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Santa Monica Daily Press
THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2013
Volume 12 Issue 226



Santa Monica Daily Press

We have you covered

EVENT PLANNER
SEE PAGE 2

THE PRESSING BUTTONS ISSUE

Main Street newsstand bites the dust

BY ILEANA NAJARRO
Special to the Daily Press

MAIN STREET For about 23 years the magazine stand Main Street News provided the Ocean Park neighborhood with a unique space to meet-up, hang out and purchase rare and international publications.

In the last four years, store manager Sabi Yaghoubi and her husband Hassan added a special touch with their improvements to the business' layout and offerings.

After such a history within the Main Street community, Main Street News closed for good this week due to failed negotiations to lower the rent.

"I miss everybody, I miss our community," Sabi Yaghoubi said. She added that loyal customers still come to the storefront upset at losing their go-to morning destination.

The store's fate reflects a larger declining national trend and a shifting landscape on Main Street.

The number of news dealers and newsstands in the country has decreased through the first decade of the 21st century with only 1,635 newsstands in the United States in 2005 and California being one of the four states with more than 100 left, according to a 2013 report from HighBeam Business.

In terms of profit, a State of the Media 2013 report stated that the magazine industry as a whole suffered an 8.2 percent decline in single-issue sales last year with news mag-

SEE NEWS PAGE 9



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

GONE: Clerk Morgan Sykes stands at the entrance to an empty Main Street News in mid July.



Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

OPEN: A woman exits the new post office on Seventh Street on Wednesday afternoon.

New post office opens to mixed reviews

BY AMEERA BUTT
Daily Press Staff Writer

SEVENTH STREET The United States Postal Service has already spent a majority of its $400,000 total projected budget on remodel and relocation costs for the new post office location at Seventh Street near Olympic Boulevard, USPS officials say.

It has spent $382,000 on remodel and relocation costs, Richard Maher, spokesperson for the USPS, said in an e-mail.

"There is still a little work to finish; a passport acceptance office and a caller service pick-up area are still under construction, but will be finished soon," he said. "We should be just a little under budget on this move."

It is also in the works to sell the old loca-

SEE POST OFFICE PAGE 8

Valuable tips for home buyers over 40

ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

LOS ANGELES It's often the most daunting and emotionally taxing item on one's financial to-do list: Buying a home.

Most people wade into homeownership for the first time in their 20s and early 30s, when they still have the bulk of their working years ahead of them and a long runway to build equity — a key asset for eventually moving up to a bigger home.

But what if you've reached midlife and still envision buying a home one day? Tackling that first home purchase after 40 can be easier in some ways than when you're just staring out in your career, but it also brings its own set of financial factors.

"It's important to consider the financial work you have left," says Eleanor Blayney, consumer advocate for the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards based in Washington D.C. "The financial hurdles you still have over the rest of your life and how homeownership and debt in particular

SEE HOMES PAGE 10

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What's Up Westside

OUT AND ABOUT IN SANTA MONICA

Thursday, Aug. 1, 2013

Culinary benefit
Jonathan Club
850 Palisades Beach Road,
6 p.m. — 10 p.m.
St. Vincent Meals on Wheels is holding a beach dining event to raise money for the more than 4,000 meals that homebound senior citizens and other individuals need each day. The benefit will feature a bar, food prepared by Los Angeles chefs — including dishes such as garlic-crusted albacore, lavender-smoked duck and locally grown zucchini wrapped in bacon — as well as live music from the funk band High Rize, along with a silent auction. Tickets cost $155 and include parking. Attendees can purchase tickets at eveningonthebeach.com.

New development agreement
Ken Edwards Center
1527 Fourth St.,
7 p.m. — 9 p.m.
The city's Planning and Community Development Department will hold a meeting about the development agreement for 1415 Fifth St. — a proposed 100-unit apartment complex with over 200 parking spaces. For more information, contact (310) 458-8411.

Going Down Under
Santa Monica Pier
200 Santa Monica Pier,
7 p.m. — 10 p.m.
Australian-born songwriter Xavier Rudd will perform at the Santa Monica Pier's weekly Twilight Concert Series. His eclectic music combines pop tunes with worldly instruments. Twilight Concerts are free and open to the public.

Live comedy podcast
Mi's Westside Comedy Theater
1323-A Third Street Promenade,
8 p.m.
The theater's podcast this week will feature Kevin Pollak, who was chosen as one of Comedy Central's all-time top 100 stand-up comedians, and Dana Gould, a long-time "Simpsons" writer. Tickets: $10. For more information, contact Mike Betette at (310) 451-0850.

Friday, Aug. 2, 2013

Peace of mind
University of Santa Monica
2107 Wilshire Blvd., 7 p.m.
Two doctors will hold a workshop on how attendees can apply principles of spiritual psychology to their own lives. The workshop will give insight on how one can resolve troubled emotions and live a fulfilling life.

Anchorman party
Bar Chloe
1449 Second St., 9 p.m.
The Bar Chloe will hold a party featuring jazz flute-inspired music and special cocktails. Attendees who dress as their own news anchor alter-ego will receive a free cocktail. Contact (310) 899-6999 for more details.

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**



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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

OCEAN AVENUE

California Incline partial closure planned

Northbound lanes (from Ocean Avenue to Pacific Coast Highway) on the California Incline will be closed Aug. 8 from about 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. so work crews can repair potholes.

Though initial reports slated the work for Aug. 1, Martin Pastucha, director of Public Works, said the repairs were re-scheduled to allow for signage and proper notifications to motorists.

Southbound lanes into Santa Monica will not be affected by the traffic closure, though City Hall is working on getting permits from CalTrans to schedule repairs on these lanes as well, Pastucha said.

These pothole projects aim to help keep the bridge's structure intact for at least another year until it is renovated in mid 2014.

– ILEANA NAJARRO

STEWART STREET PARK

Jazz on the Lawn returns

The eighth annual Jazz on the Lawn summer concert series kicks off this Sunday, Aug. 4, with a performance by the Latin jazz and salsa group Coganas.

Family and friends of all ages can bring a picnic, blanket and beach chairs each Sunday in August to Stewart Street Park where they can enjoy free jazz and a sampling of treats from one of the rotating dessert vendors. Sweet Lucies will be offering 100 percent organic ice cream and sorbets at the Coganas performance.

Each concert runs from 5 p.m.-7 p.m. with free parking available after 3:30 p.m. in the Agensys lot at 1800 Stewart St.

– IN

MAIN LIBRARY

Movie buffs unite

The 10th annual Santa Monica Film Festival kicks off on Saturday, Aug. 3, with 14 independent film screenings taking place at the Main Library's Martin Luther King Jr. Auditorium at 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

David Katz, festival director, said the theme is quality films from the next generation of filmmakers. He said the opening film, "Saving A Sacred Rancho In The Canyon," is about the Santa Monica Canyon.

"It's closest to all Santa Monicans' hearts," he said. "It has footage you'd never get to see."

There is also an awards presentation and party on Saturday.

The screenings are free and admission is first come, first serve.

Doors open at 2:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.smff.org for a complete schedule.

– AMEERA BUTT



Photo courtesy James Looker

XAVIER RUDD

This Aussie can rock

Xavier Rudd mixes modern sounds with traditional sensibilities

BY ALEX VEJAR
Special to the Daily Press

SM PIER Australian-born singer/songwriter Xavier Rudd has performed all over all over the world during his decade-long music career, but tonight's Twilight Concert Series show will be his first in Santa Monica.

"It'll be cool ... something different," Rudd said about playing the Santa Monica Pier.

Rudd grew up in a small town in Australia near Bell's Beach, teaching himself several instruments.

"I always wrote music ever since I was little kid, before I ever knew what I was doing," Rudd said. "Whatever was around, I would play."

That early passion for music eventually turned into a career that is still going strong today. Since 2002, Rudd has recorded seven studio albums and two live collections

His latest album, "Spirit Bird," is an example of what can be done when pop melodies are mixed with worldly instruments, giving listeners the feeling of being cast away to a far-off place while hearing sounds that are close to home.

The record is not without its quirks, such as the tribal-sounding song "3 Roads" and bird calls which migrate their way into each track, exemplifying just how talented and eclectic a musician Rudd is.

The name of the album, which is sprinkled with different bird sounds throughout, came about through Rudd's "powerful" experience of writing and recording it.

"It's a bit of a blur sometimes," he said. "When spirit comes through, it's like a dream. It's almost like you become lightheaded and you surrender to what's happening."

Rudd sees the success he has had in his career as a "blessing."

"I come from a small town in Australia, I play all over the world ... I never really expected that and I've never taken that for granted," he said. "Every day, I give thanks."

Although he has seen many places and things in his travels, Rudd is not one to play favorites or set one experience aside from another.

"I'm not really a favorite kind of guy," he said. "I like to not be attached to things. When we're attached to something, we can't be free."

While he may not have a preference in terms of the places he's been or even what instruments he plays, Rudd has a very clear idea of what music means to him.

"Music's groovy," Rudd said. "Music's been connecting people and culture and energy and spirit since the beginning of time. That's why people are so drawn to it"

Rudd hopes to bring out a "really vibey and really fun" energy from the audience when he plays his date at the pier.

"That's the biggest blessing about what I do is the people who come," Rudd said. "Everywhere I go all over the world is good, conscious, cool people that come along and it's always a good vibe."

Rudd is going to be touring for the rest of this year, and said that a new record may be in the works for 2014.

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Your column here

Wendy Parise
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

Treating the whole family key to childhood success

TWENTY YEARS AGO, JOHN ZAWAHRI was my preschool student — a timid and quiet little boy. On June 7, he went on a shooting rampage in Santa Monica and killed five people before police gunned him down. Since this tragedy, I have been ruminating over what I could have done differently to help John when he was in my early education class.

I saw then that he had a difficult home life, and I worked with his troubled family as much as I could, however, my tool kit as an early childhood special educator was not equipped to handle John's serious family challenges.

Twenty years ago, we did not know what we have since learned from brain research about the effects of early exposure to toxic stress on a child's development. To effectively help John, we needed mental health or social work professionals working steadily to assist his family in developing productive ways to resolve the conflict that pervaded their lives. Today, more than ever, we need policy makers to put new knowledge into practice and support efforts to include the health of families as part of the education plan for all children. We must create a comprehensive system of care for our nation's most precious commodity — our future human capital.

Four-year-old John needed an early education program that could effectively address the chaos in his family's life. When John's mother contacted our school claiming her husband threatened her and her sons with a knife, we referred her to a local battered women's shelter where she found refuge and assistance. But with no mental health personnel on staff and no coordination with this outside agency, our early education program was ill-equipped to meet John's foundational needs and ensure his healthy development. John was a young child living amongst family violence, and his brain was formed under toxic stress.

"Toxic stress in the early years — for example, from severe poverty; serious parental mental health impairment, such as maternal depression; child maltreatment; and family violence — can damage developing brain architecture and lead to problems in learning and behavior as well as to increased susceptibility to physical and mental illness," writes Dr. Jack Shonkoff, the founding director of the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University and prolific writer about the effects of toxic stress. "As with other environmental hazards, treating the consequences of toxic stress is less effective than addressing the conditions that cause it. … Brain plasticity and the ability to change behavior decrease over time. Consequently, getting it right early is less costly to society and to individuals than trying to fix it later."

Tragically, what ensued in John's case were subsequent years of family violence. His school programs were not able to effectively address the root cause of his developmental dysfunction.

Despite advances in brain science and toxic stress, there remains a chasm between research and practice. Dwindling economic resources have dictated drastic budget cuts to quality childcare programs, early intervention, school districts, social work, and public and mental health programs. Due to diminished funding, these programs have suffered cuts in personnel, fewer opportunities for collaboration, and little to no professional development. Well-intended programs remain in silos, so service coordination is rare. Continual program cuts have so eroded service delivery that the remaining programming is so inadequate it's wasteful. Research recommends systemic reform, yet dwindling fiscal support, bureaucracy, continued ignorance on the part of legislators regarding the direct correlation between healthy adults and the educational system prevails.

Education of the adults in children's lives must be an integral part of our nation's educational system. With a realistic view of the fiscal resources that are available, a rigorous inspection and reorganization of our health, education and social service systems is imperative. Community resources must be strategically embedded into our educational programs. Children do not develop in a vacuum; they are part of a family system that must not be ignored. If we do not invest now in children with unmet social-emotional needs, they will cost us much more later, as they become adults requiring mental health services, welfare assistance, medical care, or the resources of the criminal justice system. Clearly, a sound investment in early care and education with an emphasis on services that support healthy families is foundational to social and economic progress.

Fifteen years ago, I left my work in early intervention and joined the faculty at Santa Monica College. As an early childhood education professor I am dedicated to the development of a strong early care and education workforce. I have been privileged to teach and mentor many aspiring early childhood educators, who are filled with genuine passion for the welfare of children and families. But their passion, sound training and preparation are not enough. They must be part of an educational system complete with resources to meet the needs of children and their families.

We need to look at what we currently offer, revamp what needs revamping, and create a more cohesive coordination throughout our educational system to provide services for the caregivers of the children we serve. Researchers strongly recommend that in order to improve child outcomes, we must focus on building the capacities of adults that care for them. Without that, we will continue to observe the results of toxic stress and a generation of children whom we have failed. The safety and well-being of our nation is at stake.

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Culture Watch

Sarah A. Spitz
Send comments to editor@smdp.com



Photo courtesy Tibrina Hobson

LIVE: Laraine Newman will star in 'Celebrity Autobiography,' coming soon to the Grammy Museum. The latest installment will focus on memoirs by some of the hottest pop music stars.

Finding humor in their own words

FANS OF THE ORIGINAL "SATURDAY Night Live" will recognize Laraine Newman's face (think valley girls and coneheads). The Westwood resident is now more frequently heard than seen as an in-demand animation voiceover actress. Now she's showcasing both her vocal and improv talents live onstage as a repeat performer at the latest rendition of the hit show, "Celebrity Autobiography," returning to the Grammy Museum on Aug. 15.

You need nothing more than celebrities' own words to create the hilarious script for these immensely popular staged readings. Themed to its location, "The Music Edition, Vol. 3" skewers memoirs by Beyoncé, Justin Bieber, Britney Spears and Motley Crue, read by the likes of Newman, Lainie Kazan, Melissa Manchester, Fred Willard, Rita Wilson and more.

In "Celebrity Mash Up," dueling memoirs are performed onstage by the entire cast (like the point-counterpoint of relationship memoirs by Burt Reynolds and Loni Anderson). Playing to sell out audiences in New York since 2008 and now L.A., it's also a hit show on Bravo TV network.

The producers of "Celebrity Autobiography" offered Newman a real challenge this time, she says. "I only know at this point that I'll be reading from Cher's book on diet and exercise. I really have to work hard on getting laughs with that one."

Though she doesn't fit the typical Coachella Music Festival age demographic, Newman's a fan and a natural fit for this music edition: "My passion for Coachella is historic, starting with my searching out music when I was a teenager. I would go to the Ash Grove [now the Improv West Hollywood] to see people like Muddy Waters, Howling Wolf, Taj Mahal, Willie

SEE WATCH PAGE 6

The Q Line

A little advice

We regret the departure of Ashley Archibald, our staff writer for the past couple of years, but with that comes the arrival of our new writer, Ameera Butt.

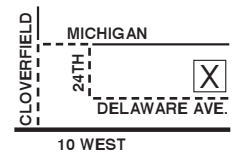
So, this week's Q-Line question asks:
What words of advice would you give Ameera as she begins her tenure with the Daily Press and why?

Contact **qline@smdp.com** before **Friday at 5 p.m.** and we'll print your answers in the weekend edition of the Daily Press. You can also call **310-573-8354**.


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Play Time

Cynthia Citron
Send comments to editor@smdp.com

A house for Martha

SHEM BITTERMAN'S NEW PLAY "OPEN House" has some engaging moments. But not enough of them.

In the beginning real estate agent Chuck (a consistently spectacular Robert Cicchini) sits alone in a folding chair in an empty living room waiting for a prospective buyer to show up. He twitches and fiddles for an entire day in what feels like real time.

"This is like watching paint dry," my friend remarked.

But later he has a marvelous scene in which he practices offering upbeat encouragement to a potential customer, should one show up.

And finally she does. Martha is an emotional basket-case who gets a "bad vibe" from the house. This turns out to be a red herring, since nothing horrendous actually happened there and her "bad vibe" is never pinned down.

Martha is played by Eve Gordon, who matches Chuck twitch for twitch, and is alternately ice cold or partially deranged. She has a few engaging moments when she speaks of her divorce and the death of her child.

Chuck is insistent and persistent and appears desperate to have her buy the house. You get the sense that his job is at stake, but that's not his motivation.

By the end you may have guessed where the play is going, but it's not a satisfying ending. And the last line doesn't make any logical sense.

This two-person play is an ongoing collaboration between the actors, the playwright and the director, Steve Zuckerman. Bitterman has worked with Zuckerman on his plays "A Death in Colombia" and "Influence," which dealt with shenanigans at the World Bank. His plays are usually political and provocative. "Open House" is neither, and while it has its moments, it doesn't quite work.

To judge for yourself, call (702) 582-8587 for reservations. "Open House" will continue at The Skylight Theater Company, 1816 N. Vermont Ave., Los Angeles. It runs Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. through Aug. 25.

TOO MANY QUESTIONS

"A Parallelogram" is a brilliant, mind-boggling play by Bruce Norris that asks a bunch of existentially provocative questions. Among them:

• If you knew in advance exactly what was going to happen in your life, and how everything was going to turn out, but you couldn't do anything to change it, would you still want to go on with your life?

• If you could affect change by being "nice" and telling everyone just what they wanted to hear, would you want to do it?

• If you could affect change would it make any difference or would things simply turn out the way they were meant to in the first place?

• And, finally, is our heroine really dealing with a crone from the future, or is she talking to herself?

Would you believe this is a love story? Or rather, he is in love with her — he's left his wife and two kids for her — but she is preoccupied with playing solitaire and listening to tales of the future from an older woman that nobody else can hear. A woman with a clicker that can recharge time so you can relive a moment over and over until you get it right. An ever more phantasmagorical Groundhog Day.



Photo courtesy Ed Krieger

CAST: **Eve Gordon and Robert Cicchini in the world premiere of Skylight Theatre's 'Open House.'**

The man who loves her is delightfully played by Tom Irwin on the edge of apoplexy and the young woman is a cool Marin Ireland. The old crone is a hilarious Marylouise Burke, and there is a Spanish-speaking gardener played by Carlo Alban, who participates in confusing everyone and falling in love with our heroine.

The whole production is beautifully directed by Anna D. Shapiro, who has worked on many of Norris' previous plays, many of which were premiered at the Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago.

The production qualities are also wonderful: the rotating set by Todd Rosenthal and the sound design, most notably the sounds of the time clicker, by Rob Milburn and Michael Bodeen, and the lighting design by James F. Ingalls are all exceptionally effective.

To tell you more would spoil the twists and turns of the plot, but there's a possibly significant clue in the program's list of characters.

Look it up and do the math.

"A Parallelogram" will continue Tuesdays through Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. through Aug. 18 at the Mark Taper Forum, 135 N. Grand Ave., at the Music Center in Los Angeles. Call (213) 628-2772 for tickets.

CYNTHIA CITRON can be reached at ccitron@socal.rr.com.

WATCH

FROM PAGE 5

Dixon and the Chicago All Stars featuring T-Bone Walker … pretty much every act you saw in the movie 'Cadillac Records.' Now I'm a human oddity in the dub-step tents at Coachella."

Rather than merely sneering at the stars whose memoirs she reads, Newman approaches them sympathetically: "As a writer of sorts myself I know I instantly regret what I've put down on paper. I never judge others who have the guts to do it no matter what kind of folly it turns out to be. When I 'interpret' I try to break it down into sections that really highlight what's going on in the text. I think that exposes the humor best."

These shows sell out, and it's an intimate setting, so get seats fast. The fun begins at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 15 at the Grammy Museum, 800 W. Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles. For tickets call (213) 765-6800 or visit www.grammymuseum.org/programs.

AIR WAVES, BEACH WAVES

Once upon a time, radio stations were locked into land-based studios. Not so anymore, as classical KUSC-FM is proving.

Popular program host Rich Capparela will be broadcasting from a studio with a view of the waves riding into Santa Monica Bay — right in his own Santa Monica condo.

The antithesis to the stereotype of the stuffy classical DJ, Capparela's thrilled to be doing "KUSC at the Beach."

"This whole beach thing is crazy cool. Chalk it up to enlightened management," Rich told me in an e-mail exchange between two old friends.

It's about attitude and approach, Rich said. "'KUSC at the Beach' lets the public know that classical music doesn't have to be presented as if it were a dusky museum exhibit. The idea is to let down my remaining hair a bit and let the view of the waves inform the delivery," he joked.

"'KUSC at the Beach' also reflects the westward shift of the arts in Southern California. In spite of the Civic Auditorium situation, things are actually looking up for the arts in Santa Monica. The Broad Stage is really taking off; we now have two symphony orchestras instead of one.

"I'm just riding that wave, dude."

Hear KUSC at 91.5 FM and streaming online at www.kusc.org.

BEVERLY HILLS INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL

An under-the-radar, but much beloved music festival is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year.

The Beverly Hills International Music Festival aims to provide the Westside with affordable, high-quality concerts in which world-class musicians participate with local professionals and faculty to offer young musicians master classes, workshops, private instruction, group rehearsals and public performances.

Maestro Gregory Cherninsky, who founded and conducted the Odessa Chamber Orchestra, moved from his native Ukraine to the U.S. in 1988. In 2001 he took the helm of the David Nowakowsky Foundation, overseeing the noted synagogue music composer's archives as well as directing and conducting his namesake music festival.

In 2003, Cherninsky set up his own nonprofit to celebrate his love of music and to create opportunities for young people to continue the classical and modern-classical music tradition.

Concerts include evenings of Jewish, Austrian and chamber music, a student concert and a Festival Orchestra closing concert.

Featured musicians include Ukrainian-American violinist Oleh Krysa, pianist Tatiana Tchekina, composer Assaf Rinde, mezzo-soprano Iris Malkin, Japanese violinist Dr. Sachika Mizuno and violist Kaoru Ono.

Faculty and guest artists come from as far away as Tokyo, Toronto, Belgrade, Moscow and Yerevan, and from music departments at USC, Cal State Fullerton, Chapman University, Willamette University and Pepperdine.

Seven concerts take place between Friday, Aug. 2 and Sunday, Aug. 11 at Temple Emanuel, 8844 Burton Way in Beverly Hills. Call (310) 779-7622 or visit www.bhmusicfestival.org.

SARAH A. SPITZ is a former freelance arts producer for NPR and former staff producer at public radio station KCRW-Santa Monica. She has also reviewed theatre for LAOpeningNights.com.

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Syrian war takes center stage on Ramadan TV series

BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press

BEIRUT Blasts echo in the distance as two longtime friends and neighbors sit along a narrow street in old Damascus chatting about Syria, when one of them calls the civil war raging in their home country a "crisis."

"It is called a revolution!" the other shouts. "If you are one of those who believe in a foreign conspiracy, then move away from here," roars the man, whose son has been detained by regime forces for nine months for taking part in pro-democracy protests.

The first man retorts that he is sitting in public property and has the right to call it whatever he wants.

It's a scene from "We Will Return Soon," one of at least three Syrian soap operas airing during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan that deal primarily with the Syrian civil war.

The shows, spotlighting a conflict that has killed more than 100,000 people and uprooted millions of others from their homes, have captivated millions of viewers across the Arab world. Other Syrian soap operas broadcast during Ramadan also address the war though it's not their main theme.

Some of the series are pro-regime and managed to film in Syria, while other series critical of President Bashar Assad's brutal military crackdown had to be filmed in studios in neighboring Lebanon or Gulf Arab countries. Still others tried to achieve a delicate balance between the two.

With emotions running high among Syrians, reaction has been mixed. A few have called for the programs to be boycotted, particularly those deemed supportive of the regime. But for many Syrians, and especially the hundreds of thousands of refugees in other countries, the shows are a reminder of the lives they left behind.

"These shows make me miss Syria and its people," said Shadi Attasi, a 35-year-old Syrian from the central city of Homs who fled the war and now lives in Dubai. "They also make me sad because while this is only acting, a lot of people in Syria are living this exact scenario of violence and injustice."

During Ramadan, Muslims fast during the day and sit down for an elaborate meal in the evening. Arab satellite channels broadcast special Ramadan programs and soap operas each night, trying to hook families who have gathered to break their fast.

Syrian soap operas have gained major popularity in the past few years, rivaling Egyptian dramas that had long dominated viewership across the Arab world. Among the most successful was Bab el-Hara, or "The Neighborhood Gate," which follows families in a Damascus neighborhood between the world wars, when the French ruled Syria and the local population chafed under foreign control and yearned for independence.

This year's Syrian soap operas mark a stark departure from the past, dealing with themes and using language unthinkable before the uprising began in March 2011 against the Assad family's decades-old iron grip rule.

The new TV series also depict some security officers as corrupt and ruthless human beings who live well beyond their means and order troops to kill with no mercy.

One popular series, "Birth from the Waist," is openly critical of security agents, even showing a security officer ordering his men to "open fire at the dogs," in reference to anti-regime protesters. The show, which airs on several Arab satellite channels but not on Syrian state-run TV, is about widespread corruption in Syria as well as the uprising and security crackdown.

Many producers have been unable to move inside Syria, forcing them to set up studios elsewhere.

Much of the country is now carved up between rebel and government-held territory. Crossing from one area to the other is often a perilous journey and may take hours if not days. Those that have been produced in Syria are approved, pro-regime series, and at least in one case, the army has assisted in providing cover.

The Syrian Village, near Damascus, where many series including "The Neighborhood Gate," were filmed in the past few years, was damaged in the fighting. Rebels took it over from government troops earlier this month.

The war has taken on increasingly sectarian overtones, polarizing Syrians into supporters and opponents of Assad. Assad's regime denies there is a popular uprising, calling it instead a foreign conspiracy backed by Israel and the United States.

In the Ramadan series this year, actors often appear to be cast as characters with likeminded views.

Syrian actress Kinda Allouch has backed the opposition since the start of the crisis. In "We Will Return Soon," which tells the story of a Syrian family that fled to Lebanon to wait out the war, Allouch's character proudly proclaims in several episodes that she backs "the revolution."

Duraid Lahham, Syria's top actor who touts a nationalist line, also stars in "We Will Return Soon." His character rejects the idea that what is happening in Syria is a revolution, referring to rebels as "armed men."

In "Birth from the Waist," Abdul-Hakim Kuteifan, who is known to be a strong supporter of the opposition, plays the role of a corrupt security officer whose office is adorned with a poster of Assad. The series was reportedly banned from filming in Syria.

Najdat Anzour, one of Syria's best-known producers and most acclaimed directors, was widely criticized earlier this year for entering the Damascus suburb of Daraya under army protection to shoot his latest series, "Under the Homeland Sky," at a time when the area was under government attack.

Some activists even said that the army stopped its military operations in the suburb for two days in order for Anzour to finish filming part of his series. The series is now airing on state TV and several other pro-regime stations. It shows, among other things, how Syrian female refugees are exploited sexually and forced into prostitution.

"Just because they saw some soldiers with us, they (opposition) believed that we are glorifying the victories of the army in Daraya," Anzour told The Associated Press in a recent interview in Damascus.

"It is not a big deal to film in Daraya," he said. "Daraya is Syrian territory. It is not Israel."

Hassan Youssef, a Syrian script writer and cultural journalist, said it was too early for the country's war to be discussed in soap operas.

"I believe that a reading of the national crisis that we are passing through needs time. ... It stems from an entire history and it is difficult to treat it (casually) through artistic works," he said from Syria, where he is based.

"Still, I raise my hat for all those who produced and wrote this year" despite the difficulties, he said.

Amr al-Azm, a Syrian academic in the United States who is also an opposition figure, began a campaign on social media calling on people to boycott soap operas made by regime supporters.

"When my family and I turn on the TV and see it is a Duraid Lahham program, we switch off the channel," he said. "It is a form of civil disobedience."

But his boycott call rings hollow for many Syrians, who are desperate for a taste of their homeland.

A Syrian woman now living in Beirut, who declined to be identified for fear of drawing attention to herself, said she's hooked on the soap operas, although watching them breaks her heart.

"Every day I watch TV, I remember my Syria and I cry."

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Daniel Archuleta *daniela@smdp.com*

SHUTTERED: **The Fifth Street post office was closed as a cost-cutting measure by the USPS.**

POST OFFICE

FROM PAGE 1

tion at Fifth Street and Arizona Avenue, a New Deal-era building, as part of a national plan to pawn off properties to plug the multi-billion dollar hole in the semi-private organization's budget. The new location opened on July 1, the postal service citing lower costs and greater efficiency for its decision to move to the new spot.

The move caused a ruckus last year during a meeting where many residents responded negatively to the move, saying the old location was convenient, easily accessible and safer than the annex, which faces Interstate 10, is near a homeless shelter and has little pedestrian traffic and few businesses nearby.

Maher said he received "positive" comments from customers on the first day the post office was open.

"I spoke to local management and was told that customer response to the new facility has been mostly positive," he said in an e-mail. "We have some customers who preferred the historic look of the old lobby, but many have said they like the bright, open, modern look of the new location. Many customers have commented on the better parking situation at the new location."

On Wednesday, Paul Zielbauer walked up to the new post office location to mail letters, shaking his head.

"I was thinking how disappointed I was with the government about closing it," he said.

Zielbauer said the old building was a part of "historic Santa Monica." He said the new building has no character and is in the middle of "nowhere next to the freeway."

Others say the post office location is dangerous because there's no visibility when backing out of the parking spots.

Santa Monica resident Eric Cooper, who usually sends out five or six packages a day, said, "it's not a customer-friendly place."

"The building has no signage on it. You wouldn't know whether it was a Costco, a post office or what it was," Cooper said. "If you're coming from Venice, you have to swerve into oncoming traffic to make it into a spot."

Some residents, like Anna Stover, who said she frequented the old post office once every couple of months, didn't know the Fifth Street location had closed. She drove there Wednesday to mail a package and had already fed a parking meter before realizing the post office wasn't open. In the window is a sign directing patrons to the new location.

The Fifth Street post office opened to the public in 1937, and has been identified as a historic location. Maher said the Postal Service is committed to selling the building and other historic edifices in its portfolio to buyers willing to protect the property's key elements.

Federal officials are working with a state historic preservation officer and will identify aspects of the buildings that need to be preserved and establish "covenants" around them that are attached to the property deed.

> **WE HAVE SOME CUSTOMERS WHO PREFERRED THE HISTORIC LOOK OF THE OLD LOBBY, BUT MANY HAVE SAID THEY LIKE THE BRIGHT, OPEN, MODERN LOOK OF THE NEW LOCATION. MANY CUSTOMERS HAVE COMMENTED ON THE BETTER PARKING SITUATION AT THE NEW LOCATION,"**
>
> Richard Maher
> Spokesperson for the USPS

The organization will then have to find a covenant holder to enforce those agreements.

In a meeting last month, the Landmarks Commission came up with preliminary instructions for a detailed description of the character defining features to be put into the covenant that's been proposed by the Postal Service, Carol Lemlein, president of the board of the Santa Monica Conservancy, said.

In another meeting next month, the commission will review and finalize the description, she said.

"At that point, my understanding is that it will be reviewed with the Postal Service and then submitted to [the City] Council," Lemlein said. "With everything going on, the council review could be September, [but] who knows?"

She said for example, during the meeting the commission provided a much more detailed description of the art deco features of the facade of the building.

Lemlein said no one has come forward publicly identifying themselves as a buyer yet.

"We're trying to get defined essentially as if it were a landmark so it's all understood by the buyer and can be placed up for sale," Lemlein said.

Ruthann Lehrer, architectural historian with the Landmarks Commission, said it is important the Postal Service is recognizing the historic value of its post offices and taking a proactive step in protecting the buildings prior to being placed on the market.

Maher said the USPS is the first to acknowledge how important it was to preserve historic buildings.

He said the USPS doesn't release appraisals on its properties.

"The Santa Monica Post Office is not on the market at this time," Maher said.

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FINAL DAYS IN BUSINESS: **Morgan Sykes organizes magazines at Main Street News in July.**

NEWS
FROM PAGE 1

azines hit the hardest — a 16 percent decline on average.

Profits dwindled at Main Street News due in large part to competition from online publications, said Hassan Yaghoubi, who also runs an electrical business.

A 2012 report by the Alliance for Audited Media stated that 90 percent of surveyed media companies and publishers distributed their content via mobile devices.

Though profits remained dismal, Sabi Yaghoubi said her rent stayed at about $5,000 a month, an amount her husband said was set at a time when the newspaper and magazine business was booming. As the renewal deadline for their lease approached, the Yaghoubis asked to lower the rent to about $3,200 for a five year lease but their landlord offered a rate of about $4,500, Sabi Yaghoubi said.

The current lease listing on PAR Commercial Brokerage's website is for $3,809 per month with an additional $680 monthly fee for property tax, insurance and maintenance for three to five years.

American Commercial Equities Management, the company that owns the 2726 Main St. property — former home of Main Street News — was unavailable for comment.

When the Yaghoubis took over management, the business was rundown and the building was in shambles with a cracked ceiling, a register table with peeling paint and other forms of disarray. Sabi, who previously worked as a university librarian, loved her community newsstand enough that she felt she needed to do her part to keep it going.

The couple made repairs as best they could, updated their stock selection and even added a lottery machine into the mix.

"We tried hard to incorporate something that generates more income and matches the whole environment," Hassan Yaghoubi said.

Britt Allcroft, a longtime loyal customer who moved to Santa Monica in 1998 from England after falling in love with Main Street, is grateful for Sabi Yaghoubi's efforts.

Allcroft praised Sabi Yaghoubi's friendly greetings and conversations as well as the extra work she put in to order magazines for customers who could not find a specific selection. Sabi Yaghoubi even considered those who walked their pets to the store by offering cookies to visiting dogs.

She added that despite the boom of digital publishing, there was still value in Main Street News' print offerings.

"E-book businesses found they will definitely do well, but most folks, including families and schools, still want print books in their life," Allcroft said.

Gary Gordon, executive director of the Main Street Business Improvement Association, recognizes the store's significance to the shopping district as both a community space and a haven for lovers of print media, but says these factors alone cannot protect it from effects of the marketplace, landlord demands, or even the trends in Main Street's storefront variety.

> **"DAY BY DAY THEY WANT TO TURN MAIN STREET INTO THE THIRD STREET PROMENADE."**
>
> **Sabi Yaghoubi**
> Former Main Street News manager

Gordon explained that the local shopping district has seen more turnover in the last five years than in the years preceding, with the turnovers mostly short lived. He added that some stores have even opened and closed within a year.

Just two doors down from Main Street News, the long-standing Omelette Parlor is also listed on PAR Commercial's lease listings with a representative saying in a voicemail that it too will be going out.

However, store owner Bob Hausenbauer, said that he plans to renew his lease with no future prospects of closing as of yet. He added that "anything heard to the contrary is a fallacy."

Sabi Yaghoubi said that with landlords refusing to negotiate lower rates and opting for big name brands rather than mom-and-pop stores, Main Street's character is threatened.

"The landlords, the owners of the buildings, they don't care about the people, they don't care about the neighborhood," Sabi Yaghoubi said.

"Day by day they want to turn Main Street into the Third Street Promenade."

Despite the shifting layout and the loss of a local newsstand, Gordon still believes that the street has a sufficient mix of offerings.

"Main Street is still a really unique shopping area in Santa Monica, and really on the Westside," Gordon said. "It's the American main street, but it's only a few blocks away from the beach."

Allcroft, on the other hand, said that there needs to be greater effort to balance stores that cater to tourists and those that support locals.

"I feel really strongly that if Main Street is going to survive and flourish, it's got to have an equivalent of these mom-and-pop stores," Allcroft said.

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HOMES
FROM PAGE 1

are going to impact that."

A National Association of Realtors survey of people who bought a home between July 2011 and June 2012 showed that nearly 80 percent of first-time homebuyers were 32 years-old or younger.

In the next age bracket, those age 33-47, 36 percent were first-time buyers; between the ages of 48 to 57, only 19 percent were first-time buyers. The rates of first-time homeownership generally declined as buyers got older, according to the survey, which featured 8,500 respondents.

Even so, the last decade's economic downturn and housing crash has forced many to put off that first home purchase.

Here are some things to consider if you're over 40 and eyeing homeownership:

LENDING RULES DON'T CHANGE FOR OLDER BUYERS

Good news: Being closer to retirement age than someone in their 20s and 30s can't legally be held against you by a lender when they consider you for a home loan, regardless of the loan period.

"So if somebody was to walk in today, and they're 114 years old, and they ask for a 30-year mortgage and qualify for it, we have to give it to them," says Tom Jarboe, regional manager at lender Primary Residential Mortgage Inc.

The decision on whether one qualifies for a loan hinges on the borrower's income, assets, credit history and other factors.

Banks generally look back two years to establish a borrower's income history and also look to evaluate the likelihood that the borrower will continue to make the same level of income for at least another three years.

If you're in your late 50s or early 60s and disclose that you're planning to retire within three years, a lender will evaluate your projected earnings from Social Security, retirement accounts, dividends on investments and other sources.

CONSIDER BENEFITS OF PAYING OFF LOAN

Most banks operate under the assumption that even a 30-year fixed mortgage will be swapped out for another loan within eight years, if not sooner. That's because many homebuyers often end up refinancing, or moving for work or due to family considerations.

But paying off a home and owning it free and clear by the time one retires is a smart play, particularly as the cost of housing is a significant expense for a person relying on a fixed income.

That can be tougher for someone who puts off that first home purchase two decades into their prime working years, assuming they haven't saved up money to make a hefty down payment — think at least 30 percent.

But it's doable.

Blayney recommends that even older borrowers who take on a 30-year mortgage take steps to pay off the loan or lower the monthly payment significantly by the time they retire.

That could mean making extra payments during the early years of the loan, or putting up more than the minimum down payment so the borrower is financing a smaller amount. A 15-year mortgage, which typically translates into lower interest, but higher monthly payments, is another route to a quicker loan payoff.

LOOK INTO FIRST-TIME BUYER ASSISTANCE

One of the biggest obstacles to homeownership is coming up with a down payment to qualify for a loan.

Federal and state housing agencies offer assistance for first-time homebuyers, including in many cases former homeowners who haven't owned a home for at least three years. You can find a list of some programs by state at www.hud.gov .

Remember though, while some loan programs allow homebuyers to make a down payment of as little as 3.5 percent of the purchase price, experts say you'll need to save enough for at least a 20 percent down payment in order to get the lowest interest rate and avoid having to pay private mortgage insurance, or PMI.

And they can come with hefty fees and restrictions.

ASK YOURSELF IF THIS IS THE RIGHT TIME TO BUY?

You may want to own a home, but are you financially ready to take on the financial commitment that comes with a home loan?

Experts recommend borrowers consider the implications of buying a home in their later years, as well as taking on a large loan

"This isn't the situation where if you happen to time your purchase incorrectly when you're 25 and you buy at the top of the market, you still have most of your life left to recover financially," says Rick Sharga, executive vice president at home auction site Auction.com.

CONSULT WITH A FINANCIAL PLANNER

Buying a home in midlife or beyond has direct implications on retirement.

Homeownership can bring stability to one's monthly housing costs, versus rental housing, as well as tax benefits, but it also carries with it a trove of costs, including property taxes, insurance and maintenance.

A good way to evaluate all the ways buying a home, whether in cash or through financing, will affect one's retirement finances is to enlist a financial planner to go over one's retirement goals.

"You have to sharpen your pencil, sit down and do all the math," Blayney says. "There's no one answer."

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Stocks log best month since January on Fed pledge

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK After a day of stalled rallies, the stock market closed out July with its best monthly gain since January.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index ended the month 4.95 percent higher. That's the biggest increase since January, when it rose 5.04 percent. The Dow Jones industrial average also had its best month since January.

Markets surged in July after Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke assured investors that the central bank wouldn't pull back on its stimulus program until the economy was strong enough. The central bank is buying $85 billion of bonds a month to keep down interest rates to encourage borrowing and hiring.

On Wednesday, the Fed reaffirmed its commitment to support the economy in a statement released after the end of a two-day meeting. The central bank dropped hints that it might need to maintain its stimulus, and slightly downgraded its assessment of U.S. economic growth from "moderate" to "modest."

That initially gave stocks a boost, pushing the S&P 500 within two points of breaching the 1,700 level for the first time in afternoon trading. But the rally faded in the final hour, leaving the S&P flat at the end of the day.

Given the market's big gains in July, stocks may struggle to climb further in the coming months, said Phil Orlando, chief equity market strategist at Federated Investors.

"I would not be the least bit surprised to see some modest consolidation," said Orlando.

Stocks started higher Wednesday after the government said that the economy grew at a faster pace in the second quarter than economists had forecast.

The gain was mostly gone by the time the Fed statement came out at 2 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time. The market staged another rally for about an hour after the Fed's announcement, then ended little changed.

The U.S. grew at an annual rate of 1.7 percent from April through June as businesses spent more and the federal government cut less spending, the Commerce Department said Wednesday. Economists had expected growth of 1 percent, according to the data provider FactSet.

There was also an encouraging report on hiring ahead of the government's monthly jobs survey due out Friday.

U.S. businesses created a healthy 200,000 jobs this month, payroll company ADP said, as companies hired at the fastest pace since December. ADP also raised its estimate of the number of jobs the private sector created in June.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index ended little changed at 1,685.73. The Dow Jones industrial average ended the day 21 points lower, or 0.1 percent, at 15,499.54.

The Nasdaq composite gained 9.90 points, or 0.7 percent, to 3,626.37. The index fell just five times during the month and is at its highest level in more than a decade.

On the bond market, investors anticipated that the Fed's slightly weaker assessment of the economy would imply a longer period of bond purchases. Bond yields fell as demand increased for U.S. government debt. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.58 percent from 2.66 percent just before the announcement.

Investors were also tracking company earnings Wednesday.

Comcast rose $2.37, or 5.5 percent, to $45.08 after the parent company of the NBC network and Universal Studios reported earnings and revenue that exceed analysts' expectations in the second quarter.

Software company Symantec, which makes the Norton antivirus software, surged after the company reported earnings and revenue that beat analysts' forecasts. The stock rose $2.33, or 9.6 percent, to $26.68.

Analysts forecast that second-quarter earnings rose an average of 4.75 percent for S&P 500 companies, according to S&P Capital IQ. That would be the slowest rate of growth in three quarters.

In commodities trading, the price of oil rose $1.95, or 1.9 percent, to $105.03 a barrel. Gold dropped $11.80, or 1 percent, to $1,313 an ounce.

Among other stocks making big moves:

— Air Products & Chemicals rose $3.03, or 2.9 percent, to $108.64 after the Wall Street journal reported that activist investor William Ackman had bought a 9.8 percent stake in the gas company.

— Herbalife rose $5.46, or 9.1 percent, to $65.50 after CNBC reported that the veteran hedge fund investor George Soros had taken a stake in the company. Herbalife has been at the center of a battle between Ackman and rival investor Carl Ichan, who are taking opposing positions in the stock.

Official: Salad mix wasn't produced in Iowa, Nebraska

GRANT SCHULTE & MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. A food-safety inspector said Wednesday that most, if not all, of the prepackaged salad mix that sickened hundreds of people in Iowa and Nebraska wasn't grown in either state.

Iowa Food and Consumer Safety Bureau chief Steven Mandernach said at least 80 percent of the vegetables were grown and processed outside both states' jurisdictions. Mandernach said officials haven't confirmed the origins of 20 percent and may never know because victims can't always remember what they ate.

Officials have said the salad was infected with cyclospora, a rare parasite that causes a lengthy gastrointestinal illness. Outbreaks have been reported in 15 states, although it's not clear whether they're connected.

Iowa law allows public health officials to withhold the identities of any person or business affected by an outbreak. However, business names can be released to the public if the state epidemiologist or public health director determines that disclosing the information is needed to protect public safety.

Mandernach said there is no immediate threat, so his office is not required to release information about where the product came from. He said state officials believe the affected salad has already spoiled and is no longer in the supply chain.

Food-safety and consumer advocates say the agencies shouldn't withhold the information.

"It's not clear what the policy is, and at the very least they owe it to us to explain why they come down this way," said Sandra Eskin, director of the Pew Charitable Trusts' food safety project. "I think many people wonder if this is all because of possible litigation."

Bill Marler, a Seattle attorney who specializes in class-action food-safety lawsuits, said withholding the information can create general fears that damage the reputation of good actors in food production. Marler said consumers should be allowed to decide for themselves whether to shop and grocery stores or eat at restaurants where tainted produce was sold. Some states also are slow to interview infected people, he said, which reduces the chances that they remember where they ate.

"If you want the free market to work properly, then you need to let people have the information they need to make informed decisions," he said.

The Food and Drug Administration said Wednesday that it didn't have enough information to name a possible source of the outbreak. In the past, the agencies have at times declined to ever name a source of an outbreak, referring to "Restaurant A" or using vague terms.





SURF REPORT



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Surf Forecasts

Water Temp: **64.8°**

THURSDAY – **FAIR TO GOOD** – SURF: **3-4 ft** Waist to chest high
SSW swell continues, slowly easing; larger sets to head high at top breaks

FRIDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** Knee to chest high
Old SSW leftovers; new long period SW swell starts to fill in

SATURDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** Knee to chest high occ. 4ft
SW gradually fills in further; occasional chest high sets in the PM at standouts

SUNDAY – **FAIR** – SURF: **2-3 ft** Knee to thigh high
SW holds - larger shoulder high+ sets for standouts; stay tuned

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 24, 2013**

HEAL THE BAY - 1444 9th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401 - beachreportcard.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 -- 31 / xx
Number of (C,D,F) grades for dry/wet weather -- 0 / xx

The Beach Report Card is made possible by: simplehuman, LAcarGUY, SIWA and Grousbeck Family Foundation

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+	xx
Nicholas Beach at San Nicholas Canyon Creek mouth.		
El Pescador State Beach, between Lechusa and Los Alisos creeks.	A+	xx
Encinal Canyon at El Matador State Beach.	A+	xx
Broad Beach at Trancas Creek mouth.	A+	xx
Zuma Beach at Zuma Creek mouth.	A+	xx
Walnut Creek, projection of Wildlife Rd. (private).	A+	xx
Paradise Cove Pier at Ramirez Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	xx
Escondido Creek, just east of Escondido State Beach.	A+	xx
Latigo Canyon Creek mouth.	A+	xx
Solstice Canyon at Dan Blocker County Beach.	A	xx
Puerco State Beach at creek mouth.	A+	xx
Marie Canyon storm drain at Puerco Beach, at 21572 Malibu Rd..	A+	xx
Surfrider Beach at Malibu Colony fence.	A	xx
Surfrider Beach (broach location)- daily.	D	xx
Malibu Pier - 50 yards east.	A+	xx
Carbon Beach at Sweetwater Canyon.	A+	xx
Las Flores State Beach at Las Flores Creek (point zero).	A	xx
Big Rock Beach at 19948 PCH stairs.	A+	xx
Pena Creek at Las Tunas County Beach.	xx	xx
Tuna Canyon.	A	xx
Topanga State Beach at creek mouth.	xx	xx
Castlerock Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	xx
Santa Ynez Storm Drain at Castle Rock Beach.	A+	xx
Will Rogers State Beach at 17200 PCH (1/4 mile east of Sunset drain).	C	xx

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

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
xx -- no sample taken

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

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.

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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MLB

Twins trade backup catcher Drew Butera to L.A. Dodgers

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MINNEAPOLIS The Minnesota Twins have traded catcher Drew Butera to the Los Angeles Dodgers for either a player to be named or cash.

The deal was done right before the non-waiver trade deadline on Wednesday afternoon.

Butera was the backup to Joe Mauer for most of the last three seasons, but he has spent all but the last week with Triple-A Rochester this year. When Mauer was out on paternity leave, Butera appeared in two games.

Butera, who will turn 30 on Aug. 9, missed time because of a broken left hand earlier in the season and was hitting .229 in 83 at-bats for the Red Wings. Defense has always been his strength. In 490 career at-bats for the Twins, Butera has a .182 batting average with five home runs.

WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THE CARELESSNESS OR NEGLIGENCE OF OTHERS.



Robert Lemle

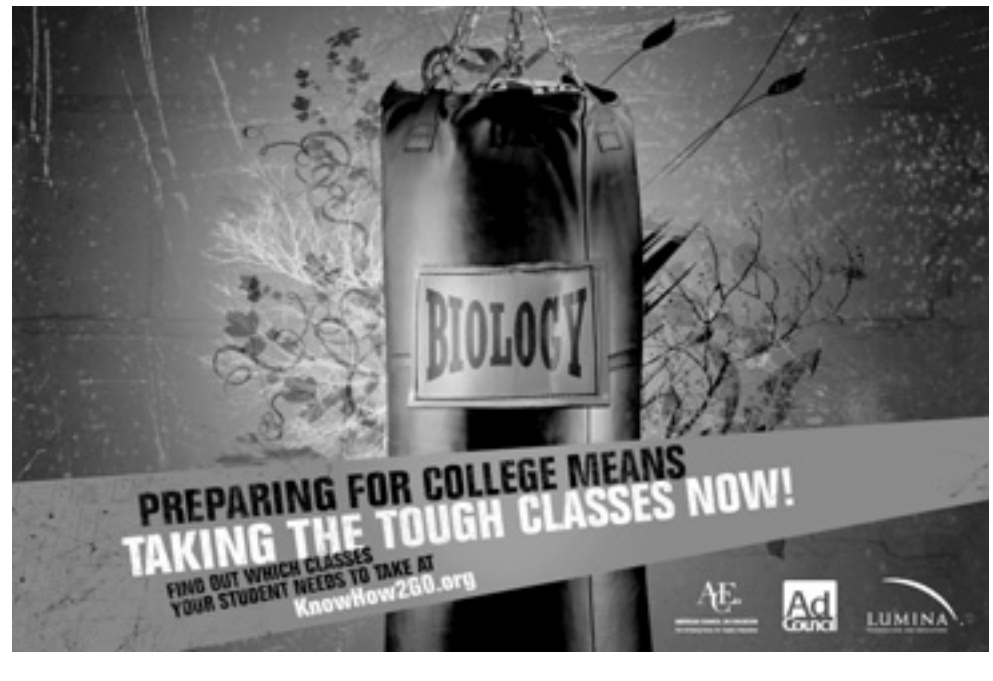
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MOVIE TIMES

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

The Healthcare Movie (NR) 1hr 05min
7:30pm

The documentary is co-presented by the Los Angeles chapter of the Physicians for a National Health Program. A panel discussion with various phsycians will follow the screening.

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

The Conjuring (R) 1hr 52min
11:50am, 1:00pm, 4:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:55pm

Fruitvale Station (R) 1hr 25min
11:55am, 2:40pm, 5:20pm, 8:00pm, 10:30pm

R.I.P.D. (PG-13) 1hr 36min
11:45pm, 4:40pm, 10:00pm

R.I.P.D. 3D (PG-13) 1hr 36min
2:05pm, 7:20pm

The To Do List (R) 1hr 44min
2:25pm, 5:00pm, 7:40pm, 10:20pm

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

Despicable Me 2 (PG) 1hr 38min
11:00am, 4:20pm, 9:45pm

Pacific Rim in 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 11min
3:45pm, 10:15pm

Pacific Rim (PG-13) 2hrs 11min
12:30pm, 7:05pm

Turbo (PG) 1hr 36min
11:15am, 1:35pm, 7:00pm

Smurfs 2 (PG) 1hr 45min
10:50am, 1:30pm, 7:00pm

Red 2 (PG-13) 1hr 56min
2:00pm, 4:50pm, 7:40pm, 10:30pm

Grown Ups 2 (PG-13) 1hr 41min
11:30am, 2:00pm, 4:40pm, 7:20pm, 10:00pm

The Wolverine (PG-13) 2hrs 06min
11:00am, 4:15pm, 10:40pm

Despicable Me 2 in 3D (PG) 1hr 38min
1:45pm, 7:15pm

Turbo 3D (PG) 1hr 36min
4:30pm, 9:55pm

Wolverine in 3D (PG-13) 2hrs 06min
1:00pm, 7:30pm

Smurfs 2 in 3D (PG) 1hr 45min
4:15pm, 9:50pm, 3:30am

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

Before Midnight (R) 1hr 48min
1:40pm, 4:20pm, 7:00pm, 9:40pm

20 Feet from Stardom (PG-13) 1hr 30min
1:00pm, 3:20pm, 5:40pm, 8:00pm, 10:15pm

Way, Way Back (PG-13) 1hr 43min
1:50pm, 4:45pm, 7:30pm, 10:00pm

Only God Forgives (R) 1hr 30min
1:00pm, 3:15pm, 5:30pm, 7:45pm, 10:00pm

For more information, e-mail **editor@smdp.com**

RUN SOME ERRANDS, CAPPY

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
★★★★ You might express a strong interest in someone's hobby or major interest. This person will be delighted to share more of this pastime with you. Tonight: With friends.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
★★★★ What you might think is a good idea and an excellent investment will be the opposite of what a friend or loved one thinks. You could have a lot of conversations ahead, until you see eye to eye. Tonight: Do some shopping on the way home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
★★★★★ You will feel like blazing a new trail. Pressure builds around a particular part of your daily life. Relax, and work with others. Focus on a sudden turn of events. You might not believe what a friend decides to do. Tonight: Where the fun is.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
★★★★ Your ability to move past a hassle marks the day. You also seem to be more sensitive to others, and you know when to take action or pull back.Tonight: Lighten up the moment.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
★★★★ Let go of a problem. If you keep your eye on the big picture, you will not make a mistake. Someone's response could encourage a pause in your day, as you'll need to rethink a situation. It is good to be able to stop, reflect and be surprised. Tonight: Open up to different thinking.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
★★★★ You could be taken aback by a partner or loved one's reaction. Take some time to rejuvenate as you carefully consider where he or she is come from. This person keeps you from being locked into your own way of thinking. Tonight: Others remain responsive when you call.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
★★★★ Keep reaching out for new information. The more you know, the better you will be able to handle a situation. Make a call to someone at a distance; you could get a fresh perspective from this person. Tonight: Get ready for a surprise.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
★★★★ You'll want to understand where someone else is coming from. You could be taken aback by a series of independent and erratic actions. You also might want to see a situation differently. Tonight: Be spontaneous.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
★★★ Defer to others, and you'll find out what is needed in order to balance someone's demands. Sometimes this person makes sense to you, but he or she has a tendency to do the unexpected. Ask questions if need be. Tonight: Observe a loved one's spontaneous behavior.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
★★★ Listen well to news, and be open to a different approach. An element in the way you structure your day could be subject to change. Tonight: Run some errands.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
★★★★ While everyone might seem very serious and determined, you'll have an open mind for the possibility of a change. You also could see many more benefits and positive outcomes than others do. A new friendship could be a source of excitement. Tonight: Let the good times roll.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
★★★★ You'll need to deal with an important financial matter; try not to shake up the status quo in a negative way. Taking a risk might be OK now, if you can sustain a loss. Only you know for sure. A family matter or personal issue dominates the moment. Tonight: Happiest at home.

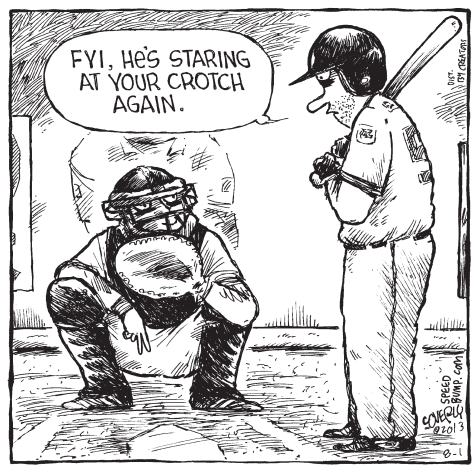
Thursday, August 1, 2013

This year you often wonder about the nature of your friendships and relationships. You will note that in general, they seem to have a quirky or unpredictable quality to them. Emphasize your long-term desires, but be willing to fulfill your goals in a less-traditional manner. If you are single, you could meet someone through a friend, or a friendship could become more. If you are attached, as a couple you might head in a new direction and love every moment of the change. GEMINI might appear to be a bit flaky, but he or she really is there for you.

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

DO YOU HAVE COMMUNITY NEWS?
Submit news releases to editor@smdp.com or by fax at (310) 576-9913
smdp.com Santa Monica Daily Press office (310) 458-7737

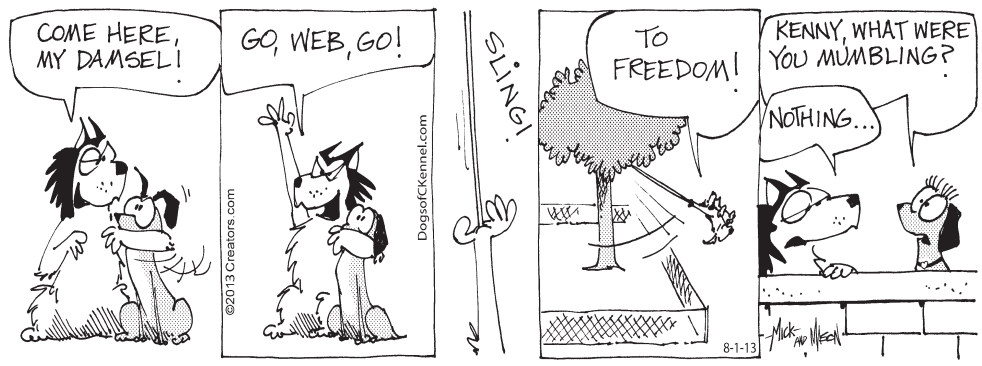
Speed Bump
By Dave Coverly



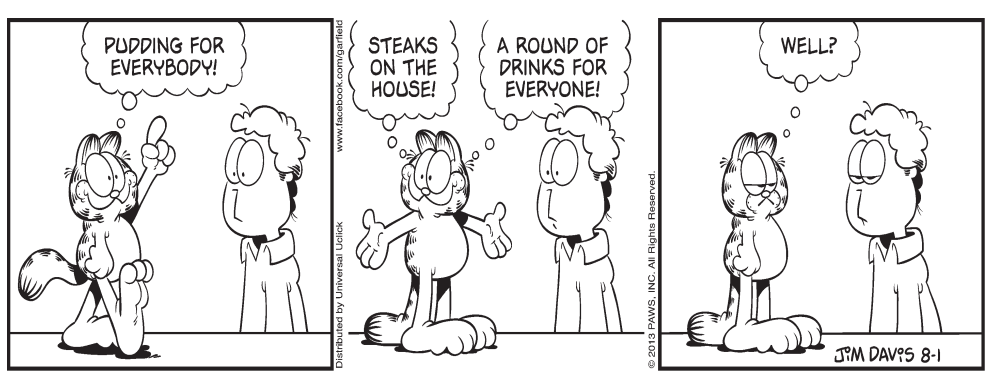
Strange Brew
By John Deering



Dogs of C-Kennel
By Mick and Mason Mastroianni



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 ★★★

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

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

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

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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 China setting
5 Majestic
11 Theater award
12 Skilled shooter
13 TV remote button
14 Messy room
15 Addresses
17 Reuben base
18 "My Fair Lady" lady
22 Batter of verse
24 Generous one
25 Good serve
26 Nursery occupant
27 Indy entrant
30 Goblet parts
32 Spine words
33 Bruins legend
34 Man at the wheel
38 Comfortable
41 Sub spot
42 Enters a password, perhaps
43 Bus. sch. course
44 Setting items
45 Poker game

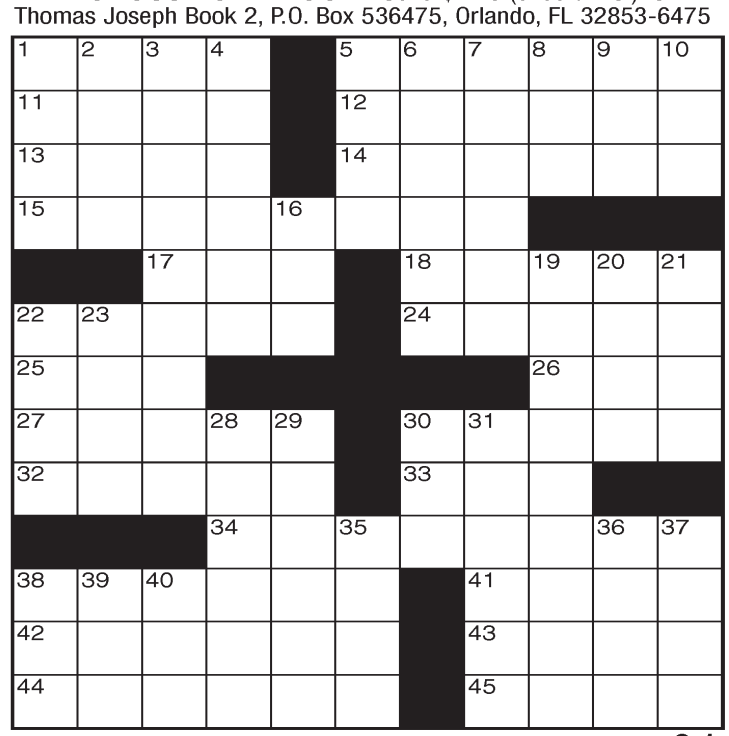
DOWN

1 Money machines
2 First course, sometimes
3 Cross
4 Ensign's answer
5 Pharaoh symbols
6 In agreement
7 Male escort
8 Good times
9 Filming site
10 Attempt
16 Piano part
19 Throw in
20 Tear along
21 Newspaper section
22 Shopping aid
23 Superfruit berry
28 Rio Grande city
29 Logic
30 Urgent call
31 Market events
35 Wallet bills
36 Noted baseball family
37 Considerate
38 Capp and Capone
39 Summit
40 Sense of self

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

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



8-1



NEWS OF THE WEIRD
BY CHUCK SHEPARD

■ Physicians at Kwong Wah Hospital and Queen Elizabeth Hospital, publishing in the Hong Kong Medical Journal recently, described a 66-year-old man seeking relief from a swelling in his abdomen (after having had a sparse history with doctors). They concluded that the man was basically a woman and that the cause of the swelling was an ovarian cyst. The patient had both Turner syndrome, which causes women to lack some female features, and congenital adrenal hyperplasia, which boosts male hormones. (While females have two X chromosomes, and males an X and a Y, Turner syndrome patients have one X and no Y.)

■ Alarming Headlines: (1) "Koala Chlamydia: The STD Threatening an Australian Icon" (BBC News). (2) "Super-Sized Crabs and Oysters With Herpes" (Field & Stream). (3) "Far-Right Extremists Chased Through London by Women Dressed as Badgers" (International Business Times, reporting June rallies of two British nationalist parties and their opposition occurring at the same time and place as a better-attended demonstration against the government's cull on badgers).

TODAY IN HISTORY

1964 – The Belgian Congo is renamed the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

1966 – Charles Whitman kills 16 people at the University of Texas at Austin before being killed by the police.

1966 – Purges of intellectuals and imperialists becomes official China policy at the beginning of the Cultural Revolution.

1968 – The coronation is held of Hassanal Bolkiah, the 29th Sultan of Brunei.

WORD UP!

residuum
\ ri-ZIJ-oo-uhm \ , noun;
1. the residue, remainder, or rest of something.

Santa Monica Daily Press

Classifieds

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- Houses for Rent
- Roomates
- Commerical Lease
- Real Estate
- Real Estate Loans
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Employment

DISHWASHER
UPSCALE retirement community in Santa Monica is looking for a part time dishwasher to assist washing dishes and cleaning kitchen in the evenings. Pre employment drug test and clear criminal background required EOE If interested, please come to 2107 Ocean Ave. and fill out an application.

Elegant retirement community is looking for part time cooks and servers to help in the kitchen and dining room. Must have good attitude and love for seniors. Background check and pre-employment drug test required. If interested please fill out application at 2107 Ocean Ave. SM,CA 90405. EOE

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