Department] like[s] this plan because they have plans already to reduce trips by car, so this is very strategic for

SEE **BIKING** PAGE 10

Bond measure opens old wounds on representation

BY MELISSA CASKEY
Special to the Daily Press

MALIBU As the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's Board of Education prepares to vote on a $385 million bond measure Wednesday to upgrade district facilities, several active Malibu community members contend that their voice was largely ignored during the discussion process about the bond.

Three of the 24 members listed on the district's Economic Feasibility Committee that recommended the bond are Malibu residents: Michael Sidley, Ralph Erickson and Seth Jacobson. Of the three, Erickson is the only one who attended meetings and helped advise the school board to place a bond measure on the November ballot.

Members of the Economic Feasibility Committee were appointed at a school board meeting on Nov. 3, 2011. Sidley said his name is listed on the roster by mistake. He said he has not participated on an economic committee for the district since 2010.

Jacobson, a frequent presence at board of education meetings, said he was never notified of his appointment to the feasibility committee. He is the vice president of Advocates for Malibu Public Schools (AMPS), a group of local parents and education activists who are pushing for Malibu to separate from Santa Monica and create its own school district. Jacobson's name was left off of the committee's e-mail announce list, leaving him in the dark about the committee meetings that took place throughout the year.

"What's so unusual about it is, for the four or five months they were meeting, I was never

SEE **SCHOOLS** PAGE 10



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Put 'our' kids first

Editor:

I am empathetic to Dr. Lisette Gold's worrying about the safety of her kids in and around Samohi ("More safety around Samohi," Letters to the Editor, July 22). I tossed and turned more than a few nights, fretting about Samohi's lack of interest in keeping my kids safe.

What Dr. Gold needs to realize is that Samohi and the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District aren't "waiting for worse to happen" – they are ensuring it. SMMUSD has decided to issue "out of district" permits to and for any kid that wants to come to school here.

SMMUSD is interested in money, and only money. They need headcount – the more the headcount, the more state funding they receive. Safety is just one area of compromise that SMMUSD is more than happy to live with, as long as the state revenue checks keep rolling in.

SMMUSD's only priorities are to assure that their jobs are secure, their pensions are funded and that their salaries remain the highest in the country. SMMUSD doesn't care where the headcount comes from. Issues such as juvenile crime, gang affiliations or the racial tension that will come along with the headcount are of little or no concern.

Dr. Gold's plea for action and patrols based on recently documented gang activity around Samohi reminds me again of when Oscar de la Torre (current and always incumbent SMMUSD board member) brought gang members onto the Samohi campus. For whatever reason, Mr. de la Torre felt the need to flex his muscles and flaunt his associates, while taunting police, causing turmoil and instilling fear in students that were not used to gang intimidation. The result of his stunt was police alienation and a noticeable higher student absentee rate for the days that followed. (Yes, I kept my kids home for a few days).

For those of us that remember, it was a day when then Principal Ilene Strauss hid in her office, and when John Deasy, then SMMUSD superintendent, was left pretty much speechless in his early days of radio interviews. Although it's all water under the bridge now, there are just some SMMUSD memories and history that won't go away. And history does seem to keep repeating itself with SMMUSD.

It's always about the need for funding, re-distributing donations, possible staff cuts, dire need – blah, blah blah. It's never about increasing safety, and their stopgap plan to prevent student unrest or gang activity so far is to offer a couple of classes on racial differences, tolerance and cultural studies; not much of a match for guns or gang activity on or near campus, is it?

Nothing seems to have changed in the years since I was a Samohi parent. Dr. Gold's kids are no more safe than my kids were, and safety is still not the top priority. Eliminating the out-of-district permits entirely would be a good place to start, but SMMUSD would have to tighten their own belts, forfeit the funding from the additional headcount, and actually put safety first for "in district" kids.

I find myself wondering, since SMMUSD won't address the safety problem, do we want more gang activity here? Will throwing money at the school safety issue fix it? Is SMMUSD really capable of doing something other than what benefits them personally? Do we want or expect our kids to bear the brunt of overcrowded classrooms and less individual attention? When SMMUSD says there's no money for additional patrols or campus security, will you believe them? Would SMMUSD be open to the idea of putting "our" kids first?

Lori Emerson
Santa Monica

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Your column here

Jim Houser — **Send comments to editor@smdp.com**

Eliminate tax cuts for the rich

THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES will vote this week on proposals for dealing with the Bush-era tax cuts. This includes a proposal that passed the U.S. Senate last Wednesday that will extend Bush-era income tax cuts for every American, but end extra breaks for the richest 2 percent (on take-home income beyond the first $250,000). As a small business owner — my wife and I own and operate an auto repair shop with a dozen employees — I'm all for this. Especially the part about ending extra breaks for the top 2 percent.

Surprised to hear that? If so, I couldn't blame you, not after the debate about the Bush tax cuts has been so thoroughly confused by claims about the possible impact on small businesses. House Speaker John Boehner and other defenders of the tax cuts for the top 2 percent have repeated over and over again the assertion that ending special breaks at the top would harm small businesses. Unfortunately for Speaker Boehner's argument, repeating a false claim over and over again doesn't make it true.

Let's look at some basic facts.

In reality, only a tiny fraction — roughly 3 percent — of taxpayers who report any form of business income on their tax returns earn enough to be impacted by the tax rates for take-home income over $250,000. What's more, this small fraction includes hedge fund managers, corporate lawyers, and K Street lobbyists — not who most Americans think of as small businesses. So the number of real small businesses taking home more than $250,000 is even fewer.

Furthermore, the "trickle down" theory used to justify extra tax cuts at the top simply doesn't work. When the Congressional Budget Office examined close to a dozen options to jumpstart economic activity and job creation in early 2010, including tax cuts for everyone, it found that extending special tax breaks for the richest Americans was the least effective of all 11 options for creating jobs and boosting the economy.

Finally, claims about how ending these special tax cuts will impact job creation ignore the most basic fact about what drives small business hiring. Customer demand is what drives my hiring decisions, not tax cuts. We hire when we see an opportunity, when we've got more customers walking in the door asking us to fix their cars than we can serve with our current workforce. It has nothing to do with the tax rate on our take-home income.

And here's another thing: small business owners pay personal income taxes only on the net income we take out of our businesses — after deducting payroll and other business expenses. So if we take operating income and plow it back into hiring, we don't pay taxes on that money either way. The marginal tax rate on our take-home income doesn't even factor into that equation.

So if politicians really want to help small businesses, they should focus on how to bring more customers in our doors and stop wasting time defending extra tax cuts for the richest Americans. How do we get more customers? Rebuild our crumbling roads and bridges, stop cutting education, quit laying off teachers and first responders, and extend the Bush tax cut for 98 percent of Americans — that's the way to bring more customers into our businesses. But if we take the nearly $1 trillion we would raise from ending the extra Bush tax cuts for income over $250,000 and hand it right back to the top 2 percent, we won't have the resources to do these things.

Here's the bottom line: the Bush tax breaks for the top 2 percent are not helping America's small businesses and they're not helping our economy — they're just another giveaway at the top. When politicians steal the good name of small business to advance a special interest agenda that's not really about us at all, that's a form of theft — political identity theft. Small business owners have an obligation to set the record straight.

HERE'S THE BOTTOM LINE: THE BUSH TAX BREAKS FOR THE TOP 2 PERCENT ARE NOT HELPING AMERICA'S SMALL BUSINESSES AND THEY'RE NOT HELPING OUR ECONOMY – THEY'RE JUST ANOTHER GIVEAWAY AT THE TOP.

It's time to stand up for the good name of small business. The Senate has already done the right thing. Now the question for every member of the House of Representatives is, will you stand with real small businesses and vote to end the extra Bush tax cuts for the top 2 percent, or will you use us as a human shield to defend wasteful tax breaks for Wall Street hedge fund managers, corporate lawyers, and high-powered lobbyists? It's time to show which side you're on.

JIM HOUSER and his wife Liz Dally own Hawthorne Auto Clinic in Portland, Ore. He serves on the executive committee of the Main Street Alliance, a network of 10,000 local, independent small business owners across the country.

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OPINIONS EXPRESSED are those of the writer and do not necessarily reflect those of the Santa Monica Daily Press staff. Guest editorials from residents are encouraged, as are letters to the editor. Letters will be published on a space-available basis. It is our intention to publish all letters we receive, except those that are libelous or are unsigned. Preference will be given to those that are e-mailed to editor@smdp.com. All letters must include the author's name and telephone number for purposes of verification. All letters and guest editorials are subject to editing for space and content.

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.

This past week, Q-line asked:
Where do you stand on the possible closure, or does it not matter if it goes away?

Here are your responses:

"SINCE THIS IS A VERY BUSY, HIGHLY used, very centrally and conveniently located post office, I cannot believe anyone really came up with the idea to close it. Who makes these wacko decisions? Is the virus of lunacy spreading out across the country from our City Council? One can only wonder."

"CLOSING THE FIFTH STREET POST OFFICE is a terrible idea. As a 65-year-old who by choice doesn't drive anymore, lives green, walks everywhere, I will never walk through that horrible place that they plan to move it to … . It makes no sense at all."

"IT WOULD BE A DASTARDLY SHAME TO close the post office because that post office means so much; it's so beautiful. … Please don't close it. Let people do their mail things there. It's a beautiful testament to the beauty of San Malicious."

"DOES IT REALLY MATTER WHAT WE think? It's a done deal. By the way, I do think it's a lousy idea. I think it should stay. And, oh, by the way, P.S. I think that the Santa Monica Daily Press is one of the best things in Santa Monica — and I hope you never go."

"I THINK IT'S A DUMB THING TO CLOSE the post office. Besides the fact that it's a historical building, and it's been in Santa Monica for so many years, it's a bright airy place so when it's busy and you're standing in line you have people to talk to and you don't feel closed in. The one on Seventh Street is very small right now for people and it's probably going to cost more money to enlarge it than the cost of keeping the Santa Monica main office open. The main problem I'm thinking about is Metro is coming to town, and I know it's going down Colorado [Avenue]. Lincoln [Boulevard] is a main street, Fourth Street is a main street, Seventh, Sixth, and Fifth streets are not main streets so it wouldn't make any sense for there to be a crossing there. So how are the people going to cross the train tracks to get to the post office? It doesn't make any sense, so let's keep the old one open."

"ROUND UP THE USUAL SUSPECTS. CITY Hall, SMC, the school district, but most of all the post office. The government does not hire the best, brightest, or most motivated. Government pays the same if you do a good job or a poor one. So why would post office managers be held any more accountable than a large portion of the post office European-loving work ethic staff? Threatening to sell one of the few remaining architecturally inspiring buildings, eventually to be developed by a morally negative developer so he can build more low-income housing to help increase City Hall's voter supply for further re-elections is foul-smelling to say the least. Malicious incompetence both by the post office and City Hall to either raise taxes or further over-develop Santa Monica is to reveal a stunning hatred for the citizens of this town."

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"I WON'T FEEL SAFE GOING TO SEVENTH and Colorado daily to pick up my mail. I've had a post office box at Fifth and Arizona for over 20 years. It would be especially scary to me, I'd be very apprehensive going there after 5 p.m. in the wintertime such as December, January, February, etc., because it's totally dark. I just don't like that area. Please let's keep Fifth and Arizona open even if it has to be open less hours and even if we no longer have delivery on Saturday. Because after it's sold we cannot get this building back."

"I WOULD LIKE THE POST OFFICE TO STAY where it is. It's a masterpiece and it's been there for a long time, and I think it should stay there. I'm sorry but I feel like they're doing a very bad thing. And I'm very disgusted."

"LOGICALLY SPEAKING, IT COSTS LESS TO close the post office than to leave it as it is and to retain just the same services and employees which are planned to be used in the new location. That's logical, isn't it? And a lot of things of that nature are going on these days where a lot of money is spent to do nonsense things and even do destructive things. For example, recently I've seen some major places of major significance spend $1 million to take out normal toilets with normal handles and put in push-button toilets, that flush automatically. Let's not be too nuts. It's cheaper to leave the post office as it is. Come on let's not be nuts."

"THE POST OFFICE IS THE HEART OF Downtown Santa Monica. What little is left of it is an authentic place not just an expensive shopping mall. And it's always busy with long lines; it's criminal to close it."

"ARRANGEMENTS CAN ALWAYS BE MADE between the developers and the City Council, except for Kevin McKeown, our lone ethical member, that profits both parties so in time every building in the city will be demolished and replaced by monstrosities designed by builders from backwards places like Texas and Ohio. A functioning post office in prime property in Santa Monica? Wow. Show us the color of your money and send in the crews.











$2.3B accounting gap in California special funds

BY DON THOMPSON
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. The state controller and the Department of Finance are $2.3 billion apart in their calculations of how much money is in hundreds of special funds kept by various state agencies, officials acknowledged Friday.

By the state controller's accounting, the special funds held $11.1 billion during a financial tally a year ago. The state Department of Finance says the funds held $8.8 billion.

The accounting gap came to light after finance officials last week discovered nearly $54 million in two Department of Parks and Recreation special funds that had been deliberately hidden from the governor's budget office but showed up on the controller's books. The finding forced the resignation of the parks department's director and prompted an investigation by the state attorney general.

Finance Department spokesman H.D. Palmer said auditors won't know if there is additional surplus money in any more of the 560 accounts until next week, when they finish matching the controller's figures with their own.

Much of the difference is because the controller's and finance offices often use different accounting methods, said Palmer and Hallye Jordan, a spokeswoman for Controller John Chiang. For instance, a $460 million discrepancy in two transportation special funds is because the controller's office accounted for the money in one fiscal year, while the Finance Department counted it toward the next fiscal year.

The situation is triggering new debate over the state's budget crisis at a time when Gov. Jerry Brown is trying to convince voters the situation is so dire they need to approve a sales tax hike and increase the income tax on people making more than $250,000.

Brown and the Legislature used the Finance Department's lower $8.8 billion figure when they approved the California budget last month.

"I'm concerned about the lack of communication between the controller's office and the Department of Finance. It became obvious when the controller said, 'Well, if Finance had talked to me about the parks figures, this would have come to the forefront,'" said Sen. Bill Emmerson, R-Redlands, vice chairman of the Senate Budget Committee. "Something needs to be done right away because this is just not acceptable to have this type of discrepancy in California's budget process."

For instance, Emmerson said lawmakers thought they borrowed all the money they could from the state's beverage container recycling fund as they worked to avoid deeper cuts to schools and other vital programs. Now they find that there may be another $113 million in that account, according to the state controller.

At least 17 of the 560 special accounts have significantly more reserve cash based on the controller's figures than what was reported to the Finance Department, according to the San Jose Mercury News, which first reported the discrepancies. The violent crime victim restitution fund, for instance, was off by $29 million, and a low-cost child health insurance fund was off by $30 million.

Judge considering halting San Diego pension overhaul

BY ELLIOT SPAGAT
Associated Press

SAN DIEGO Backers of a voter-approved measure to curb pensions for municipal employees in the nation's eighth-largest city faced an early legal test Friday as a judge considered whether to put it on hold.

San Diego Superior Court Judge Luis Vargas could decide to suspend the measure while unions representing city employees attempt to derail it in court, an exercise that may take years. Earlier this month, the judge temporarily suspended it to allow time for the city and labor unions to negotiate details of how to put it into effect.

The June ballot measure passed by a 2-to-1 margin, and a similar initiative in San Jose also scored a lopsided victory. The votes in California's second- and third-largest cities emboldened activists seeking to cut pension payments in state capitols and city halls across the nation.

The legal dispute in San Diego centers on whether Mayor Jerry Sanders and other city officials circumvented state labor law by failing to consult labor unions before putting the question to voters.

Sanders contends he was exercising his First Amendment rights as a private citizen when he advocated for Proposition B. Unions said that, as the city's lead negotiator, he was required to go first to the negotiating table.

The California Public Employment Relations Board sued the city in February after unions complained to the board of unfair labor practices. Vargas rejected the labor relations board's attempt to delay the vote.

Nearly 116,000 San Diego voters signed petitions to get the measure on the ballot. It would impose a six-year freeze on pay levels used to determine pension benefits unless a two-thirds majority of the City Council votes to override it and puts new hires, except for police officers, into 401(k)-style plans.

San Diego's independent budget analyst estimates the freeze on "pensionable pay" will save the city $963 million over 30 years. The switch to 401(k)-style plans is expected to cost $13 million, although it would shift the risk of investment losses from taxpayers to employees.

The San Jose measure would force current employees, including police officers and firefighters, to pay much more toward their retirements or accept lower benefits. New hires would receive less generous benefits.

Unions representing San Jose police officers and firefighters in San Jose claimed in lawsuits filed last month in state court that the measure violates their vested rights.

San Diego and San Jose, like many states and cities, have struggled to maintain basic services as pension obligations have mounted.

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UC regents dropped from deadly lab accident case

BY ROBERT JABLON
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES A judge Friday dropped criminal charges against University of California regents stemming from a 2008 UCLA lab accident in which a worker died after suffering severe burns.

Instead, the court approved a 38-page agreement in which the Board of Regents arranged to take "comprehensive corrective safety measures" and establish a $500,000 scholarship in the name of the lab assistant who was killed, the Los Angeles County district attorney's office said in a statement.

The regents could have faced millions of dollars in fines if convicted of three counts of willfully violating occupational health and safety standards causing death.

The criminal case continues against UCLA chemistry professor Patrick Harran. He faces up to 4 1/2 years in prison if convicted of all three felony counts.

UCLA Chancellor Gene W. Block called the charges against Harran "unwarranted" and said the university and the regents continue to stand by him.

"We will continue to fully provide for his defense," he said, adding that Harran is "a valued and respected member of the faculty."

Harran's 23-year-old research assistant, Sheharbano Sangji, suffered burns over nearly half her body in the Dec. 29, 2008, accident at the UCLA organic chemistry laboratory.

She was transferring a chemical from one sealed container to another when a plastic syringe came apart in her hands and the chemical spilled, igniting on contact with the air.

Sangji was not wearing a protective lab coat, and her sweater caught fire and melted onto her skin. She died 18 days later.

In a 2009 report, the California Division of Occupational Safety and Health concluded that the death could have been avoided if Harran had properly trained Sangji and assured that she wore appropriate clothing.

The report, obtained by the Los Angeles Times, also said that UCLA repeatedly had failed to address previous safety lapses.

University officials contended that Sangji was well-trained and chose not to use available protective gear. In disputing the criminal charges, they said a CalOSHA investigation resulted in nearly $32,000 in fines but no findings of intentional or willful violations.

Harran's attorney, Thomas O'Brien, said at the time that the report contained "numerous misstatements."

After Sangji's death, UCLA instituted more rigorous lab inspections, issued more fire-resistant lab coats, enhanced training in the use of air-sensitive chemicals and established a Center for Lab Safety.

"We realized it was critical that we do everything possible to prevent such a tragedy from ever happening again — and that we help spread the message of lab safety throughout labs worldwide," Block said Friday.

Under the agreement with prosecutors, regents agreed to establish a $500,000 scholarship in Sangji's name for the study of environmental law at UC Berkeley.

Block called Sangji's death "a terrible day for everyone at UCLA and devastating for the Sangji family."

Another police shooting in Anaheim

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ANAHEIM, Calif. Anaheim police opened fire on a burglary suspect Friday morning, days after officers fatally shot two people and sparked violent protests in the Southern California city.

It was unclear whether anyone was hurt in the confrontation and no one has checked into local hospitals with a gunshot wound, said police Sgt. Bob Dunn.

Police answering a burglar alarm at a condominium complex clubhouse at about 3:15 a.m. spotted appliances outside and a man leaving the building, Dunn said.

An officer began chasing him while another officer checked out a nearby car, which suddenly sped off in the direction of the first officer, Dunn said.

The second officer then opened fire on the car but the driver escaped, Dunn said.

A search for the first man ended about 45 minutes later when a paroled burglar was found hiding near some train tracks, Dunn said.

The man had been bitten by a police dog and was taken to a hospital for treatment before being booked on suspicion of burglary and resisting arrest. His name was not immediately released.

The shooting came as activists in Los Angeles, Seattle and other cities called for Friday solidarity protests over the earlier police killings.

Last Saturday, a police officer fatally shot Manuel Diaz, who was unarmed, outside an apartment complex. Officers said Diaz, who had a criminal record, failed to heed orders and threw something as he fled police.

On Sunday night, police shot to death Joel Acevedo, a suspected gang member they say fired at officers after a pursuit.

The shootings prompted four days of violent protests, culminating Tuesday night in hundreds of demonstrators surging through downtown streets. Police said some in the crowd smashed the windows of 20 businesses, set trash can fires, threw rocks and bottles at police and damaged City Hall and police headquarters. Two dozen people were arrested.

The Orange County district attorney's office is investigating and the U.S. attorney's office and the FBI also agreed to review the shootings to determine if civil rights investigations are warranted.

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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

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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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Creating calorie-free soda

BY CANDICE CHOI
AP Food Industry Writer

NEW YORK Coke and Pepsi are chasing after the sweet spot: a soda with no calories, no artificial sweeteners and no funny aftertaste.

The world's top soft drink companies hope that's the elusive trifecta that will silence health concerns about soda and reverse the decline in consumption of carbonated drinks. But such a formula could be years away.

That's because the ingredient that makes soda taste good is also what packs on the pounds: high-fructose corn syrup. Artificial sweeteners like aspartame that are used in diet drinks don't have any calories but are seen as processed and fake. Natural sweeteners that come from plants present the most promising alternative, but companies haven't yet figured out how to mask their metallic aftertaste.

Despite the complexities, soft drink makers push on in their search.

"I can't say when it will be here, but it's in the reasonable future," said Al Carey, who heads the beverage unit for the Americas at PepsiCo Inc., the world's No. 2 soda maker.

There's good reason that soft drink makers are so eager to tweak their formulas. Once a beloved American treat, sodas are now being blamed for the nation's bulging waistlines — two-thirds of the country's adults are overweight or obese, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. That, coupled with the growing variety of flavored waters and sports drinks, has sent per capita soda consumption down 17 percent to about 1.3 cans a day since its peak in 1998, according to data from Beverage Digest, an industry tracker.

In New York City, a ban on the sale of sugary drinks bigger than 16 ounces in restaurants, theaters and stadiums could take effect as early as March. The mayor of Cambridge, Mass., proposed a similar ban last month. And in Richmond, Calif., voters will decide in November whether to pass the nation's first penny-per-ounce tax on soda and other sugary drinks such as fruit juices and teas.

All the negative publicity has some once-faithful soda drinkers cutting back. Krista Koster, a 29-year-old who lives in Washington D.C., used to down about two cans of soda a day. Now she's trying to kick the habit and be more conscious about what she drinks.

"I've just been hearing how bad soda is," said Koster, who works in public relations.

High-fructose corn syrup, the cheap sweetener that's used in most sodas, has the same nutritional value and taste of sugar. A can of regular soda typically has about 40 grams of high-fructose corn syrup and 140 calories. By comparison, the same amount of apple juice has about 38 grams of sugar and 165 calories, but companies can tout the vitamins and other nutrients juice provides.

Aspartame, the artificial sweetener commonly used in drinks such as Diet Coke and Diet Pepsi, doesn't have any calories. But some drinkers worry about the fact that the sweeteners are not natural. Public perception has been colored by past studies that have suggested it caused cancer and brain tumors in rats even though The American Cancer Society says there's no evidence showing it has any link with an increased risk for cancer in adults.

The concerns have led soft drink companies to search for natural, zero-calorie sweeteners, including stevia, which is derived from a South American shrub. Natural sweeteners have neither the calories of sugar nor the negative associations of artificial sweeteners. The trick, however, is figuring out how to make them taste good in colas.

"Every sweetener has its own notes that need to be mixed with other flavors," said Mehmood Khan, chief science officer for PepsiCo. "It's a bit like an orchestra playing music, as opposed to one instrument."

So far, stevia is the natural sweetener that has gotten the most attention and is already used in Coca-Cola and PepsiCo products, including orange juice and bottled teas. But it's proving more difficult to hide the aftertaste in colas.

Soft drink makers are testing different extracts from the stevia plant that they hope will be easier to blend. They're also scouring the world for other naturally occurring sweeteners, such as one called mogroside that is extracted from monk fruit and a derivative of a berry called miracle fruit.

The Coca-Cola Co., based in Atlanta, says it's currently testing additional drinks that use stevia and other natural sweeteners but declined to give details. The tests are part of the ongoing "home-use tests" the company conducts, in which consumers may be given a six-pack of a new product to try over the course of a week.

To accelerate the pace of such trials, Coca-Cola two years ago dedicated a production line at one of its plants solely to churning out test beverages. But taste isn't the only consideration for the world's biggest soda maker.

"Some of the very exciting (sweeteners) we're playing with are really small in terms of production and planting, and they need to be nurtured," says Katie Bayne, president of Coca-Cola's North American soda business.

Coca-Cola also is testing versions of its Sprite and Fanta that use stevia in Atlanta, Detroit, Louisville, Ky. and Memphis, Tenn. The drinks have about half the calories of regular Sprite and Fanta (70 per can, instead of 140 or 160, respectively). But the "Select" drinks fall short of the ideal because they have sugar.

PepsiCo, based in Purchase, N.Y., is also on the hunt for new drinks that use natural, no-calorie sweeteners. In 2010, the company entered a $62 million, four-year deal with food flavor company Senomyx Inc. to develop natural sweeteners and "taste enhancers" that can intensify sweetness. Coca-Cola also previously had an eight-year contract with Senomyx; neither of the partnerships has yet produced any products for commercial use.

Dr Pepper Snapple Group Inc., the nation's third-largest soda maker, also is searching for the right combination. The company's line of flavored sodas, such as Sunkist and A&W Root Beer, may make it easier to mask the taste of natural sweeteners like stevia than with colas.

At a beverage industry conference earlier this year, Dr Pepper's Chief Financial Officer Marty Ellen said he thinks a "sweetener breakthrough" is achievable in the next few years.

Recreating the exact taste of extremely valuable brands such as Coke and Pepsi is a high-stakes game and companies don't want to rush any drinks to the market. But making a natural cola that doesn't have any calories isn't impossible. Smaller companies such as Zevia, based in Culver City, Calif., already make such colas using stevia.

Zevia is now sold in 10,500 locations — including Kroger and Whole Foods — up from just 850 locations four years ago. CEO Paddy Spence doesn't think Coke and Pepsi's efforts to come up with their own zero-calorie drinks will threaten his company.

"When consumers see a brand all of a sudden with different positioning, they see right through that," Spence said.



Tour De Feast

Michael Ryan
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

From the farm to your plate

IF YOU NOTICE A RESTAURANT THAT OFFERS fixed rate, family style, one day only, multi-course meals (usually themed), it's a good sign of a creative chef that does not like to sit on his or her laurels. Chef Ray Garcia has been exploring the studio at FIG and pairing with local growers to offer fun, fresh farm dinners all summer long. The most recent farm-to-table to be featured on FIG's special menu came compliments of Harry's Berries, an organic farm up in Oxnard, Calif. and a mainstay at the Third Street Farmers' Market.

The farm dinner at FIG accentuated the best Harry's Berries has to offer — berries (obviously), beans and tomatoes. Essentially it is the best tasting and freshest produce you can get in the area. But it is one thing to dig a diamond out of the ground — someone still has to cut that gem.

The presentation was flawless right off the bat. The Juliet tomatoes were so sweet that they seemed more like a dessert than a first course. Another plate with pieces of Kampachi, watermelon and radish, adorned with seascape strawberries was light, pleasing, and everything you would expect from a great restaurant featuring amazing produce.

There was, however, plenty of yin to go with the meal's light, fruity, and sweet yang. The bacon-wrapped bacon tastes as good as it sounds (if you're into that kind of gastro-porn). A hunky counter balance of salted meat topped with greens and tomato made for a sophisticated yet kick ass B.L.T.

While berries are the namesake at Harry's, it was the beans that found themselves on some of the best plates of the evening. The haricot verts, a thin French-style green bean, is deemed by Harry's website as the Rolls Royce of beans. High and curious praise for a bean. Nonetheless, topped on the short rib made for the most delicious plate of the evening.

For dessert it was back to the berry. The charcuterie plate of confectioneries did not last long. Chocolate-raspberry tart, Chandler strawberry-banana milkshake, and Gaviota strawberries, malted panna cotta, shaved brownie is what the menu said. I saw it as an edible exclamation point.

Chef Garcia was dealt a winning hand with Harry's Berries and delivered a top notch dinner. Mark your calendars for the next farm dinner at FIG featuring Weiser Family Farms Aug. 17.

If you go

FIG
101 Wilshire Blvd.
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(310) 319-3111
www.figsantamonica.com/

MICHAEL can be seen riding around town on his bike burning calories so he can eat more food, or on CityTV hosting his own show, "Tour de Feast." To reach him visit his website at tourdefeast.net or follow him on Twitter @TourDeFeastSM.



BEAN THERE, DONE THAT: **FIG Chef Ray Garcia threw some Rolls Royce green beans on some short ribs for a crunchy, yet juicy and tender dish that was beyond delicious.**



Michael Ryan *news@smdp.com*

SWEET: **The dessert sampler at FIG's latest farm dinner featured fruit from Harry's Berries.**









BIKING

FROM PAGE 3

them," Durgin said.

Durgin hopes to get 100 participants over the course of the year, and is optimistic about the initiative.

Participants are provided with a bike for two weeks if they pledge to use the bike about three times a week to commute to work. The Bike Center is also willing to provide "bike buddies" to help participants plan their route and ride into town for the first time on a bike.

The program was inspired by a similar one in Copenhagen, Denmark in which people who had to take their children to school or childcare centers were provided with bikes.

"With this program we will also have optional child seat accessories so if people say, 'Oh I have to take my kid to school so I can't,' we'll help them out," Durgin said. "When people say they can't do something, we'll say yes we can, and this is how. Bring on the objections!"

Bicycle store Helen's Cycles is also participating in the effort. They plan to provide a discount to those who finish the two-week session so they can continue their bike commutes.

"The program is great, it's been really interesting to watch the Bike Center evolve," Brad Edwards, manager of Helen's Cycles, said. "It's a wonderful resource for the community and the program is a great opportunity for someone to try out bike commuting without having that financial cost up front."

That will encourage people to continue bike commuting after their two weeks are up because they will learn how to do it on the right bike with the right products, Edwards said.

> **PEOPLE CAN EXPERIENCE SANTA MONICA FROM THE SADDLE RATHER THAN STARING THROUGH THE WINDSHIELD."**
>
> **Ron Durgin,**
> manager of the Santa Monica Bike Center

Durgin hopes the commuter program will get more people on bikes and out of their cars.

"The car congestion needs to be decongested and a bike provides an antidote to that problem," Durgin said. "You can get to work on time and get exercise in the process. People can experience Santa Monica from the saddle rather than staring through the windshield."

The Bike Center, reportedly the nation's largest, opened in November of last year at the corner of Second Street and Colorado Avenue. It features 360 bike parking spaces, showers, lockers, bathrooms and a space to rent bikes. The 5,300-square-foot facility was built for roughly $2 million, with $1.5 million coming from the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

For more information or to sign up for this program, contact the Santa Monica Bike Center at (310) 656-8500.

news@smdp.com

SCHOOLS

FROM PAGE 3

notified," Jacobson said. "I can't tell you how many times I've been up in front of the council or Board of Education during that time."

In an e-mail sent to Jacobson on Thursday last week, SMMUSD Superintendent Sandra Lyon apologized for the miscommunication on behalf of the school district. She admitted to the district's mistake in not notifying Jacobson that he had been appointed to the Economic Feasibility Committee.

"There was no ill intent on the part of our office," Lyon wrote. "I know that your voice on that committee would have been extremely valuable and important and we all would have benefited from your participation."

Lyon told The Malibu Times that when the committee was formed in November, she was still getting accustomed to her job as superintendent and the committee appointment process. She was appointed to the job in May 2011 and began her work in July 2011.

"In hindsight, I wish we had had [another] Malibu voice on the committee," Lyon said.

AMPS is a major advocate for Malibu becoming an independent school district. Should the bond be placed on the ballot and receive 55 percent of the vote, advocates for the separation will face a large hurdle in dividing up the bond money and navigating state law during the separation process.

"Obviously the desire of members of the Mailbu community who want it to be its own district continues to impact a lot of decision-making, but I'm not sure any of us can completely quantify what the effect would be," Lyon said.

Erickson, the sole Malibu representative on the feasibility committee, has long been involved with other committees in the district. He said he made sure Malibu received a fair cut in the proposed bond.

"I pointed out strongly to members that there certainly had to be much consideration given to including projects in Malibu and I think that was well received," Erickson said.

Erickson is not involved with AMPS and said he supports a school district separation only if it is financially feasible. Without Jacobson aware of or present at the meetings, AMPS did not have any representative on the economic committee.

The committee's recommended bond allocates $77 million to Malibu, or 20 percent of the bond money. Malibu taxpayers would foot approximately 31 percent of the bond money over the next 25 to 30 years if the bond passes. Because of this, some believe Malibu should receive 31 percent of the bond money.

"[Malibu] came out exceptionally well if you compare the unmet needs from the facilities standpoint in Santa Monica with the unmet needs of facilities in Malibu," Committee Chair Neil Carrey said. "There's no way that people would agree that they should get 31 percent. That's not the way the district runs."

One behind-the-scenes participant was Malibu Mayor Laura Rosenthal, who said she spoke with Carrey "three or four times" during the two to three weeks before the committee made its recommendation to the school board. Rosenthal also serves as the City Council liaison to AMPS.

"I did have good talks with Neil," Rosenthal said. "I just wish that Malibu people were brought in earlier in the process."

Rosenthal and Erickson played a key role in suggesting Malibu schools receive 20 percent of the bond money, Carrey said.

"The implication that was made was Malibu didn't have representation and therefore was not treated fairly," Carrey said. "That's absolute and utter nonsense when you've been given 20 percent of the money."

On Wednesday, the board will meet in Malibu to vote on a resolution to have the bond measure placed on the November general election ballot.

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This story first appeared in the Malibu Times.

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BUSINESS
FROM PAGE 1

in January, the couple researched other eyewear companies for over a year. Much to their surprise, they found that there were only two major eyewear companies, Luxottica and Safilo, that produce all types of eyewear, yet both use materials that are not natural.

"As we investigated the market we found that there was no way a pair of plastic frames should cost $500," Rose Ann said. "We were challenged to find a different product because eyewear is the one industry where there has been little to no innovation."

With the goal of providing all types of eyewear and using only eco-friendlly products, the couple also researched what materials they could use. As opposed to plastic or petroleum frames, Siempre Verde uses only bamboo, ebony, birch, and zebra wood alternatives and offer single vision, transition lenses, tinted, and even prescription lenses, all complete with anti-reflective coating.

With style shifting towards eco-friendliness, Siempre Verde is a part of a progressive, widespread effort to transform not only the eyewear industry, but all other types of apparel.

"I've seen eco-friendly sunglasses in magazines and on celebrities more than ever this summer," said StyleMinx's online blogger Erica Paonessa. "I think as we become more aware of our environment and our impact on it we want to feel good about the things we are purchasing. More and more fashion and accessories are moving in this direction so we no longer need to compromise style to do something good."

Siempre Verde is family-oriented and locally operated in Marina del Rey. Throughout the entire process of founding a new business, family value has still remained a priority for the couple.

"Everyone involved with the conception and launch of this brand are family members and close family friends who have volunteered their time and efforts," J.V. said.

Staying true to its motto "Style Sustained," Siempre Verde releases products that are intended to embody the unique spirit of southern California's beach scene. Those frames entitled Ocean, Melrose and Venice are designed to represent their respective areas.

Having both grown up in the Los Angeles, the Salumbides family has become familiar with the various environmental issues within the community. Rose Ann, an advanced-placement government teacher, even includes a unit about the environment in her curriculum when teaching public policy. After including environmentally-friendly behaviors in their daily routine, such as actively recycling and using primarily "green" materials, the family saw Siempre Verde as a perfect way to further address these issues, with a primary focus on deforestation.

"We hope to be involved with all environmental concerns, especially coastal, clean water issues," J.V. said. "Reforestation is only our start. We plan to expand efforts in the near future."

The company decided that although all environmental issues are worth addressing, reforestation was the most relevant and attainable goal.

"We wanted to find a company that works with reforestation," said Rose Ann. "Obviously we only use wooden frames, so we wanted to do something to replenish the materials that we were using from nature."

Rose Ann discovered American Forest, the oldest national nonprofit conservation organization in the country that advocates for the protection and expansion of America's forests. After getting in contact with one of the workers, it was suggested that she reach out to 1% to the Planet, another local nonprofit organization. In its partnership with 1% for The Planet, Siempre Verde must donate 1 percent of its annual total sales to another organization from a list of approved nonprofits, including American Forest. In addition, Siempre Verde will plant a tree where it is needed most for every purchase of a Siempre Verde product.

Despite its short time on the market, Siempre Verde has been gaining publicity. From being featured on KTLA's "Fun and Fabulous Finds for the Summer" to preparing for an appearance on the television show "I Gotta Have That," the company looks forward to a promising future.

"We can't wait to see someone walking down the street wearing our frames," Rose Ann said.

To join in on the action, visit www.shopsiempre.com

news@smdp.com

GROUP
FROM PAGE 3

tions to join the election set off a chain of events that has caused a schism in one of Santa Monica's biggest neighborhood groups.

In May, a group turned in nomination papers to join in the Wilmont election, expected to be held at the annual meeting on June 9.

Members of the group said they were angry at the lack of transparency on the Wilmont board, particularly around a decision to support the Fairmont Miramar Hotel revitalization project.

Just days before the election was to take place, Marcia Carter, the octogenarian who kept Wilmont's membership rolls, fell down the stairs of her apartment, breaking her hip.

The list of voting members was sealed away in her apartment, and Wilmont chair Valerie Griffin sent out a notice saying that the election was canceled.

Many of the membership, incensed by what they felt were underhanded dealings by a board who was not listening to them on development, attended the meeting and forced the election to go forward, despite Griffin's attempts to adjourn.

The ballots were counted several weeks later, at which point eight members of the new group were declared to be board members even as the original, seated board protested that the election was invalid and that they could not use the Wilmont name.

Despite that, a handful of the newly-elected board members have taken to attending public meetings and introducing themselves as members of the Wilmont board, in violation of the cease and desist notice.

It was they, and a handful of others, who got the boot on Friday.

The board plans to hold an election within the calendar year for the two open positions, now filled by incumbents Diane Krakower and Benjamin Steers, Kammerling said.

In many ways, it will be the first properly-noticed election that the Wilmont group has seen in years.

The most recent contest should not have been able to go forward at all because no candidate names appeared on the notice of election, Kammerling said.

"All of the nominees will be verified as eligible in advance and their names will be listed in the notice to members at least 21 days prior to the election," Kammerling said.

ashley@smdp.com

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BRENTWOOD

Caffe Luxxe donates 6 percent to public schools

In celebration of its sixth anniversary, Caffe Luxxe in the Brentwood Country Mart will give 6 percent of every purchase made between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. from July 29 to Aug. 4 to the Santa Monica-Malibu Education Foundation.

Drop in for a soothing espresso or an enjoyable children's pony ride to support local teachers, students and public schools.

People who spend over $15 on July 29 will also receive free access to the petting zoo or a pony ride.

"To cuddle a fuzzy lamb, sip the best cappuccino in all of Los Angeles and to contribute to a worthwhile event," Alexia Haidos, publicist for Caffe Luxxe, said. "How could it not be a lot of fun on a Sunday morning?"

Established in 1982, the Ed Foundation helps raise money to support the arts, academics and athletics in local public schools.

– AMANCAI BIRABEN

NAILED
FROM PAGE 1

impacted by the exhaust.

Between late-March and mid-May, Justice Aviation, American Flyers and Krueger Aviation reported six occasions in which similar-sized roofing nails appeared in their driveways.

Justice Aviation and American Flyers are the two largest flight schools at Santa Monica Airport. Krueger Aviation buys and sells airplanes, but has a sign on the front of the business that suggests that it doubles as a flight school.

Despite the fact that an estimated 600 to 700 nails were dropped in the first six occurrences, only one Krueger Aviation customer discovered a popped tire.

According to the Santa Monica Police Department, the first report of the nails came on April 18. By that time, employees and others had found nails on the premises two other times, but hadn't thought to report it.

More nails showed up on May 8, May 10 and May 18. The nails stopped appearing until May 31, when Kean Mayman was arrested.

ashley@smdp.com

RATES
FROM PAGE 1

tistics compiled by PKS Consulting for nearby cities.

Los Angeles, which did not make the list, filled only 65.4 percent of its rooms during 2010 and hoped to hit 68.7 in 2011.

Long Beach only racked up 63.1 percent occupancy in 2010 with projections for a 3 percent bump the following year, despite its beachside location.

"We live and work in a beautiful destination, and we're all very fortunate for that," said Kelly Nagle, spokesperson for the Convention and Visitors Bureau. "Others see value in the location and are very willing to pay for that."

If $287 is a little bit above your price range, don't worry.

The survey compared every destination town in the United States with a minimum of 10 regular hotels. It looked for the cheapest available double room at establishments with two stars and above during four-day stretches in June, July and August.

Cheaphotels.com staff only looked at hotels within a mile of either the beach or Downtown of each city included.

Other hotels that don't fit into that strict geographic range like the Comfort Inn or Santa Monica Pico Travel Lodge hit in the middle of the price range, coming in at $179 and $128 per night, respectively, Nagle said.

A bit further up the price range were Best Western Gateway at $239 per night and The Ambrose at $245 a night.

No matter where travelers choose to spend the night in Santa Monica, they're never far from the ocean views on which others place such a high premium, Nagle said.

"The total destination, as a whole, is only 8.3 square miles," she said. "Even if you are in the hotels a little further on the east end, you're not going to have a lesser experience."

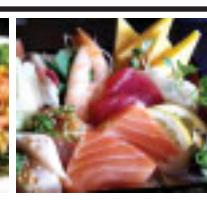
According to a report by the bureau, over 6.7 million people visited Santa Monica in 2011. While they were here, they spent $1.39 million, a 20 percent boost over 2009.

The increased spending created 1,700 new jobs in or around the local hospitality industry, and helped fill public coffers as purchases and hotel stays began pumping extra tax dollars into the General Fund, which covers essential services like police and fire.

ashley@smdp.com



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City of Santa Monica

NOTICE OF ELECTION, AND ARGUMENT AND REBUTTAL DEADLINES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the General Municipal Election will be held in the City of Santa Monica on Tuesday, November 6, 2012, and setting the deadline for submittal of arguments, and rebuttals in favor and in opposition of the following measures:

PROPOSITION " ": Shall the City Charter be amended to allow the annual rent control general adjustment to be based on 75% of the annual percentage change in the Consumer Price Index, but limited to an adjustment between 0% and 6%; and to give the Rent Control Board discretion, after a public hearing, to impose a dollar limit, within the 0-6% range, calculated using the same formula employed when imposing a limit under the existing general adjustment formula?	Yes No

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that pursuant to Article 4, Chapter 3, Division 9 of the Elections Code of the State of California, the legislative body of the City, or any member or members thereof authorized by the body, or any individual voter or bona fide association of citizens, or any combination of voters and associations, may file a written argument, not to exceed 300 words in length, accompanied by the printed name(s) and signature(s) of the author(s) submitting it, or if submitted on behalf of an organization, the name of the organization, and the printed name and signature of at least one of its principal officers who is the author of the argument, for or against the City measures. No more than five signatures of authors shall be accepted with any argument submitted.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that, based upon the time reasonably necessary to prepare and print the arguments and sample ballots for the election, the City Clerk has fixed **Tuesday, August 7, 2012, 5:30 p.m.**, during normal office hours, as posted, as **the date** after which no arguments for or against the City measures may be submitted to the Clerk for printing and distribution to the voters as provided in the Article 4. Arguments shall be submitted to the City Clerk, accompanied by the printed name(s) and signatures(s) of the author(s) submitting it, or if submitted on behalf of the organization, the name of the organization, and the printed name and signature of at least one of its principal officers who is the author of the argument, at City Hall, Santa Monica, California. Arguments may be changed or withdrawn until and including the date fixed by the City Clerk.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 11.04.125 rebuttal arguments not exceeding 250 words, as submitted by the authors of the opposing direct arguments, may be filed with the Clerk, and shall be signed by any one of the persons filing the original argument, any combination of the persons signing the original argument or by all of the persons filing the original argument. The rebuttal shall not be signed by any person who did not sign the original argument nor shall it contain more than five signatures. The deadline for filing rebuttals with the City Clerk may be not more than ten days after the final date for filing original arguments, the date being **Friday, August 17, 2012, 5:00 p.m.**

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT pursuant to Santa Monica Municipal Code Section 11.04.190, the City Clerk shall make any ordinance, impartial analysis, or direct arguments and rebuttals filed under the authority of the elections code available for public inspection in the City Clerk's office for a period of ten calendar days immediately following the filing deadline of such materials. Any person seeking a writ of mandate or an injunction requiring any or all of the materials to be amended or deleted shall comply with the time requirements in Elections Code Sections 9295 and 13313 for filing such actions. Please call (310) 458-8211 for any additional information.

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Romney courting Jewish voters

BY PHILIP ELLIOTT
Associated Press

WASHINGTON On a trip to Israel, Mitt Romney is trying to win over a tiny sliver of a small — but powerful — section of the American electorate. President Barack Obama is doing the same at home.

But while Romney's trip is unlikely to change the broader presidential campaign against Obama, he's hoping to close the gap among Jewish voters.

Yet for all the wooing of American Jews in presidential campaigns, those who say Israel's fate drives their vote make up 6 percent of a reliably Democratic bloc. The tiny numbers are overlaid with an outsize influence. Campaign donations from Jews or Jewish and pro-Israel groups account for as much as 60 percent of Democratic money, and groups such as the American Israel Public Affairs Committee can bring strong pressure on candidates.

"This is going to be a close election. We are in a tight, tight race," said Democratic pollster Jim Gerstein. "But this race will not swing on the Jewish vote."

The notion of being an American Jew has changed over the years. Jews have married outside their faith and ethnic enclaves have given way to integrated cities. In the process, Israel has faded as a driving issue in their homes and seems to have faded as a flashpoint in politics.

"They're disconnected from their ancestral roots," Hank Sheinkopf, a New York-based consultant, said of Jewish voters. "People are becoming less observant so they're less tied to Israel, less tied to their faith, less tied to their history."

In turn, Jewish voters look at the election through secular lenses. Although the campaign rhetoric skews toward them when the candidates talk about Israel, assuming that Jews vote based on U.S. policy toward Israel is a losing proposition.

Romney also needs to show his commitment to Israel because the reliably Republican evangelical Christian vote also holds candidates to account on that topic.

"Jewish Americans, like most Americans, have come to assume that mainstream politicians and elected officials will stand strongly with Israel so there's oftentimes no urgency that is reflected in the polling," said Robert Wexler, a former Democratic congressman from Florida whose district was heavily Jewish.

"Even partisan people who cherish the American-Israeli relationship cringe when Israel is used as a political football," said Wexler, who was a co-chairman of Obama's 2008 campaign and now leads the S. Daniel Abraham Center for Middle East Peace.

That hasn't stopped Romney.

"I think, by and large, you can just look at the things the president has done and do the opposite," Romney said earlier this year when asked about Israel.

Obama has riled his critics, including Romney, by urging the Israelis and the Palestinians to make good on their promises to bring peace to the troubled Middle East. Specifically, Obama publicly has chastised Israel for continuing to build housing settlements in disputed areas and has pressured both sides to begin a new round of peace talks based on the land borders established after the 1967 Arab-Israeli conflict.

That has raised the ire of groups such as AIPAC, which feel he's been disloyal to Israel. Obama's strained relationship with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — a longtime Romney friend — hasn't helped that perception.

Previous presidents have sided with Israel on all points, at least in public.

"This is the most hostile president since the state of Israel was created," Romney supporter and former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton said recently. "He's demonstrated that hostility right from the beginning of his administration."

Such language is designed to whittle away at the Democrats' long-held advantages and nip away at the 78 percent support Obama enjoyed among Jews on Election Day 2008.

The Gallup polling organization reported Friday that Obama's standing stood at 68 percent among Jews, while 25 percent favored Romney.

"They elected him with historic numbers but they have to look at how President Obama has handled the whole situation," said Rich Beeson, Romney's political director. "Voters can say, 'I've not made a mistake, but he has not lived up to what he promised and it's OK to (vote for someone else).' Every vote that we can peel off from Barack Obama helps."

That approach fuels the on-the-ground effort to continue Jewish voters' slide away from the Democratic fold. Romney allies at the Republican Jewish Coalition are planning a $6.5 million campaign to help GOP candidates, and Romney himself is looking to reach into Jewish communities in Florida, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, North Carolina and Nevada.

But the Jewish vote won't make a difference in this election. Exit polls show Jewish voters typically make up between 2 percent and 4 percent of the electorate nationwide. In 2008, they were 2 percent of voters nationwide and Republican Sen. John McCain won just 21 percent of them.

In 2004, George W. Bush fared a bit better, winning 25 percent of the vote, the largest share of the Jewish vote any Republican has earned since 1988.

But that's not to say they don't have clout.

"Jews are less important as voters than they are as activists and contributors. Jews provide pretty close to half of the money available to Democratic candidates," said Benjamin Ginsburg, a political science professor at Johns Hopkins University.

And it's not as though Israel alone will even decide Jewish voters' preference. A survey earlier this year by the American Jewish Committee found only 6 percent of American Jews listed U.S.-Israel relations as their top priority. The economy was the top concern, at 29 percent, followed by health care, at 20 percent.



City of Santa Monica

NOTICIA DE ELECCION Y SOBRE LA FECHA DESPUES DE LA CUAL NO SE PODRA PRESENTAR A LA SECRETARIA MUNICIPAL NINGUN ARGUMENTO Y REFUTACION A FAVOR O EN CONTRA DE PROPUESTAS MUNICIPALES

POR LA PRESENTE SE DA AVISO de que se habrá de llevar a cabo una Elección Municipal General en la Ciudad de Santa Monica el martes, 6 de noviembre de 2012, en la cual se les presentará las siguientes propuesta a los votantes:

PROPOSICION " ": Deberá ser enmendada la Carta Constitucional para permitir que el ajusto general de control de alquileres sea basado en 75% del cambio del porcentaje anual del Índice de Precios al Consumidor, pero limitado a un ajusto entre 0% y 6%; y para dar discreción a la Junta de Control de Alquileres, después de una audiencia publica, a imponer un limite monetario entre el los limites de 0-6%, que sea calculado usando la misma formula que es usada cuando imponiendo un limite bajo la formula para al ajusto general que existe ahora??	Si / No

ADEMAS SE NOTIFICA que en conformidad con el Articulo 4, Capitulo 3, División 9 del Código Electoral del Estado de California, el cuerpo legislativo de la Ciudad, o cualquier miembro o miembros del mismo autorizados por el cuerpo, o todo votante individual o asociación genuina de ciudadanos, o toda combinación de votantes y asociaciones, pueden presentar un argumento escrito a favor o en contra de la medida municipal, el cual no puede exceder las 300 palabras, acompañado por el nombre o nombres impresos, y firma(s) de el/los autores que lo presente, o si es presentado en el nombre de una organización, el nombre de la organización, y el nombre impreso y la firma de por lo menos uno de sus funcionarios principales, quien es el autor o autora del argumento.

ADEMAS SE NOTIFICA que, basada en el tiempo razonablemente necesario para preparar e imprimir los argumentos y boletas electorales de muestra para la elección, la Secretaria Municipal ha fijado el **martes, 7 de agosto, 2012**, durante el horario normal de trabajo, según ha sido anunciado, como la fecha después de la cual no se podrá presentar a la secretaria municipal ningún argumento a favor o en contra de la medida municipal para su impresión y distribución a los votantes según lo dispuesto en el artículo 4. Los argumentos deberán ser presentados a la secretaria Municipal, acompañados por el nombre o nombres impresos y firmas de los autores que los presenten, o si son presentados en el nombre de una organización, el nombre de la organización, y el nombre impreso y la firma de por lo menos uno de sus funcionarios principales, quien es el autor del argumento, en el Ayuntamiento en Santa Monica, California. Los argumentos pueden ser cambiados o retirados hasta e incluyendo la fecha fijada por la Secretaria Municipal.

ADEMAS SE NOTIFICA que basado en Sección 11.04.125 del Código Municipal de Santa Monica, argumentos de refutación, los cuales no pueden exceder 250 palabras, pueden ser presentados a la Secretaria Municipal, acompañados por los nombres impresos y firmas de los mismos autores que los del argumento principal, o con cualquier combinación de firmas de los autores que presentaron el argumento principal, incluyendo todos los autores que firmaron el argumento principal. El argumento de refutación no será firmado por ninguna persona que no firmó el argumento principal y tendrá que ser presentado a la Secretaria Municipal no más de 10 días después de la fecha fijada para presentar los argumentos directos, la fecha siendo el **viernes, 17 de agosto, 2012**.

ADEMAS SE NOTIFICA que toda ordenanza, análisis imparcial, o argumento directo y refutación que sea presentado bajo la autoridad del Código Municipal, Sección 11.04.190 estará a la disposición del público para que lo examine en la oficina de la secretaria por un periodo de 10 días calendario inmediatamente después de la fecha límite para los documentos. Cualquier persona que quiera obtener un mandato judicial ordenando que haya cambios o redacte texto a cualquier documento aquí nombrado, deberá de cumplir con los requisitos de las secciones 9295 y 13313 del Código Estatal de Elecciones.

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SURF REPORT



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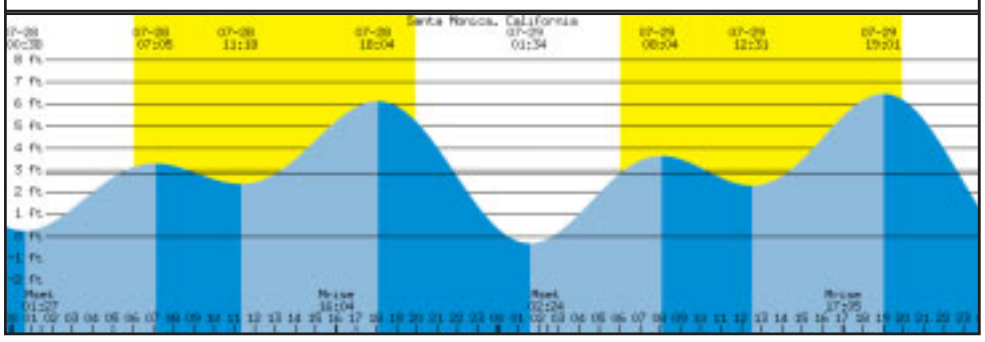
Swell Forecast

Looks knee to waist high most everywhere.

Long Range Synopsis

Looks to be waist high at west facing breaks and knee to waist at south facing spots.

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 25, 2012**

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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 -- 26 / 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, Cinnabook Family Foundation, simplehuman, LazerGUY, SMM

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 Lechuza and Los Alisos creeks.	ns	ns
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	ns
Dread 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.	A	ns
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	ns
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	ns
Solstice Canyon at Ben Blocker County Beach.	A+	ns
Pearco State Beach at creek mouth.	A	ns
Marie Canyon storm drain at Pearco Beach, at 24572 Malibu Rd.	C	ns
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A	ns
Surfrider Beach (breach location) - daily.	A	ns
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	F	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
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	ns
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A	ns
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	ns
Will Rogers State Beach at 17208 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	A+	ns
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).	C	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.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Culver Blvd. drain.	A+	ns
North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of CIWW jetty).	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.	A+	ns
Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.	A+	ns
Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.	A+	ns

LEGEND

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

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

ns -- no sample taken

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

Heal the Bay

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.

NHL

Kings hire former Blues coach Payne as assistant

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. The Los Angeles Kings have hired former St. Louis head coach Davis Payne as an assistant to coach Darryl Sutter.

The Stanley Cup champions announced the move Friday.

St. Louis fired Payne on Nov. 6 after nearly two years behind the bench. Ken Hitchcock took over and led the Blues to the second round of the playoffs, where Los Angeles swept them.

Payne will replace Jamie Kompon, who left the Kings for the same job with the Chicago Blackhawks earlier this month. Kompon and John Stevens stayed on in Los Angeles as assistants when Sutter replaced Terry Murray last December.

Sutter says the 41-year-old Payne topped his list of candidates, noting his combination of youth and head coaching experience.

Stevens, the former Philadelphia coach, will return with Sutter and Payne next season.

NBA

LA Clippers sign veteran F Ronny Turiaf

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES Veteran big man Ronny Turiaf has signed a one-year contract with the Los Angeles Clippers.

The Clippers announced the latest move in their offseason overhaul Friday.

Turiaf finished last season with the NBA champion Miami Heat, playing intermittently in the postseason before sitting out all but 3 minutes of the NBA Finals. He began last season with Washington, breaking his hand after just four games.

The Clippers will be the sixth team in eight NBA seasons for Turiaf, who spent his first three years with the Lakers. Turiaf is in London playing for France in the Olympics.

The Clippers have added Lamar Odom, Jamal Crawford, Grant Hill and Ryan Hollins in the past month, thoroughly revamping a solid team that reached the second round of the postseason.

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MOVIE TIMES

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

Saturday, July 28
The Godfather Part II (R) 3hrs 20min
7:30pm

Sunday, July 29
The 10 Commandments (G) 3hrs 6min
5:00pm

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

Amazing Spider-Man (PG-13) 2hrs 16min
12:30pm, 3:45pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm

Dark Knight Rises (PG-13) 2hrs 44min
1:00pm, 4:45pm, 8:30pm

Magic Mike (R) 1hr 50min
11:45am, 2:20pm, 5:10pm, 7:55pm, 10:30pm

Katy Perry: Part of Me 3D (PG) 1hr 35min
11:55am, 2:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:45pm, 10:20pm

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

Amazing Spider-Man (PG-13) 2hrs 16min
10:30am, 4:50pm, 11:15pm

Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 16min
1:40pm, 8:00pm

Brave (PG) 1hr 40min
11:00am, 1:40pm, 4:15pm, 6:45pm, 9:30pm

Ted (R) 1hr 46min
11:00am, 11:45am, 1:45pm, 2:30pm, 4:40pm, 5:30pm, 7:30pm, 8:30pm, 10:15pm, 11:15pm

Dark Knight Rises (PG-13) 2hrs 44min
10:30am, 12:05pm, 2:15pm, 3:45pm, 6:00pm, 7:30pm, 9:45pm, 11:15pm

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

Mathmaker (Paam Hayti) (NR) 1hr 52min
11:10am

Day and Night (NR) 6min
1:00pm, 1:15pm

Well Digger's Daughter (La Fille du puisatier) (NR) 1hr 40min
1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:10pm, 9:45pm

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

Kite (Patang) (NR) 1hr 34min
11:00am

Take This Waltz (R) 1hr 46min
11:00am

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

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

Portrait of Wally (NR) 1hr 30min
11:05am

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

Ice Age: Continental Drift 3D (PG) 1hr 34min
11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:10pm, 7:45pm, 10:15pm

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

Dark Knight Rises (PG-13) 2hrs 44min
11:15am, 3:00pm, 6:45pm, 10:30pm

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

Watch (R) 1hr 42min
11:00am, 1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm

Step Up Revolution (PG-13) 1hr 40min
11:30am, 5:00pm, 10:20pm

Step Up Revolution 3D (PG-13) 1hr 40min
2:15pm, 7:40pm

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

Go a little wild tonight, Scorpio

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★★ Keep reaching out for someone who is at a distance or quite offbeat. You need the refreshing change of someone who thinks differently and comes from an unusual background. A discussion might be more important than you realize. Tonight: Music, good company and great food work well.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★★ You simply cannot continue to say "no" to that special person in your life. Give up your stubborn ways and really enjoy this person. Sometimes you inadvertently put up barriers. Right now, don't. Let the child within you out to play. Tonight: An old-fashioned date.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★ Though you have a strong sense of what you would like to do, compromise seems to be blowing in the wind, as you also want to hook up with several friends. Mix different groups of pals and interests together. Tonight: Try to go along with someone's wishes.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Even if you have no plans, you can be spontaneous. It is always good for the Moon Child to exercise and work through ever-building stress. Why not opt for a picnic and a mini-hike, or go to a flea market where you can stretch your legs? Tonight: Keep fun in the equation.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★★ Allow greater give-and-take between you and a loved one. Relate directly and with your normal optimism, but understand that this person might experience life differently. Tonight: Allow a little more wildness in.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ People keep asking for your opinions, thoughts and feedback. It is OK to stage a mini-revolution in order to free yourself up. Conversations will flourish where you want to engage. Tonight: Enjoy yourself. You don't have to go far.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ You can only rob Peter to pay Paul so many times. You might need to trim your budget just a little. In fact, a conversation impresses on you the importance of nonmaterial gifts and expressions of caring. Tonight: Be with favorite people. Everyone can go Dutch, too!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ Take a hint from Libra in reference to money and values. Be aware of how much you give in nearly every situation you are in. You have many more assets than you realize and often use those innate talents. Once more, reveal your energy and generous spirit. Tonight: Go a little wild.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★★★ Your attitude is contagious. You handle surprises, intense conversations and an overly assertive person all with grace. Be willing to revise your concept of yourself, as you are changing so much, so quickly. Tonight: You have quite the entourage anywhere you go.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Take a deep breath before reacting to a misplaced judgment. Unfortunately, you might have to make some adjustments to your schedule in the next few days because of what you thought. Tonight: A quiet dinner for two.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★★ The near-perfect day for you always involves friends in some fashion. Communication becomes easier with someone you see on a daily basis. Invite several friends to join you at a celebration. A good time will be had by all. Tonight: Till the wee hours.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You take the lead with plans, whether you are the host or hostess, or simply are gathering friends for a fun competition. Try not to take a distorted comment too personally. It will serve you to let go and not give it power.

Happy birthday

This year you seem to make the right decisions. The flow between your creativity and intelligence strengthens and guides you. Spontaneity often works. Many of you might pursue taking a workshop or two. If you are single, you might go through quite a few potential sweeties this year. When a friendship appears with the romance, you probably have made the right choice. If you are attached, you might want to plan a special trip together. SAGITTARIUS encourages wildness!

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

Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



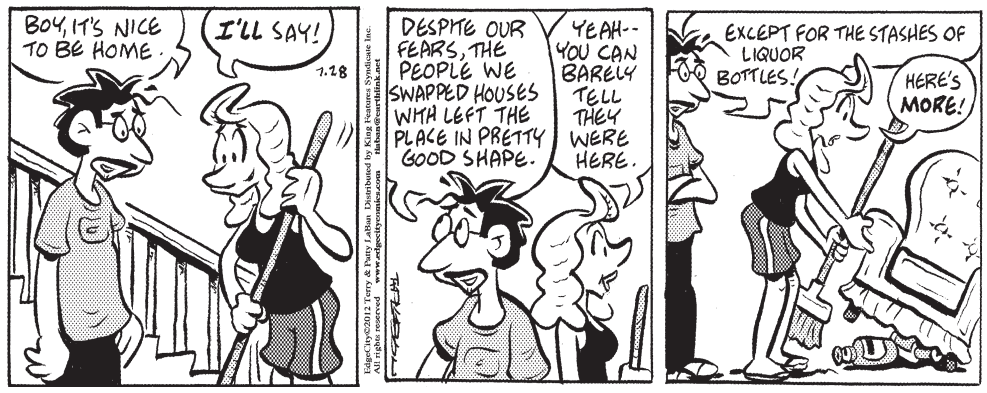
Strange Brew
By John Deering



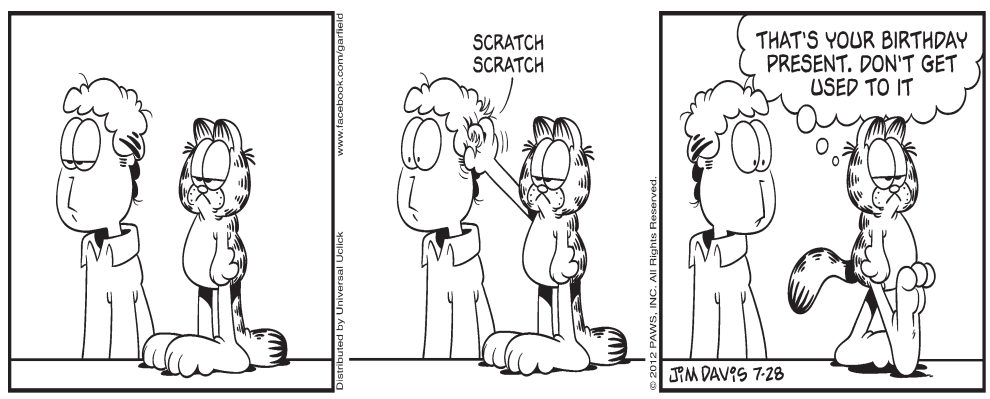
Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



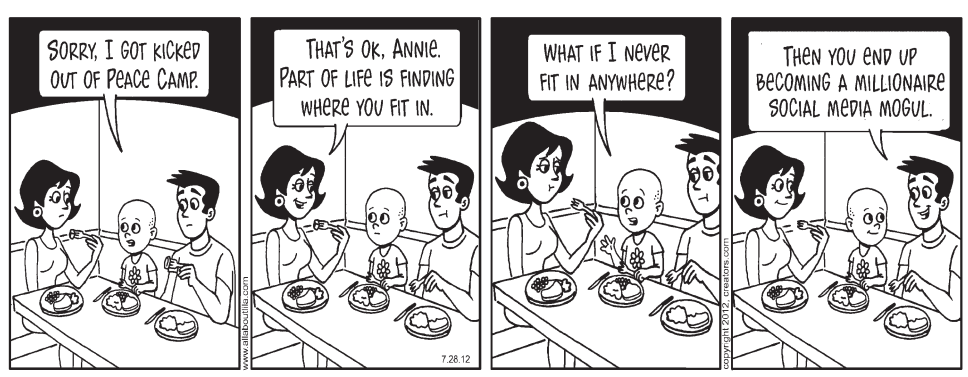
Edge City
By Terry & Patty LaBan



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 ★★★★

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

King Features Syndicate

GETTING STARTED

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

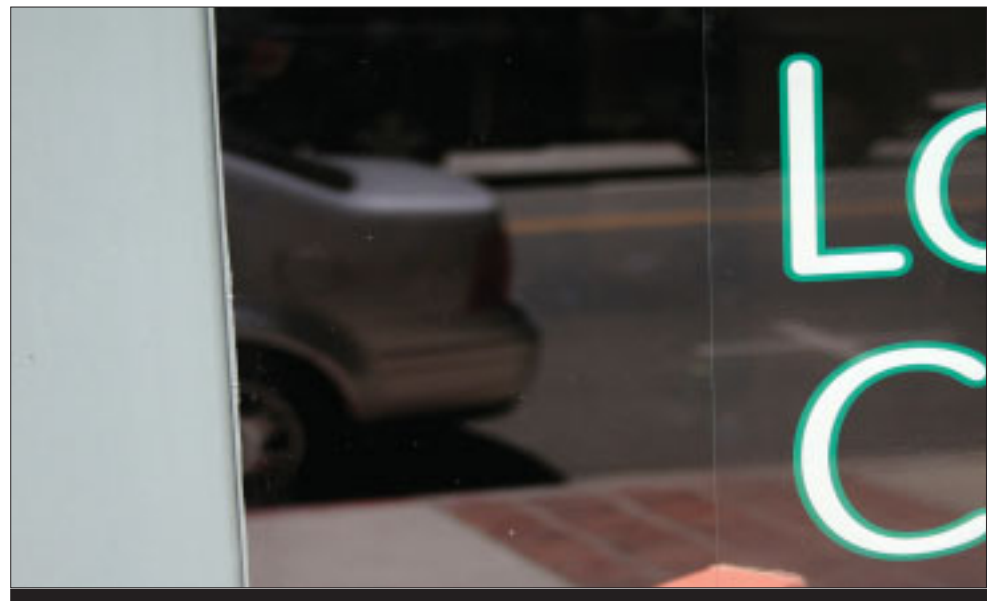
SOLUTIONS TO YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE

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

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MYSTERY PHOTO

Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

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

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

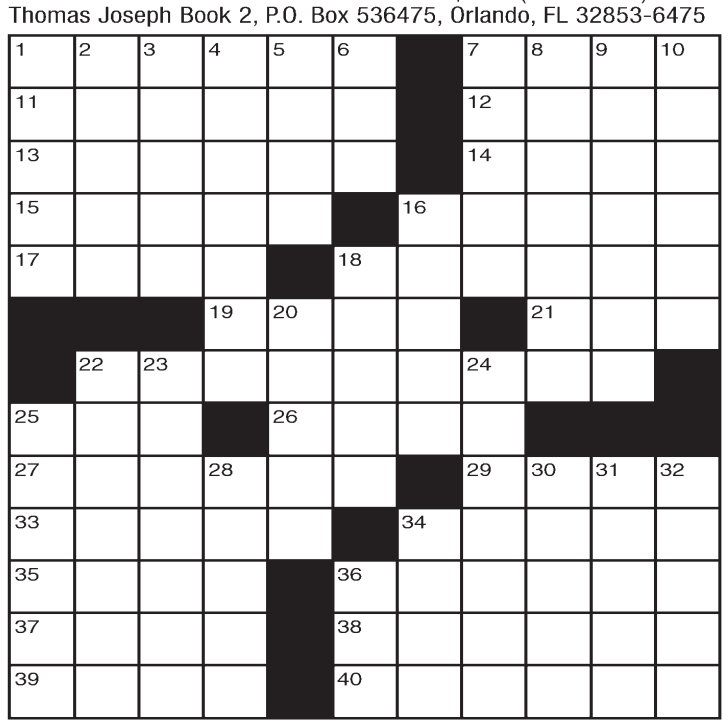
ACROSS
1 Some sculptures
7 Cracked
11 Not clear
12 Radius, e.g.
13 Prof protector
14 Memory unit
15 Ohio tribe
16 Principled
17 Mustang feature
18 Swift work
19 Fervor
21 Essen article
22 Spooky TV series
25 That lady
26 Toll
27 Less powerful
29 Moolah
33 Singer Paula
34 Scout master?
35 Primary
36 Baseball's Bob, Bret and Aaron
37 "Yeah, right!"
38 Queued up
39 Blood fluids
40 Super Bowl III winners

DOWN
1 Tribal symbol
2 Musical drama
3 Arrested
4 Tight spot
5 Sharer's word
6 Spot
7 Monastery head
8 Reckless jaunt
9 Star in Scorpio
10 Square dancer, at times
16 Sasha's sister
18 Morley of "60 Minutes"
20 Kick out
22 Ruth nickname
23 More exciting
24 "Goin' Back to Cali" rapper
25 Wise teachers
28 "Roots" name
30 Singer Lennox
31 Artery opener
32 Garden aids
34 Theater award
36 Storage site

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



7-28



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Suspicions Confirmed: Scientists from Lund University's Primate Research Station Furuvik in Sweden announced in May that they had evidence that chimpanzees are able to delay using weapons they encounter, hide them and retrieve them later for use against "foes." The weapons were stones and chunks of concrete, and the foes were visitors to the zoo who annoyed the chimps. According to the researchers, the 33-year-old chimp Santino also took pains to hide the weapons in locations where they could be accessed easily for the element of surprise against the visitors.

■ Bullfighting may be on the wane in some countries because of complaints about cruelty, but in the village of Aproz, Switzerland, there is a replacement each May: cow-fighting contests. According to a Wall Street Journal dispatch, this is a serious business, especially for Alain Balet, whose cow Manathan has won the heavyweight title for three years running, and who "follow(s) training regimens worthy of professional athletes," including engaging masseuses. The action, however, is mostly head-butting (plus "abundant slobber," reported the Journal), and the "contest" is won when one of the cows loses interest and wanders away. Balet pointed out an obvious additional pleasure in raising championship cows: "It's still a cow. I can eat her."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1955 - Black teenager Emmett Till is murdered in Mississippi, galvanizing the nascent American Civil Rights Movement.

1957 - U.S. Senator Strom Thurmond begins a filibuster to prevent the Senate from voting on Civil Rights Act of 1957; he stopped speaking 24 hours and 18 minutes later, the longest filibuster ever conducted by a single Senator.

WORD UP!

**intrapreneur \ in-truh-pruh-NUR ** , noun; 1. An employee of a large corporation who is given freedom and financial support to create new products, services, systems, etc., and does not have to follow the corporation's usual routines or protocols.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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Obituaries

On July 24, 2012, immersed in love and song by family and friends, Guy Lancaster Merchant II passed on peacefully after a very brief, brave and valiant battle with cancer.

Guy was the eighth child born to the late Maria Guadalupe and Clay Eugene Merchant on September 24, 1963 in Houston, Texas.

In addition to his parents, the following sister, nephew and brothers also preceded him in death:
Cecilia Merchant and nephew Chad, Richard and Thomas Merchant.

The following sisters and brothers, all from Texas, survive him: Becky and Ty Hunter, Suzy Rothschild, Alex Merchant and Fred and Linda Merchant.
Nieces: Windy, Haley, Amy and Jennifer Dominique, Theresa, Heather, and Nephew: Taylor
Grandnieces: Ansley and Kelsey
Grandnephews: Michael, Radley and Jordan
Godchildren: Alexandra and Nicholas

Guy earned his B.S. in 1985 at Baylor University, followed by a Master's Degree in Film at Boston University. He moved to Santa Monica, Ca in 1988. Guy has been an employee at UCLA Medical Center for 24 yrs. The last 14 years, as the Research Coordinator for the UCLA Emergency Medicine Research Associates Program.

He was a member of: St. Monica's Parish, UCLA's Master Swim Program, and the Santa Monica YMCA.

Guy lived each and every day to the fullest enjoying many hobbies. He approached the day with the biggest smile and spoke with the kindest of words. He was a genuine friend to all he met and touched the lives of so many.
You will be greatly missed.

Funeral Arrangements:
A Rosary Service and viewing will be held on:
Sunday, July 29, 2012 at 3:00 PM
Woodlawn Funeral Home
1847 14th Street
Santa Monica, Ca 90404

Funeral Services: Monday, July 30, 2012 at 10:00 AM
St. Monica's Catholic Church
725 California Avenue
Santa Monica, Ca 90403
Followed by a reception at the church and a burial at 1:00 PM at the Woodlawn Cemetery.

In Lieu of Flowers: A memorial fund is being set up at the
UCLA Regents to benefit the EMRA Program. Please inquire for more details.

Miscellaneous

24/7 EMERGENCY RESPONSE $1/day. Living alone? You could fall! Deaths from falls can be avoided. Help is a button push away. Lifewatch 1-800-207-4078. (Cal-SCAN)

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Adoption



Please Adopt Sheik! Family moving to Chile
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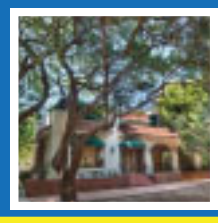
North of Montana
West of 4th Street

317 Marguerita Avenue
In Escrow

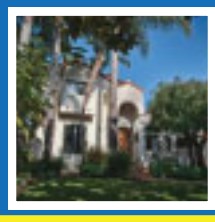




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$4,200,000



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Buyers' Needs Corner
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- Raw land or teardown, west of 10th Street up to $4,000,000
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Santa Monica Canyon	=	$2,551,667
North of Montana	=	$3,917,700
Between Wilshire & Montana	=	$3,434,667
South of Wilshire	=	$981,150
Sunset Park	=	$1,351,267
Ocean Park	=	$1,598,500
Statistics updated every Monday		

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