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**TUESDAY, JULY 31, 2012**

Volume 11 Issue 223



**GUNS 'R' US  
SEE PAGE 4**

**Santa Monica Daily Press**

*We have you covered*

THE CRIME ISSUE

# Local priest charged with sexual battery

**BY SEAN FITZ-GERALD**  
Special to the Daily Press

**PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY** A former priest from Saint Anne's Catholic Church and Shrine was charged Monday with sexual battery and providing alcohol to a minor, Santa Monica Police Sgt. Richard Lewis said.

With his attorney, Rafael Venegas turned

himself in Monday and posted bail at \$20,000. He is scheduled to be arraigned Friday.

Venegas' attorney could not be reached for comment.

The priest was originally put on leave from Saint Anne's when a woman came forward on July 1, alleging that Venegas had committed an act of sexual battery against

her in September 2011 on church property. The woman involved was not a parishioner at the church, and is under the age of 21.

As defined by the California Penal Code, sexual battery involves touching an "intimate" part of another person for the purpose of sexual arousal, gratification or abuse while the victim is restrained.

In a statement read during mass on July 21 and 22, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles said it considered the allegations to be "credible."

Prior to his leave, Venegas had been in ministry in the Archdiocese since his ordination in 2007.

news@smdp.com



## ANIMAL PLANET

Zoo Keeper and educator Tamara Green (right) of Wild Wonders allows volunteers to pet Niko, a South American Kinkajou, during the Wild Wonders show at the Santa Monica Main Branch Library on Monday afternoon.

Brandon Wise [brandonw@smdp.com](mailto:brandonw@smdp.com)

## SMRR supports O'Day, Vazquez for City Council

**BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD**  
Daily Press Staff Writer

**CITYWIDE** The leaders of Santa Monica's foremost political party, Santa Monicans for Renters' Rights (SMRR), announced this weekend that they would support former City Councilman Tony Vazquez and incumbent Terry O'Day in the November City Council race.

Both men won approval from two-thirds of the 13-member SMRR steering committee, the threshold required to clinch the group's backing.

Only two spots in a four-seat race had been filled at the SMRR annual convention on July 22, with Planning Commissioner Ted Winterer and Mayor Pro Tem Glean Davis snagging the endorsement outright.

That left the steering committee to choose between Vazquez, O'Day and former Lookout columnist Frank Gruber and education advocate Shari Davis to fill out the slate.

It wasn't easy, said Patricia Hoffman, co-chair of SMRR.

"There were a lot of different points of view on what we should do and how we should handle it," Hoffman said. "After really struggling with it, the group decided the best thing to do would be to support Tony and Terry at this time."

The steering committee was swayed by the fact that SMRR had endorsed both O'Day and Vazquez in the past, and the fact that both men had a strong showing at the

# Homeless men arrested for attempted murder

**BY SEAN FITZ-GERALD**  
Special to the Daily Press

**PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY** Two Santa Monica-area homeless men are scheduled to be arraigned today for the attempted murder of a female friend.

Arturo Perez-Argueta, 51, and Guillermo Gonzalez, 63, were arrested and booked Friday in Santa Monica with one count each of attempted murder and conspiracy to commit a crime. They are both being held on \$1 million bail, according to the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

Gonzalez, the purported boyfriend of the woman, was also saddled with one count of inflicting corporal injury on a cohabitant.

The two vagrants were spotted Friday near the 2700 block of Virginia Avenue, not

SEE ARREST PAGE 8

SEE CAMPAIGN PAGE 11

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## Calendar

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## What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

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p.m. — 8:30 p.m.

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present their work as well. For more  
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Wednesday, August 1,  
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For help, contact Daniel Archuleta at  
310-458-7737 or submit to [editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com)

For more information on any of the events listed,  
log on to [smdp.com/communitylistings](http://smdp.com/communitylistings)



### CORRECTION

Incorrect information appeared in the July 28 article "SM ranks second in U.S. for pricey hotels." Visitors spent \$1.39 billion in Santa Monica in 2011.



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## NOT SO FAST

A section of the Third Street Promenade was closed due to a gas leak on Santa Monica Boulevard on Monday. At least one office building near Second Street was evacuated. The leak was caused by construction crews using a jackhammer who punctured a small gas line. No injuries were reported.

Fabian Lewkowicz [FabianLewkowicz.com](http://FabianLewkowicz.com)

# Lincoln Middle construction busts budget

## School needs another \$4M to get the job done

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD  
Daily Press Staff Writer

SMMUSD HDQTRS Construction projects at Lincoln Middle School are expected to run \$4 million over the original budget, forcing the school district to dip into bond program reserves to make up the difference.

The original budget put approximately \$17.5 million aside for construction on the Lincoln campus.

Approximately half of the price increase resulted from rising construction costs since the project was originally designed in 2009, which caused recent attempts to put the project out to bid at the original budget to come up short.

Workers encountered surprises as they

SEE SCHOOL PAGE 10

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### CITYWIDE Cops to crack down on illegal U-turns

For the month of August officers will be cracking down on illegal U-turns in business districts, the Santa Monica Police Department announced Monday.

SMPD's Traffic Enforcement Section has been targeting specific driving habits each month that can cause traffic collisions. Ranging from behaviors such as tailgating in June to speeding in May, SMPD aims to keep the streets safe for drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians.

Making an illegal U-turn is a dangerous maneuver, said SMPD Police Chief Jacqueline Seabrooks in a statement.

"No person in a business district shall make a U-turn, except at an intersection, or on a divided highway where an opening has been provided in accordance with Section 21651," says the California Vehicle Code under Section 22101.

Section 21651 tells motorists it is unlawful to make any left, semicircular or U-turn on a divided highway, except through an opening intended for such use by authorities or through a marked opening in the dividing section.

"This turning movement shall be made as close as practicable to the extreme left-hand edge of the lanes moving in the driver's direction of travel immediately prior to the initiation of the turning movement, when more than one lane in the direction of travel is present," Section 22101 says.

U-turns in business districts should only be done at intersections unless there is a posted sign prohibiting the maneuver, Seabrooks said.

For more information, residents are encouraged to contact Sgt. Phillbo Rubish with the SMPD's Traffic Division at (310) 458-8950.

— SEAN FITZ-GERALD

## Man causes ruckus at Bubba Gump

BY SEAN FITZ-GERALD  
Special to the Daily Press

**PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY** A Los Angeles man was apprehended Sunday for allegedly scaring passers-by on the Santa Monica Pier and resisting arrest at Bubba Gump restaurant.

At approximately 10:03 p.m. on Sunday, officers responded to the Santa Monica Pier Substation regarding a report of a man making disturbances and yelling gibberish.

The subject, a 35-year-old African-American, had allegedly been going in and out of the substation up until its closing time at 10 p.m. When he returned to find the doors locked, police said the man picked up a metal newspaper rack and hurled it at the station's glass doors.

Though the doors didn't shatter, officials said the metal rack broke.

Officers then approached the suspect, who at this point was allegedly jumping from side to side and screaming incoherently at strangers.

Police said the suspect was sweating profusely and breathing heavily, as he made a beeline for Bubba Gump.

Because of the subject's aberrant behavior, officers said they shot an X26 Taser to prevent the man from entering the restaurant. The Taser, however, had no effect and the suspect's rampage continued.

Once inside Bubba Gump, the suspect allegedly jumped behind the bar and started to knock bottles of booze off the shelves.

Attempting to detain the man, police said they struggled to cuff him, and when they finally did he broke free.

Another struggle ensued, which tipped officials off to call the paramedics. In his agitated state, police said they believe the man was under the influence of a controlled substance.

The paramedics transported the man to a local hospital, where he is currently being treated and held in custody, police said.

Once the suspect is cleared by doctors, he will be transported to jail, where he will be preliminarily booked for resisting officers, violating post release community supervision, vandalism and being under the influence of a controlled substance.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send comments to [editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com)

### Guns are first line of defense

Editor:

In Meredith Carroll's column "The Aurora-Penn State connection," (Meredith Pro Tem, July 25) she asserts that the "gun crazies" inanely argue that others bearing weapons may have made the theater-shootings "less atrocious." I wonder if Ms. Carroll would have wanted an armed person in that theater who might have prevented the possible killing of her young daughter by such a deranged person?

According to one source, there are 260 million weapons owned by private citizens in the United States. You would think with such a plethora of weaponry there would be hourly reports of shootings by armed citizens. A recent study by the Cato Institute examined publicly reported uses of firearms in the U.S. over the period October 2003 through November 2011. What they found was that in the overwhelming majority of instances firearms were used to protect persons from others seeking to harm them, their families, or their property.

Let's compare two other horrific killings by deranged persons:

- New Life Church in Colorado – Matthew J Murray, murderer. Two people killed and three wounded. Murray wounded before he could enter main church where 100 people were attending services. Jeanne Assam, a church member and licensed security officer for the church, critically wounded Murray before he committed suicide.

- Virginia Tech University – Seung-Hui Cho, murderer. Thirty-two people killed and 17 wounded over a two-hour period before Cho committed suicide.

If there was another armed student in the classrooms where Cho conducted his killings over two hours, perhaps some of those 32 killed would be alive today. Fortunately for the parishioners of the New Life Church, Murray was shot by an armed member of the church before he could kill vastly more after police began searching for him at the youth center more than 10 hours earlier.

Much less from deranged and criminal persons, the ability of armed citizens to protect themselves from brutalization by the local authorities and Ku Klux Klan, et al., has been crucial in our history, even since the end of World War II.

I believe people should have the right to arm themselves. There should be national background checks to prevent selling of weapons to unauthorized persons and gun owners should be required to take a test indicating they know the proper use and safety of their weapons.

Self-defense is one of our most basic rights. Strict gun control regulations interfere with that right because ordinary citizens abide by the regulations while criminals acquire guns from underground markets. That leaves honest, law-abiding people at a distinct disadvantage because it is not possible for the police to be at every scene where they are desperately needed.

**John Medlin**

Santa Monica

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## Your column here

Margot Dorfman

Send comments to [editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com)

# Raising minimum wage good for Main Street

**THE U.S. WOMEN'S CHAMBER OF Commerce** supported the last increase in the federal minimum wage in July 2009 and we believe another raise is overdue. The business owners I talk with every day say that, far from hurting their businesses, raising the minimum wage in fact helps small businesses and the broader economy.

The number one problem for our member businesses is weak customer demand. Too many people forget that workers are also consumers. Consumer spending drives 70 percent of our economy, and we must repower consumer spending — backed by adequate wages rather than unaffordable debt — if we are going to repower our economy, create jobs and rebuild our middle class.

Raising the minimum wage puts dollars in the pockets of workers who are by necessity most likely to spend them immediately at the grocery store, the pharmacy, the auto-repair shop and other local businesses. Raising the minimum wage boosts the economy from the bottom up, which is exactly what we need.

The U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce has over 500,000 members across the nation. Women are more likely to own businesses in the services sector — such as in retail, healthcare, education and personal services. Raising the minimum wage reinforces their business strategies.

Many of the women business owners who belong to the U.S. Women's Chamber left the workforce to start their own businesses because they felt they were not being fairly paid. The migration of women from the workforce into business ownership has been one of the great economic achievements of the American dream. Women now own over 30 percent of American firms and are using their decision-making authority to effect positive changes in the workplace.

Women business owners understand and value security for families. And they know that when businesses invest in their workforces with decent compensation, they enjoy the benefits of a dedicated workforce with less turnover, higher productivity and better customer service.

Our members know that the typical low-wage worker is an adult woman. Think of your waitress at Applebee's or the cashier who rings you up at Walmart or the health aide who helps your mother or grandfather.

Our members know that the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour — just \$15,080 for full-time, year-round work — is too low. They know that keeping the minimum wage low, keeps women and families down.

I'm tired of hearing from well-paid business lobbyists who would keep minimum wage at the poverty wage of \$7.25 as long as they can get away with it. They often hide behind false claims about minimum wage and unemployment. In fact, the most comprehensive and rigorous studies of the

impact of actual minimum wage increases show they do not cause job loss. See the studies published in the Review of Economics and Statistics and the journal Industrial Relations, for example.

In our experience, workers who are paid poverty wages work overwhelmingly for the big chains, not for Main Street businesses. In fact, the big chains count on responsible employers and taxpayers to subsidize them by providing food stamps and public health assistance to their workers who can't make ends meet on poverty wages.

## RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE TO A MORE REALISTIC AMOUNT HELPS LEVEL THE PLAYING FIELD FOR BUSINESSES THAT BELIEVE IN TREATING THEIR WORKERS FAIRLY AND INVESTING IN THE COMMUNITIES THEY ARE ROOTED IN.

The reality is that my members and other Main Street businesses have a lot in common with low-wage workers: both are being squeezed by the national chains. Raising the minimum wage to a more realistic amount helps level the playing field for businesses that believe in treating their workers fairly and investing in the communities they are rooted in.

We need strong minimum wage laws that guarantee to taxpayers that businesses are playing fair and compensating workers at responsible levels. That will help us stop the downward spiral we see across America. That will help level the playing field between small and big businesses. That will help us rebuild our economy and sustain job creation for the long term.

Sen. Tom Harkin and Rep. George Miller have proposed increasing the minimum wage in three gradual steps to \$9.80 by 2014. If that sounds like a lot think about this: if the minimum wage had kept up with inflation since its highest level in 1968 it would be \$10.55 today.

Let's raise the minimum wage and move our economy forward instead of backward.

**MARGOT DORFMAN** is CEO of the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce.

## DO YOU HAVE COMMUNITY NEWS?

Submit news releases to [editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com) or by fax at (310) 576-9913

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## What's the Point?

David Pizarra

Send comments to [editor@smdp.com](mailto:editor@smdp.com)

# Small-town hospitality

**SMALL TOWNS ARE COMFORTABLE** because of the warmth of the people and the hospitality they tend to offer. Santa Monica is a small town in many ways and it is those ways that make living here so enjoyable.

A couple of weeks ago I was getting my hair cut at Tel's on Pico Boulevard and in the chair next to me is my landlord. We've both been regular customers at Tel's for years and it seems like most of the clientele is in the same boat. It has that old time feel to it. There are three generations of men working in the shop, and when you walk in they greet you by name.

This little bit of Mayberry life was a poignant counterpoint to what was going on the day of my visit. That day the street parking had been blocked off as the new sensors for the electronic parking meters were being installed. If you haven't heard yet, the new electronic meters will automatically reset when a car that was parked in the spot is moved.

The old days of finding a parking meter that still had time left on it from the previous parker have been relegated to the trash bin of history in Santa Monica. And just to compound the pain, if you are parked in a spot, you cannot go out and renew your meter without moving your car. The new sensors lock the meters from adding additional time, but they'll take your quarters just the same.

I realize one of the reasons for the new meters is that it causes a turnover in the parking spots and we need that. It creates greater flow and increases availability for the heavy tourist crowd that we attract.

The new meters that take credit cards are also a very convenient way to pay for the time I use a meter and I imagine it will not be much longer before they only take credit cards and that will result in yet another savings in the staff who now have to collect the coins, total the coins and send to the bank.

The future is not just paperless, but it also requires far fewer people. The staff reduction is a cost savings and the increased rev-

enue from the new meters means that the city will be in better fiscal condition.

But all of this cost savings and traffic flow improvements come at a cost to civility in my mind. There seems to be a loss of hospitality to me. It just seems un-neighborly that I cannot put a quarter in a meter that has run out, to save someone from a parking ticket just because they are running a few minutes late.

There is a generalized loss of civility I am feeling as we grow into a more roboticized society. As we need people less and less, we are losing our humanity and I despise the loss.

So, in an effort to increase the neighborliness of our city, and in a tip of the hat to our humanity and helpfulness, I am offering two free tickets to the first 50 people who e-mail or call me. Your name will be put on a will call list to the Thunder Soul event this coming Saturday, Aug. 4. Jamie Foxx will be appearing at the Broad Stage to attend a private screening of the movie "Thunder Soul." This is a documentary about high school students who return after 35 years to honor their music teacher who brought them to a championship win. The event begins at 6 p.m. with a reception by The Harmony Project playing light jazz. Appetizers and drinks will be available and at 7:30 p.m. the movie will screen.

Please come and enjoy some great jazz, see a wonderful movie, and help Jamie Foxx support our organization. This will be another great opportunity for mixing and mingling with some of the fabulous people who make up our great city, and it's a chance to help out an organization that is doing tremendous work in changing the lives of our at-risk youth.

**DAVID PISARRA** is a family law attorney focusing on fathers' rights and men's issues in the Santa Monica firm of Pizarra & Grist. He can be reached at [dpizarra@pizarra.com](mailto:dpizarra@pizarra.com) or (310) 664-9969.

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### The Q-Line

#### Smoke signals

The City Council last week decided against a ban on smoking in multi-unit residences. There were concerns that condo owners and medical marijuana smokers were not considered when the proposed ban was conceived.

#### So, this week's Q-Line question asks:

Should the council reconsider the ban or did it go too far to begin with?

Contact [qline@smdp.com](mailto:qline@smdp.com) before **Friday at 5 p.m.** and we'll print your answers in the week-end edition of the Daily Press. You can also call **310-573-8354**.

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## State

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TUESDAY, JULY 31, 2012

Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

# Struggling Calif. cities looking to tax hikes

**BY AMY TAXIN &  
HANNAH DREIER**

Associated Press

STANTON, Calif. There's a new twist emerging as some of California's most financially troubled cities look for ways out of their predicaments: They're declaring fiscal emergencies so they can quickly get tax hike initiatives on local November ballots.

Leaders are turning most often to an increase in the local sales tax. But there also are proposals for hikes on utility taxes, parcel taxes and, in the Los Angeles-area city of El Monte, a proposal to tax sugary drinks.

Last month's bankruptcy filing by Stockton, quickly followed by one in Mammoth Lakes and then San Bernardino's sudden declaration of a fiscal emergency and plan to file for bankruptcy drew attention to an increasingly common theme — some communities battered by the economy and unable to control costs now are heading toward insolvency.

El Monte finance director Julio Morales said San Bernardino was a wakeup call. Local officials declared a fiscal emergency last week, clearing the way for a ballot question asking residents to approve a 1 cent-per-ounce tax on sugar-sweetened drinks. Local officials think the tax would bring in up to \$7 million per year.

"We don't want to wait like San Bernardino and say, 'We can't make payroll,'" Morales said.

La Mirada, Fairfield and Culver City are among other communities that declared fiscal emergencies this year and placed sales tax increases on their ballots. The Orange County community of Stanton declared a fiscal emergency, got a utility tax question on the June ballot and voters rejected it. Now the city may try again in November.

It's unusual and perhaps unprecedented for so many cities to declare fiscal crises in such a short period.

"It is relatively new — and a sign of desperation," said David Brunori, professor of public policy at George Washington University who specializes in tax policy and has studied state and local finance in California.

A "fiscal emergency" requires a unanimous vote by a community's governing body, usually a city council. Such a declaration allows cities to more quickly place a tax question before voters, rather than waiting up to two years for the next scheduled local election.

That so many cities are choosing this route causes David Kline, spokesman for the California Taxpayers Association, to speculate some local leaders may be "crying wolf." He surmised some officials are declaring an "emergency" because it enhances the chances for passing a tax question and saves them from having to make deeper cuts.

"If the city has a track record of mismanaging money and not doing anything to control spending and that's why it's near bankruptcy, the voters will probably be disinclined to give them more money," he said. "But if the city can show they've been hit by economic changes, voters might be more forgiving."

There is strong anti-tax sentiment in California these days, based at least partly on skepticism that elected officials will use the money wisely. That helps explain why a proposed increase in the state's cigarette tax — an idea usually popular with the public — was defeated in June.

Local officials who favor tax hikes believe residents will recognize the need for more money rather than more budget cuts. But muddying the prospects for local tax hikes is Gov. Jerry Brown's tax initiative. It would raise the income tax for people making more than \$250,000 per year, and would boost the state sales tax by a quarter-cent. Brown has warned of further state cuts if his plan loses.

Conventional wisdom holds that voters are more likely to pass taxes at the local level. But a surfeit of revenue measures on the November ballot could overwhelm voters.

"My prediction is that people are going to reject tax hikes at all levels of government," Brunori said. "It's not that they don't like government — they do. But they really don't like bad government."

Voters in Stanton rejected a tax hike last month, prompting cuts in police and fire staffing. A sign at the entrance to Hollenbeck Park — a long, narrow swath stretching beneath massive power lines and equipped with benches, winding paths and a colorful jungle gym — reads "Park closed due to budget cuts - no trespassing allowed."

City Manager Carol Jacobs said the cuts to police and fire have nearly balanced the city's budget. That's a big improvement from earlier in the year, when she warned the city could eventually face bankruptcy due to the drop in tax revenues.

But Jacobs said Stanton will need more money in the coming years, and getting a tax question before voters is more responsible than delaying any action until the city's reserves are gone.

"It's like waiting to look for a job until you have no savings and your house gets foreclosed on," she said.

Going back to voters for a tax increase carries risk, said Roy Ulrich, who teaches tax and communication policy at the Goldman School of Public Policy at University of California, Berkeley.

"Local electeds are also subject to voter approval, and if they keep asking for tax increases that are turned down, their own jobs will be in peril," he said. "Voters can get angry and say, 'You didn't try to cut spending, you just came to us and asked for a tax increase.'"

Photography by Brandon Wise

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# Firefighters confront wildfires

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UKIAH, Calif. Firefighters battled several wildfires Monday burning across California, including an 800-acre blaze that prompted the evacuation of a campground in the Sierra Nevada.

About 260 firefighters fought to gain control of the Peak Fire that started Saturday near Lake Davis in Plumas National Forest.

The blaze prompted the evacuation of Conklin Park Campground and was about 30 percent contained. No structures were threatened.

More than 500 firefighters confronted a 300-acre wildfire in Bodfish Canyon in Sequoia National Forest east of Bakersfield, fire officials said. The blaze threatened about 50 structures and was about 25 percent contained.

In northern California, fire crews were close to containing a 385-acre blaze in Cow

Mountain Recreation Area near Ukiah in Mendocino County. Full containment was expected Monday evening, according to Daniel Berlant, a spokesman for the California Department of Fire and Forest Protection.

The fire began Saturday afternoon in a remote forest about 10 miles east of Ukiah. Over the weekend, it threatened about 20 homes and a few communication towers, and forced the closure of one recreation area.

More than 500 firefighters and 44 fire engines have been deployed to battle the fire burning in remote, rugged terrain. The recreation area had been reopened by Monday and no homes or structures had been damaged.

The cause of the Cow Mountain Fire was still under investigation.

A combination of higher temperatures and lower humidity was elevating fire danger this week across California, which had an unusually dry winter, Berlant said.

# Newest Calif. city loses state funding, could fold

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JURUPA VALLEY, Calif. California's newest city could be broke in a year because the state has taken away nearly half its budget.

Jurupa Valley in Riverside County lost \$6.5 million out of a \$14.6 million budget when the state Legislature voted last year to take state vehicle license fee money that used to go to new cities.

"Our survival is at stake," Mayor Laura Roughton told the Los Angeles Times. "We have to get the money restored."

The community of about 100,000 people was incorporated in March 2011 in Riverside County, a fast-growing sprawl of suburbs east of Los Angeles.

Many other California cities are struggling in the wake of the 2008 worldwide financial crisis that melted tax revenues. Stockton, Mammoth Lakes and San Bernardino all have declared insolvency.

Unlike those communities, Jurupa (hoo-ROO'-puh) Valley isn't saddled with large budget demands for schools, employee pensions, public services and building projects. Every employee is a hired contractor, including the city manager, and county and state agencies handle police and fire services.

What might force Jurupa Valley over the edge is the loss of the state car-tax money, which used to provide financial help until

new cities could find their feet.

The Legislature voted to divert that funding to a grant program for local law enforcement that previously was supported by state general funds.

A bill to restore the money to new cities has stalled in the Legislature.

The cut also hurt California's three other newest cities, also in Riverside County. Menifee lost \$3.8 million, Eastvale lost \$3 million, and Wildomar \$2 million.

Wildomar, which contracts with the county for police services, was forced to cut back on its number of officers.

"The only way to make up for that was in public safety," City Manager Frank Oviedo.

Officials from Menifee, Eastvale and Wildomar say their cities will survive, but observers have their doubts.

"I don't know how any new city will be able to make it," said Michael Coleman, a fiscal advisor for the League of California Cities. "Jurupa Valley? I think they have maybe a year, then they'll give up."

"Shoot, we haven't even had a chance to get started," said Don Davies, who helped lead the Jurupa Valley cityhood effort.

California has seen cities vanish before.

The Riverside County desert town of Cabazon disincorporated in 1972, and the tiny Northern California gold rush town of Hornitos in Mariposa County folded in 1973 after 122 years of cityhood.

# OC city says Obama campaign hasn't paid its bill

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. Newport Beach may call the bill collectors on President Obama's re-election campaign.

Chicago-based Obama for America hasn't coughed up \$35,000 for the cost of providing police protection during the president's February fundraiser in Corona del Mar, leaving Newport Beach stuck with the bill, the Orange County Register reported Monday.

According to city policy, parties holding major events in the city are billed for municipal services unless there is a grant or sponsorship to cover the cost. City policy also directs bills unpaid after 120 days to collection agencies.

City spokeswoman Tara Finnigan noted that Mitt Romney's campaign promptly paid a bill of \$10,441 for his June fundraiser at the Balboa Bay Club.

The president's visit was costlier because it entailed a higher level of security, she said.

The bill was sent in May and was due in June. City officials also contacted the Democratic National Committee about payment, but the DNC said the Secret Service is responsible for presidential security.

Agency spokesman Max Milien told the Los Angeles Times that it does not have the budget to pay for those expenses.

"We cannot reimburse any agencies," Milien said. "We make that clear from Day 1."

If a city cannot afford to pay for additional police or overtime, the city should inform the Secret Service in advance so assistance from other law enforcement agencies can be requested free of charge, Milien said.

City Manager Doug Kiff said the police department did inform the Secret Service ahead of time.

"At that time, our staff was told that the Secret Service would not reimburse the city," Kiff wrote in an e-mail, "and that we should check with the president's campaign or the DNC."

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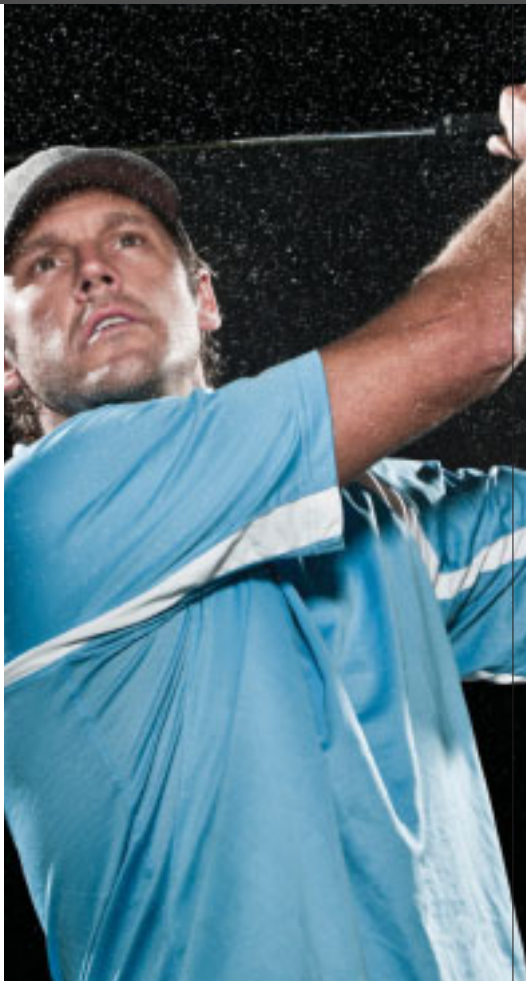
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## Local

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TUESDAY, JULY 31, 2012

Santa Monica Daily Press

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## ARREST FROM PAGE 1

far from the scene of the alleged crime.

Police said they had originally responded to a radio call reporting trouble in the 2400 block of Virginia Avenue on July 10 at approximately 12:17 a.m.

Upon arrival, officers said they contacted a woman who had been with her boyfriend and one of his pals. She noted that the three of them were all homeless.

The trio's plan was to drink beer in Venice and find a place to sleep, officers said. In her boyfriend's van, they ended up parking on Virginia Avenue, where they hoped to spend the night.

After sidling up to the curb, however, she

started quarreling with the third wheel, officers said. The boyfriend demanded she quiet down so the neighbors wouldn't get suspicious of their camping spot.

Things got serious when the boyfriend's buddy suggested they kill her to make her shut up, police said.

The boyfriend threw the woman on the floor of the van and covered her mouth so she couldn't scream, officers said. Her boyfriend started to choke her with both hands while his friend continued to egg him on.

After minutes of struggling, the woman was able to fight off both men and escape the van. She alerted the police with her cell phone.

The victim was transported to a local hospital, where she was treated for minor injuries.

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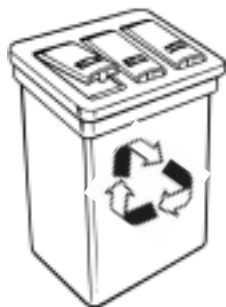
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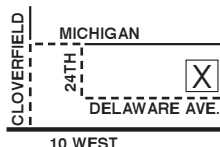


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**Local**

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Brandon Wise [brandonw@smdp.com](mailto:brandonw@smdp.com)

**MONEY DOWN:** Public school officials are paying an extra \$4 million to cover improvements at Lincoln Middle School. The original budget put approximately \$17.5 million aside for construction.

## SCHOOL

FROM PAGE 3

began converting a former library and three rooms into new classrooms. A science lab and a prep room also forced costs up, said Stuart Sam, director of facilities improvement with the district.

"There were unforeseen conditions," Sam told board members. "(The building) has been modified throughout its life. You don't know until you open up the walls."

That can mean cutting into what you thought was a normal wall and hitting concrete, or being forced to take extra measures if there was damage hidden by the otherwise stable surface.

The project, and many others like it, are funded through the Measure BB program, a \$268 million bond passed by voters in 2006.

This allocation, which the board approved, will bring the general reserves for the districtwide construction projects down to \$13.2 million.

Working backward from the newly requested amount, teams had completed approximately \$4 million worth of work and had outstanding contracts for fire alarms, approximately \$429,000 worth of furniture, fixtures and equipment and \$90,000 worth of carpeting.

That leaves \$16 million for construction, including a contingency, Sam said.

Although the actual scope of the project will not change, compromises will have to be made to keep the project within even the expanded budget.

Sam called the concept "value engineering." It means replacing more expensive materials and components with less costly versions that achieve the same goal.

That could mean poured concrete in the

main courtyard areas instead of individual pieces, or changing the plumbing fixtures from automatic flush valves to manual flush valves, Sam told board members.

Exactly what can be replaced on the Lincoln project will become clear after a month or two of analysis, according to district officials.

Cutting the budget down will also mean managing the construction to chop three months off of the timeline of the project.

Even with the attempts to save money, the Lincoln projects racked up a 36 percent change order rate, which means the cost varied greatly from officials' original projections.

If not quite expected, it at least wasn't surprising, said Jan Maez, chief financial officer with the district.

"Lincoln was the first big modernization project," Maez told board members.

It wasn't the case with all of the projects on the Measure BB list, some of which came markedly under their budgeted amounts. The entire portfolio of 31 contracts had a 3 percent change order rate.

"We're always hopeful that the bids come in along the estimates," said Boardmember Ralph Mechur Monday. He and board Vice President Laurie Lieberman served as liaisons for the BB program.

"Most of the projects have," he continued. "This one didn't but because of savings, the program has been run well and there's money in the reserves so ... that we're able to build the project as anticipated."

Good management made that possible, Lieberman said at the meeting.

"I'm grateful it's going as smoothly as it is," Lieberman said. "It's due to some really good work by all of you."

[ashley@smdp.com](mailto:ashley@smdp.com)



# Seeking a seat on the dais

BY ASHLEY ARCHIBALD  
Daily Press Staff Writer

CITY HALL Two more people have pulled papers for a run at City Council in the Nov. 6 election. They are:

- JONATHAN MANN
- JOHN BEAU LEE

One candidate has been verified by Los Angeles County officials and will appear on the Nov. 6 ballot. That person is:

— SUSAN AMINOFF, SANTA MONICA COLLEGE BOARD

In other election news:

The City Clerk announced that the office will accept arguments for or against an amendment to the City Charter that would

change the way rents are adjusted by the Rent Control Board.

They can only be 300 words and will not be accepted past Aug. 7.

Rebuttals to those arguments of no more than 250 words may be filed with the clerk before Friday, Aug. 17. They must be submitted by the same people who turned in the original arguments.

Additional restrictions on who may submit arguments can be found at [www.smgov.net](http://www.smgov.net)

The charter amendment would allow the annual rent control general adjustment to be based on 75 percent of the annual percentage change in the consumer price index (CPI), a measure of the cost of goods and services.

The increase would be limited to between 0 and 6 percent of existing rent, with a ceiling selected at the board's discretion.

[ashley@smdp.com](mailto:ashley@smdp.com)

## CAMPAIGN FROM PAGE 1

SMRR annual convention.

Vazquez fell only two votes short of an outright endorsement in the first round of voting, and O'Day trailed him by seven votes.

The weekend decision means that Vazquez and O'Day will join Winterer and Davis on a slate of candidates with SMRR backing.

SMRR will run an independent campaign for those four as well as three candidates for the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education, Rent Control Board and Santa Monica College Board.

Unlike the others, Vazquez and O'Day will have to say that they are "supported" by SMRR rather than "endorsed" because they did not win an endorsement outright at the annual convention.

Hoffman characterized it as "a distinction without a difference."

Either way, the four candidates will appear on mailers and other campaign literature that SMRR will circulate in Santa Monica, an expensive proposition if any of them tried to fund such an effort themselves.

"People in the public not paying as close attention will know these are people who will protect their rights as tenants, work for a cleaner environment and will represent them in a way that is compatible with SMRR values," Hoffman said.

Vazquez said Monday that he was honored by the choice, and that SMRR support of any kind will be valuable as the campaign moves forward.

"Santa Monica has high voter turn out,

and we'll need a lot of money to reach voters," Vazquez said. "If you can have someone like SMRR to endorse your candidacy, it [helps] your budget."

O'Day felt that the committee's selection validated his last four years of work on the City Council.

"I'm running with the people who helped me get to where I am now," O'Day said. "Having their support means, in essence, having done a good job in the council role. That's a nice thing."

Neither Gruber nor Shari Davis, the remaining two candidates vying for SMRR's help, count themselves out.

In a statement released Sunday, Gruber said that he was still grateful to snag one of the top four spots at the convention the week before.

"That initial vote meant a great deal to my supporters and me because it means that my campaign based on progressive values has strong support within SMRR," Gruber said. "I will now campaign vigorously as an independent to win a seat on the council."

Shari Davis confirmed that her candidacy would go forward as planned.

There are still 12 other candidates that did not get so much as consideration from SMRR, be that because they themselves are not members or did not get their applications in on time.

None of the council candidates, as of Monday, had turned in enough signatures to qualify for the November ballot. Candidates have until Aug. 10 to turn in 100 valid signatures of registered voters in Santa Monica to be included on the ballot.

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## People often ask me what to do if a landlord does not make repairs to a rental unit. Let me start with something a tenant should not do.

### DO NOT WITHHOLD RENT

Under certain limited circumstances, a tenant may withhold rent. But, it is never a good idea to withhold rent. If a tenant does not pay the full rent, when due, the landlord would most likely serve the tenant with a three day notice to pay or quit. Once a three day notice to pay or quit expires, the landlord does not have to accept the money even if the tenant offers the full amount. The landlord can refuse the payment and proceed with an unlawful detainer action (eviction case).

An unlawful detainer action is very stressful. Also, the tenant would have the expense of litigation costs and probably attorney fees. A tenant does not have to retain an attorney to defend an unlawful detainer action, but it would be very wise to do so.

If a tenant loses an unlawful detainer case, the tenant would be evicted and owe all of the back rent and possibly the landlord's attorney fees and litigation costs. Further, the unlawful detainer judgment would probably appear on the tenant's credit reports as well as reports kept by landlord agencies which could make it difficult to rent a new home in the future.

For all of the above reasons, a tenant should never withhold any rent.

### GIVE LANDLORD A LIST IN WRITING

The first thing a tenant should do is give the landlord a list in writing of items which need to be repaired. The list should be hand-delivered or mailed to the landlord. The tenant must keep a copy of that list and keep track of when and how the list was delivered to the landlord (the specific date when the list was mailed or hand-delivered).

A tenant must give the landlord a reasonable period to make repairs. What is a "reasonable period" is defined on a case by case basis. Usually, a tenant should give the landlord 30 days to make repairs. But, if the condition is serious (i.e.: no electricity, no hot water, hole in the roof), a reasonable time would be much shorter.

A tenant should list all items which need repair, in detail. Failure to notify the landlord of a specific problem may prevent a tenant from being compensated later for the defective condition.

### CONTACT GOVERNMENT INSPECTORS

If the landlord does not make the repairs within a reasonable period, the tenant should contact appropriate government inspectors.

In Santa Monica, the first office to be contacted should be the Santa Monica Code Compliance Department: (310) 458-4984. The Code Compliance Department will not come to a rental unit to perform a general inspection. The tenant must have a specific list of items which need repair.

In addition to the Code Compliance

Department, a tenant should call the County of Los Angeles Department of Health Services. To arrange for an inspection, a Santa Monica tenant would call: (310) 665-8484.

The advantage of government inspectors is that the government agency may order the landlord to make repairs. Also, if the tenant is in trial with the landlord (or a hearing with the Santa Monica Rent Control Board), the government inspectors' reports may be admissible as evidence.

### PETITION FOR RENT DECREASE

If the landlord does not make the required repairs, a tenant may file a petition for rent decrease. The petition is filed with the Santa Monica Rent Control Board, located in Santa Monica City Hall, 1685 Main Street, Room 202, Santa Monica, CA 90401; (310) 458-8751. The petition for rent decrease may be filed 30 to 180 days after service of the written notice to the landlord of items which need repair.

If the petition is granted, the rent will be reduced. But, the rent reduction is prospective (from that point forward). The Rent Control Board does not have the authority to award any money to compensate the tenant for past conditions or reduced services.

### SMALL CLAIMS COURT

If a tenant wishes to be compensated for the defective conditions or reduced services in the past, the tenant would have to file a lawsuit. A suit could be filed in superior court. Although an attorney is not required for superior court, it is likely that the landlord would retain an attorney. When one party has an attorney and the other does not, it is a big advantage. If the tenant retains an attorney, the expenses might make such a suit in superior court impractical.

Usually, the most economical way to proceed is to file a lawsuit in small claims court. A person can sue in small claims court for up to \$7,500.00. And, there are no attorneys in small claims court. Thus, the expenses are greatly reduced.

### CONSULT WITH AN ATTORNEY

Even if the tenant is not going to retain an attorney on a full-time basis, it is usually a good idea to at least have a consultation with a tenants' rights attorney, especially before filing suit in small claims court or filing a petition for rent decrease.



THIS COLUMN WAS PREPARED BY MARK PALMER, A SANTA MONICA TENANTS' RIGHTS ATTORNEY. HE CAN BE REACHED THROUGH THE LEGAL GRIND AT 310-452-8160 OR [REFERRAL@LEGALGRIND.COM](mailto:REFERRAL@LEGALGRIND.COM)

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

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|                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>MONDAY</b><br><b>4:00-5:00 pm</b>                         | (1st & 3rd Monday/Month) Criminal Law; DMV & Traffic Law; Felony and Misdemeanor Crimes, with former deputy D.A. Jacob Glucksman                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>TUESDAY</b><br><b>9:00am-12:00pm</b>                      | Patent, Trademark and Copyright Law with Attorney Marcus Rizzo (By appointment only)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>4:00pm-5:00pm</b>                                         | (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.                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>5:00 - 7:00 pm</b>                                        | Wrongful termination, harassment; discrimination; wage and hour ;denial of unemployment benefits; and general counseling on issues in the workplace w/ attorney Nina Baumlner. (Call for Appointment) at the 2901 Ocean Park location of the Novel Café.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>WEDNESDAY</b><br><b>11:00am-3:00pm</b>                    | 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 parents 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 assessments, representation at IEP meeting, mediations, settlement negotiations and hearings. |
| <b>5:00-6:30pm</b>                                           | Divorce and Legal Separation; Domestic Partnerships; Child Custody, Support and Visitation; Spousal Support; Prenuptial Agreements & Mediation with Family Law Specialist Attorney Elizabeth Fields                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>THURSDAY</b><br><b>12:00-2:00pm</b><br><b>4:00-5:00pm</b> | Immigration and Family Law with Attorney Galorah Keshavarz (By appointment only)<br>(By appointment only) Chapter 7 and 13 Bankruptcy, Debt Negotiation and Personal Injuries cases with Attorney and Legal Grind founder Jeffrey J. Hughes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>FRIDAY</b><br><b>4:00-5:00pm</b>                          | (2nd & 4th Friday/Month) Criminal, DMV & Traffic Law; Felony and Misdemeanor Crimes with Attorney & former Deputy D.A. Jacob Glucksman. By Appointment only                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>4:00-5:00pm</b>                                           | (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.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>SATURDAY</b><br><b>10am-11:30am</b>                       | (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)                                                                               |
| <b>12PM TO 2PM</b>                                           | 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 Sandeep Agarwal. (By appointment only-Please call Mr. Agarwal at 866.844.4125)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

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MATT WILKINSON

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SURF CONDITIONS

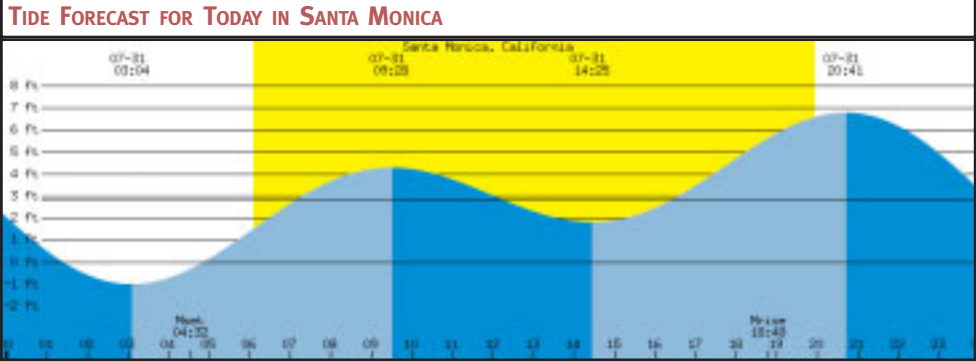
WATER TEMP: 66.9°

SWELL FORECAST

Looks to be about knee to waist most everywhere with the best size at west facing spots.

LONG RANGE SYNOPSIS

OCCASIONAL FORERUNNERS FROM THE SWELL DUE ON THE 2ND-3RD.



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**

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

QUICK STATS (for the last 30 days)

Number of sewage spills -- 0

Number of beach closures due to a sewage spill -- 0

Number of wet days -- 0

Number of A grades for dry/wet weather -- 26 / 16

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

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: The Oller - von Furstenberg Family Foundation

simplehuman

LAZARUS

SMU

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 for exceed health criteria in the state's Beach Closure and Health Warning Protocol.

| LOCATION                                                              | DRY | WET | LOCATION                                                           | DRY | WET |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Leo Canillo Beach, at Arroyo Sepul Creek mouth.                       | A+  | ns  | Will Rogers State Beach at Bel Air Bay Club drain near fence.      | A+  | ns  |
| Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.                    | A+  | ns  | Will Rogers State Beach at Pulga Canyon storm drain.               | A+  | ns  |
| El Pescador State Beach, between Luchessa and Los Alamos creeks.      | ns  | ns  | Will Rogers State Beach at Temescal Canyon drain.                  | A+  | ns  |
| Escalante Canyon at El Matador State Beach.                           | A+  | ns  | Will Rogers State Beach at Santa Monica Canyon drain (Chatsworth). | C   | ns  |
| Basal Beach at Trancoso Creek mouth.                                  | A+  | ns  | Santa Monica Beach at Montana Ave. drain.                          | A+  | ns  |
| Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.                                       | A+  | ns  | Santa Monica Beach at Wilshire Blvd. drain.                        | A+  | ns  |
| Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).                   | A+  | ns  | Santa Monica Municipal Pier.                                       | A   | ns  |
| Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.                     | A   | ns  | Santa Monica Beach at Pico/Venice storm drain.                     | A   | ns  |
| Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.                  | A+  | ns  | Santa Monica Beach at Strand St. (in front of the restaurants).    | A+  | ns  |
| Lodge Canyon Creek mouth.                                             | A+  | ns  | Ocean Park Beach at Redwood Ave. drain.                            | A+  | ns  |
| Soldado Canyon at San Blocker County Beach.                           | A+  | ns  | Venice City Beach, at the Rose Ave. storm drain.                   | A+  | ns  |
| Puerto State Beach at creek mouth.                                    | A   | ns  | Venice Beach at Brooks Ave. drain.                                 | A+  | ns  |
| Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerto Beach, at 24672 Malibu Rd.         | C   | ns  | Venice Beach at Wilshire Ave. drain.                               | A+  | ns  |
| Sanfilippo Beach at Malibu Colony fence.                              | A   | ns  | Venice Fishing Pier - 50 yards south.                              | A+  | ns  |
| Sanfilippo Beach (beach location) - daily.                            | A   | ns  | Venice Beach - projection of Topical St.                           | A   | ns  |
| Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.                                          | F   | ns  | Marina del Rey, Mothers' Beach - lifeguard tower.                  | A+  | ns  |
| Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.                                    | A   | ns  | Dockweiler State Beach at Ballena Creek mouth.                     | A+  | ns  |
| Los Flores State Beach at Los Flores Creek (point zero).              | A+  | ns  | Dockweiler State Beach at Calver Blvd. drain.                      | A+  | ns  |
| Big Rock Beach at 13548 PCH stairs.                                   | A+  | ns  | North Westchester Storm Drain at Dockweiler State Beach.           | A+  | ns  |
| Pena Creek at Los Tunes County Beach.                                 | A+  | ns  | Dockweiler State Beach at World Way (south of DMV jct.).           | A+  | ns  |
| Tuna Canyon.                                                          | A+  | ns  | Dockweiler State Beach at Imperial Hwy drain.                      | A+  | ns  |
| Tapanga State Beach at creek mouth.                                   | A   | ns  | Dockweiler Beach- opposite Hyperion Treatment Plant.               | A+  | ns  |
| Candlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.                          | A+  | ns  | Dockweiler State Beach at Grand Ave. drain.                        | A+  | ns  |
| Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.                          | A+  | ns  |                                                                    |     |     |
| Will Rogers State Beach at 17358 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain). | A+  | ns  |                                                                    |     |     |

LEGEND

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

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

ns -- no sample taken



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

Heal the Bay

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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 swimmers are happy.

# So far, London Olympics wins gold medal for gaffes

BY JILL LAWLESS  
Associated Press

LONDON An appearance by the hapless comic character Mr. Bean was one of the highlights of the London Olympics opening ceremony. Yet a series of Keystone Cops moments has games organizers hoping they don't keep up this slapstick routine in real life.

London police acknowledged Monday that last week they lost a set of keys to Wembley — one of the most famous soccer stadiums in the world and an Olympic venue in London — and had been forced to hastily change the stadium locks.

It was the latest unintentionally comic moment to beset the games and has raised fears of what else may be in store.

News of the lock debacle followed a diplomatic tiff with India, triggered when a woman who was not part of the country's athletic delegation marched right beside India's flag bearer at Friday's opening ceremony.

Olympic officials insisted there was no security risk from either incident. Games chief Sebastian Coe said the Indian team's interloper was an accredited cast member from the opening ceremony who "got slightly over-excited."

Police said the Wembley keys appeared to have been lost rather than stolen and "measures were taken immediately to secure all key areas of the venue."

Earlier Olympic glitches ranged from worrying to merely embarrassing.

Security arrangements were thrown into chaos weeks before the opening ceremony when private security contractor G4S acknowledged it would not be able to provide all the guards it had promised. Thousands of soldiers, sailors and air force personnel — some just back from Afghanistan — had to be drafted in to plug the Olympic security gaps.

Then last week, as the Olympic soccer competition kicked off, organizers mistakenly displayed the South Korean flag on a jumbo screen while introducing the North Korean women's team. There could hardly have been a worse mix-up — the two countries are still technically at war.

Britons, at least, are quick to see the humor. Opticians Specsavers ran a full-page ad displaying the two completely different-looking Korean flags and suggesting that anyone who can't tell the difference should stop by for a checkup.

Then Welsh footballer Joe Allen was listed as English in the British team's official program, prompting a wave of mocking commentary across Twitter.

Over the weekend, television shots of so many empty seats at Olympic venues enraged many ordinary Britons, who had struggled for months to get tickets, many unsuccessfully.

Organizers are now scrambling to fill

rows of empty seats allocated but not used by members of the "Olympic family" — national federations, sponsors and the media. Among the remedies: 150 British soldiers were told to stop handling security duties for a few hours Sunday and go watch the Olympic qualifying for women's gymnastics.

"I was told to let the boys come in and enjoy the show," Staff Sgt. Marc Robson of the 29 Commando Regiment Royal Artillery told The Associated Press. "Look at them, they seem to be liking it just fine."

Ellis Cashmore, professor of culture, media and sport at Staffordshire University, said the sheer number of Olympic errors has had a numbing effect.

"It's almost as if we've become anesthetized to them," he said. "It's almost as if we're expecting another gaffe."

"If everything had gone smoothly up till now, (the missing keys) would be a catastrophe. Losing they keys to the stadium! If you lose your house keys, it's a major crisis."

The farcical moments started more than a year before the games, when the official Olympic countdown clock was unveiled in London's Trafalgar Square — and promptly broke down.

On Friday, during a mass celebratory bell-ringing to mark the start of the games, Olympics Secretary Jeremy Hunt's bell went flying off its handle and narrowly avoided a bystander. No one was hurt, but the incident, captured by a TV camera, drew comparisons to Mr. Bean, the accident-prone Englishman created by comedian Rowan Atkinson.

It's fortunate that the British have knack for laughing at their mistakes. That talent for self-deprecation helps explain the popularity of London Mayor Boris Johnson — a brainy but gaffe-prone politician once forced to apologize to the entire city of Liverpool after accusing its residents of "wallowing" in victimhood.

Putting a positive spin on things, Johnson listed Hunt's bell-ringing clanger as one of the reasons to be cheerful about the Olympics.

"Jeremy Hunt has introduced a new sport to the games, to go with the discus, shot-put, javelin," Johnson wrote in Monday's Daily Telegraph. "It is bell-whanging. ... The rules have yet to be codified — there is still a dispute about whether you get extra points for hitting a spectator — but you can be sure they will be codified in London."

In this new age of social media — and with the eyes of the world on London — more blunders are inevitable, Cashmore said.

"I think previous Olympics have been just as marred by security lapses, but now we are so acutely aware of everything that these things are magnified," he said. "We are looking at things microscopically now."

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Aero Theatre</b><br><b>1328 Montana Ave.</b><br><b>(310) 260-1528</b><br><br>Call theater for information. | <b>Brave (PG) 1hr 40min</b><br>11:00am, 1:40pm, 4:15pm, 6:45pm, 9:30pm                                   | <b>To Rome With Love (R) 1hr 35min</b><br>1:30pm, 4:20pm, 7:20pm, 10:00pm                       |
| <b>AMC Loews Broadway 4</b><br><b>1441 Third Street Promenade</b><br><b>(888) 262-4386</b>                    | <b>Ted (R) 1hr 46min</b><br>11:00am, 11:45am, 1:45pm, 2:30pm, 4:40pm, 5:30pm, 7:30pm, 8:30pm, 10:15pm    | <b>AMC Criterion 6</b><br><b>1313 Third St.</b><br><b>(310) 395-1599</b>                        |
| <b>Amazing Spider-Man (PG-13) 2hrs 16min</b><br>1:15pm, 4:40pm, 8:00pm                                        | <b>Dark Knight Rises (PG-13) 2hrs 44min</b><br>11:15am, 12:15pm, 3:00pm, 4:05pm, 6:45pm, 7:50pm, 10:30pm | <b>Ice Age: Continental Drift 3D (PG) 1hr 34min</b><br>11:45am, 2:30pm, 5:10pm, 7:45pm, 10:15pm |
| <b>Dark Knight Rises (PG-13) 2hrs 44min</b><br>1:00pm, 4:45pm, 8:30pm                                         | <b>Ice Age: Continental Drift (PG) 1hr 34min</b><br>11:15am, 1:55pm, 4:30pm, 7:00pm, 9:20pm              | <b>Moonrise Kingdom (PG-13) 1hr 33min</b><br>11:55am, 2:40pm, 5:15pm, 7:55pm, 10:25pm           |
| <b>Magic Mike (R) 1hr 50min</b><br>1:30pm, 4:15pm, 7:00pm, 9:45pm                                             | <b>Laemmle's Monica Fourplex</b><br><b>1332 Second St.</b><br><b>(310) 478-3836</b>                      | <b>Dark Knight Rises (PG-13) 2hrs 44min</b><br>11:15am, 3:00pm, 6:45pm, 10:30pm                 |
| <b>Katy Perry: Part of Me 3D (PG) 1hr 35min</b><br>1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:10pm, 9:40pm                             | <b>Well Digger's Daughter (La Fille du puisatier) (NR) 1hr 40min</b><br>1:20pm, 4:10pm, 7:10pm, 9:45pm   | <b>Savages (R) 2hrs 10min</b><br>12:15pm, 3:35pm, 7:00pm, 10:10pm                               |
| <b>AMC 7 Santa Monica</b><br><b>1310 Third St.</b><br><b>(310) 451-9440</b>                                   | <b>Intouchables (R) 1hr 52min</b><br>1:40pm, 4:30pm, 7:30pm, 10:10pm                                     | <b>Watch (R) 1hr 42min</b><br>11:15am, 1:45pm, 4:30pm, 7:15pm, 10:00pm                          |
| <b>Amazing Spider-Man (PG-13) 2hrs 16min</b><br>11:45am, 6:15pm                                               | <b>Beasts of the Southern Wild (PG-13) 1hr 31min</b><br>1:00pm, 3:20pm, 5:40pm, 8:00pm, 10:15pm          | <b>Step Up Revolution (PG-13) 1hr 40min</b><br>11:30am, 5:00pm, 10:20pm                         |
| <b>Amazing Spider-Man 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 16min</b><br>3:00pm, 9:45pm                                             |                                                                                                          | <b>Step Up Revolution 3D (PG-13) 1hr 40min</b><br>2:15pm, 7:40pm                                |

For more information, e-mail [news@smdp.com](mailto:news@smdp.com)

Do what you love tonight, Leo

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)**  
★★★ You continue with the best of intentions. For the most part, others receive your messages loud and clear. Your softer side emerges when you see how distraught someone is. You, too, could lose your temper. Tonight: To the wee hours.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)**  
★★★★ Push to get past an argument, and understand where someone else is coming from. You often are very serious. Perhaps in that mood you close down a lot. Tap into your strong energy, and you'll find the drive to make it through this tough spot. Tonight: Find someone to brainstorm with you.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)**  
★★★★ Success comes through dealing with others on a one-on-one level. You can turn a problem around if you stay open. You have a great deal of passion about a creative endeavor, yet you hesitate to take a risk. Tonight: Go off and do something you love.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)**  
★★★★ Defer to others, yet be responsive to a superior who seems to have a very different but positive way of handling important matters. Family and your personal life are always high priorities, but today they are even more so. Tonight: Close to home.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)**  
★★★ Push yourself, and focus on what must be done. In fact, getting more done than anticipated will free you up when people in your life need to air out their opinions and/or need your time. Tonight: Head home. Do only what you love.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)**  
★★★★★ You have a lot to reflect on, especially a situation involving a partner or loved one. Check out the possibility that money might be a part of the problem. Tonight: Lighten up the mood. Join friends.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)**  
★★★ You might want to stop and think about what is going on. Your home life takes priority at the moment, which makes it difficult to focus on anything else. Deal with the situation before it deals with you. Tonight: Why resist coming to an agreement? Is it worth the stress?

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)**  
★★★★ You might want to open up a conversation and get to the root of the problem. Could you be swallowing anger or doing something else that does not serve you well? You have an opportunity to look this demon in the eye. Tonight: A conversation gives you insight.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)**  
★★★ A meeting could shed some light on an issue. You go out of your way more often than not to help friends. Suddenly, you could find that the cost is too high. You might need a little more space, time and perspective. Tonight: Treat yourself to a favorite dessert on the way home.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)**  
★★★★ You can handle a difficult situation with someone you cannot avoid. Your instincts might be to ignore this person. Unfortunately, you'll need to take this situation on to resolve the problem. Tonight: Let the good times roll.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)**  
★★★★ You need to see what is not being said. Someone seems to be direct, but this person is skipping over an important point. A discussion could be difficult as a result. Tonight: Do something just for you.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)**  
★★★★ Zero in on what is important, not only to you, but to those in your immediate personal and/or professional circle. A partner or loved one takes a stand. He or she simply is not on the same page as you. Make it OK to have different ideas. Tonight: Where the fun is.

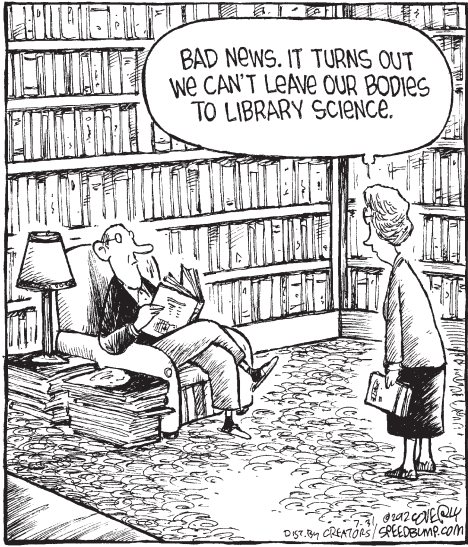
Happy birthday

This year you often make extraordinary efforts to reach out to others who are withdrawn. Someone could open up at the most unexpected time, and you might wish he or she never had. Remember this possibility is always a liability. If you are single, finding the right match can happen, but you often end up in fights with those who are not right for you. If you are attached, the two of you need to learn to express your needs and desires with less judgment. Your relationship will become more loving as a result. CAPRICORN can trigger anger in many of your friends.

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

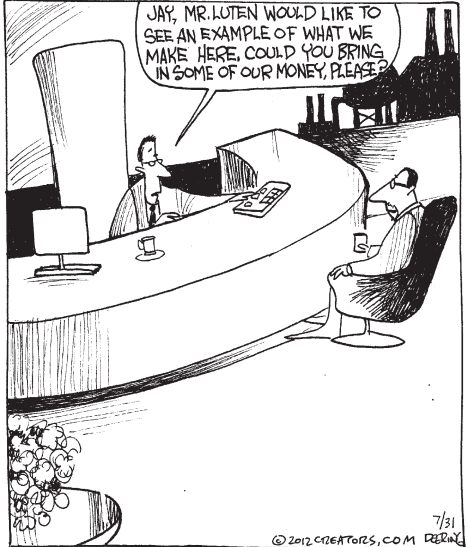
Speed Bump

By Dave Coverly



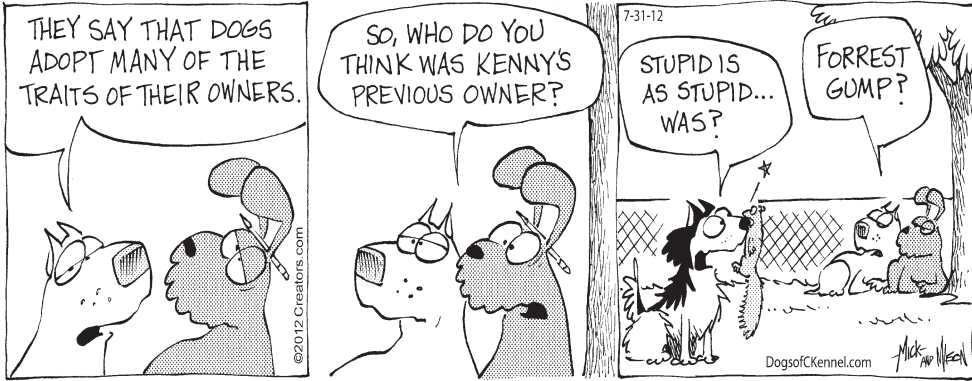
Strange Brew

By John Deering



Dogs of C-Kennel

By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



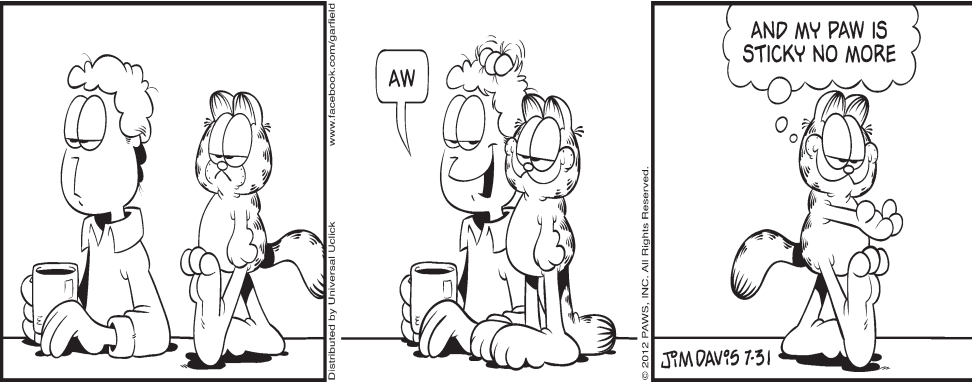
Edge City

By Terry & Patty LaBan



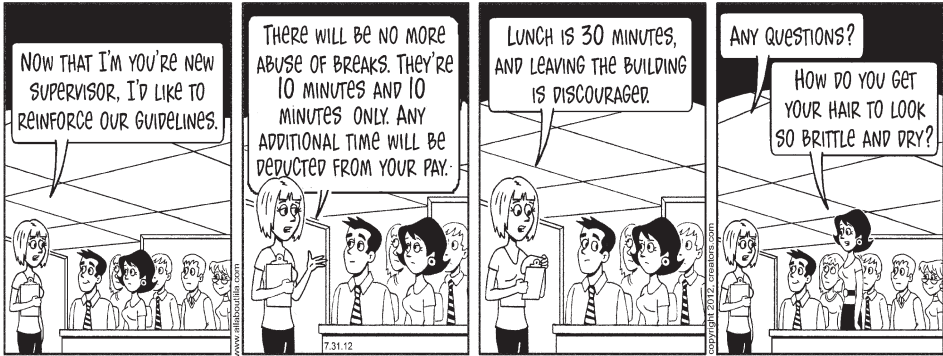
Garfield

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 ★★

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

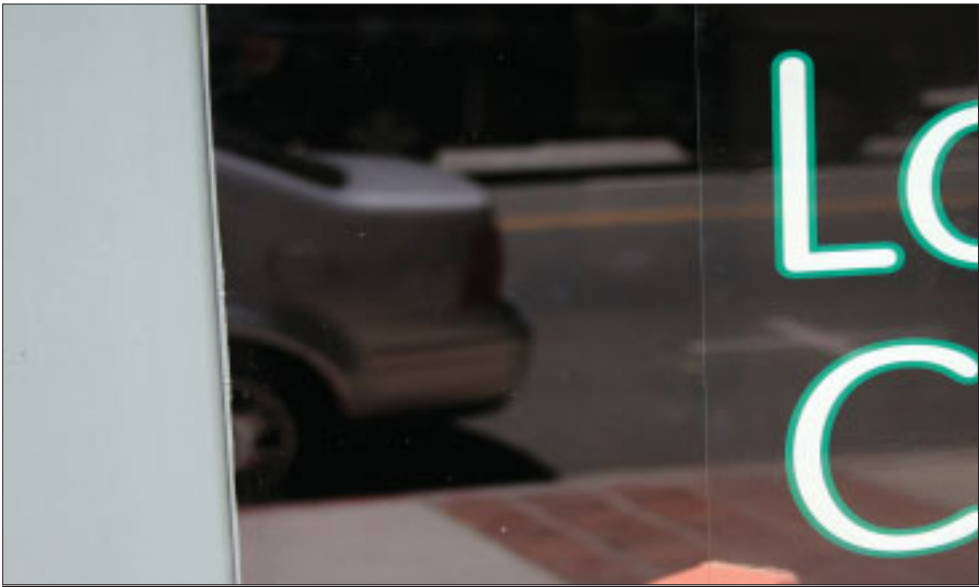
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 6 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 7 |
| 8 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 9 |
| 7 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 8 |
| 6 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 4 |
| 9 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| 5 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 7 | 8 | 6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

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Daniel Archuleta daniela@smdp.com

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Component
- 5 Circus performer
- 10 Red as —
- 12 "Rolling in the Deep" singer
- 13 Picnic aids
- 15 Had lunch
- 16 Sturdy tree
- 17 "— had it!"
- 18 Prepare the way
- 20 Ness's agents
- 21 Incline
- 22 Budget amount
- 23 Poem part
- 25 Skin feature
- 28 Be a rooter
- 31 Adam's grandson
- 32 Survived
- 34 Cash dispenser
- 35 Singer McGraw
- 36 Comic Margaret
- 37 Office drudge
- 40 Puccini work
- 41 Iron output

DOWN

- 42 Northern Ireland port
- 43 Newspaper section
- 1 Vatican-based
- 2 Lets up
- 3 Undo, as a law
- 4 Golf peg
- 5 Radio format
- 6 Oklahoma city
- 7 Chance to relax
- 8 News hour
- 9 Bristle at

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

Yesterday's answer

- 11 Acting company
- 14 Metal fastener
- 19 Cooing birds
- 20 Grove makeup
- 24 Gumshoe
- 25 Chinese food
- 26 Like some books
- 27 Child's one-piece garment
- 29 Engraver
- 30 Prepare leftovers
- 33 Student housing
- 35 Waiter's aid
- 38 Blunder
- 39 Train stop: Abbr.

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|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  |    | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 10 |    |    |    | 11 |    | 12 |    |    |    |
| 13 |    |    |    |    | 14 |    |    |    |    |
| 15 |    |    |    | 16 |    |    |    | 17 |    |
| 18 |    |    | 19 |    |    |    | 20 |    |    |
|    | 21 |    |    |    |    |    | 22 |    |    |
|    |    |    | 23 |    |    | 24 |    |    |    |
| 25 | 26 | 27 |    |    | 28 |    |    | 29 | 30 |
| 31 |    |    |    |    | 32 |    |    |    | 33 |
| 34 |    |    |    | 35 |    |    |    | 36 |    |
| 37 |    |    | 38 |    |    |    | 39 |    |    |
| 40 |    |    |    |    |    | 41 |    |    |    |
| 42 |    |    |    |    |    |    | 43 |    |    |

DAILY LOTTERY

Draw Date: 7/27  
2 3 4 8 43  
Meganumber: 26  
Jackpot: \$12M

Draw Date: 7/28  
14 19 22 36 40  
Meganumber: 3  
Jackpot: \$8M

Draw Date: 7/30  
12 25 26 34 39

Draw Date: 7/30  
MIDDAY: 5 1 9  
EVENING: 7 7 2

Draw Date: 7/30  
1st: 02 Lucky Star  
2nd: 11 Money Bags  
3rd: 12 Lucky Charms  
RACE TIME: 1:47.09

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

NEWS OF THE WEIRD  
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Urinal Technology: (1) Two Brazilian firms collaborated recently to test a whimsical device that could perhaps lessen splashing on men's room floors: a urinal containing a fretboard that makes musical sounds as liquid hits it (if the stream is strong enough). According to a May report in the Brazilian edition of Billboard magazine, versions were set up in several Sao Paulo bars to see if men's aims improved. (Flushing produces an online address from which a sound recording of the user's "music" can be retrieved.) (2) In a project that has already gone live in 200 Michigan bars and restaurants, the state's Office of Highway Safety Planning has installed "talking" urinal cakes featuring a female announcer urging inebriated patrons to call a taxi. ■ Prominent filmmakers Daniel Junge (an Academy Award winner) and Bryan Storkel have been raising money for their documentary "Fight Church," featuring devout Christian mixed martial artists viciously pummeling each other -- but only after the brawlers begin the match with a prayer and commitment to serve Jesus Christ. Among those featured is Pastor Paul Burrell of Rochester, N.Y., who says he "loves to fight" and sees no problem with MMA's barbaric nature. "These (techniques of fighting savagely) are the gifts and the skills God has given me."

TODAY IN HISTORY

1992- Thai Airways International Flight 311 crashes into a mountain north of Kathmandu, Nepal killing all 113 people on board.  
1999- Discovery Program: Lunar Prospector - NASA intentionally crashes the spacecraft into the Moon, thus ending its mission to detect frozen water on the moon's surface.  
2002- Hebrew University of Jerusalem is attacked when a bomb explodes in a cafeteria, killing 9.

WORD UP!

usageaster  
Y00-sij-as-ter \ , noun;  
1. A self-styled authority on language usage.

Santa Monica Daily Press

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Roomates  
Commercial Lease

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### DBAS

MAKS BIG DEALS. The full name of registrant(s) is/are: ABDELMALEK NASHED ABDELMALEK 2612 S. BARRINGTON AVE., LOS ANGELES 90064. This Business is being conducted by: an Individual. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on (Date)04/03/2012. /s/: ABDELMALEK NASHED ABDELMALEK. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of LOS ANGELES County on 06/25/2012. NOTICE: THIS FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT EXPIRES FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE IT WAS FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK. A NEW FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT MUST BE FILED PRIOR TO THAT DATE. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name statement in violation of the rights of another under federal, state, or common law (see Section 14411et seq., Business and Professions Code). SANTA MONICA DAILY PRESS to publish 07/24/2012, 07/31/2012, 08/07/2012, 08/14/2012.

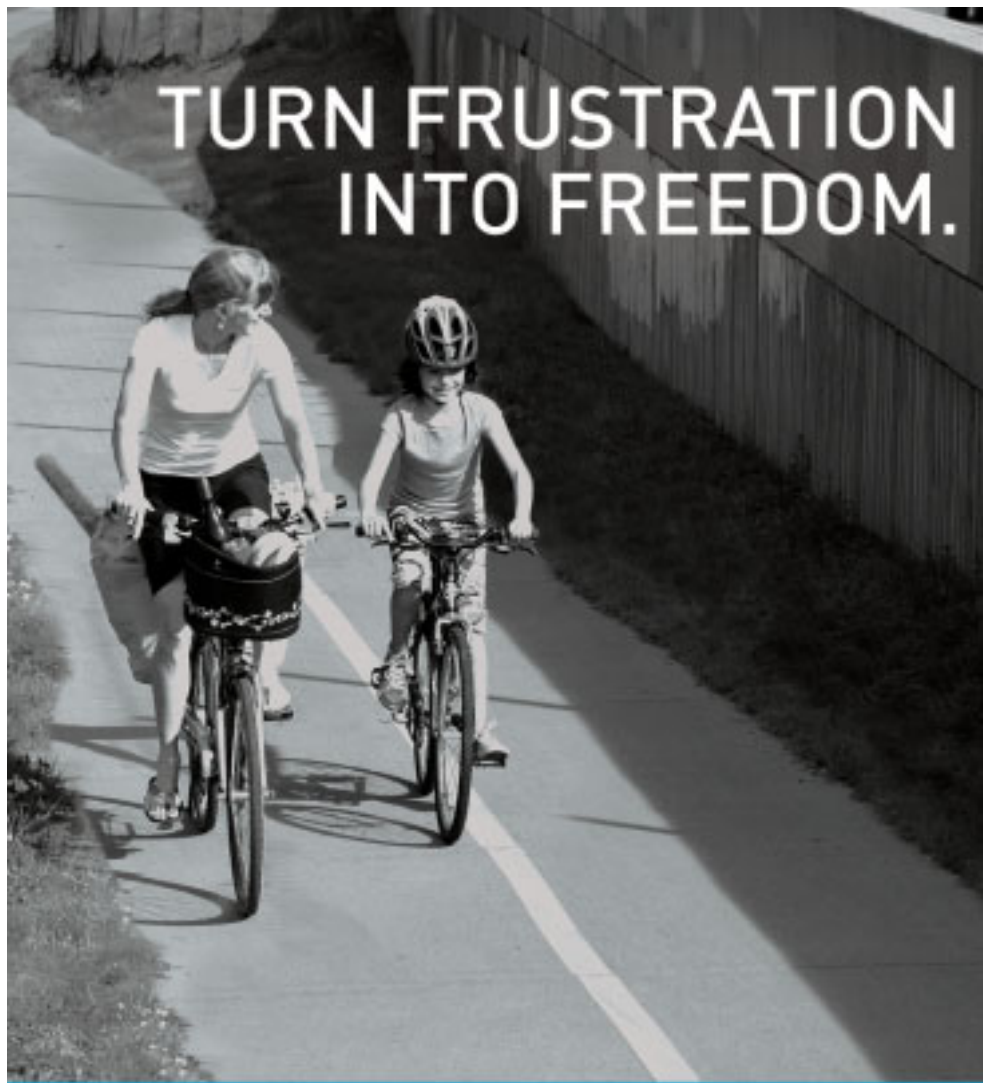


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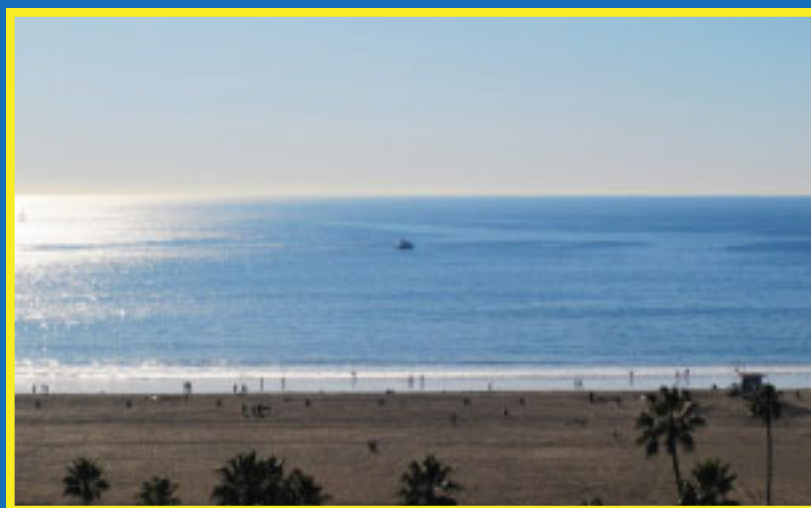


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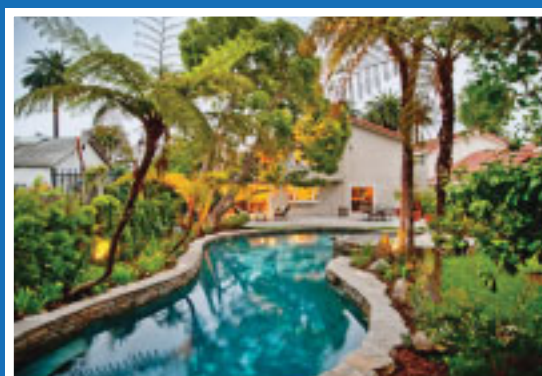
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**317 Marguerita Avenue**

**In Escrow**

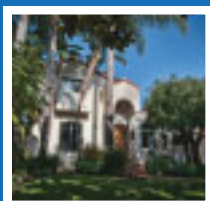
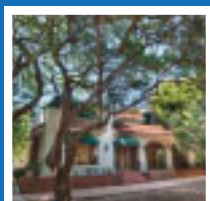


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\$4,200,000**

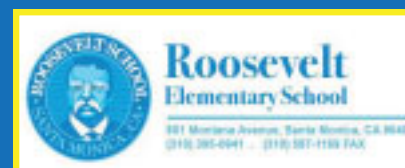
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| South of Wilshire          | = | \$981,150   |
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